

Resolution No.: 16-354
Introduced: October 23, 2007
Adopted: October 30, 2007

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: County Council

SUBJECT: County Council's FY 2009 Process for Grant Proposals from Non-Profit Agencies

Background

1. For the past three years, the Council has adopted resolutions to guide the Council's internal process for reviewing applications and awarding funds. In each year, the Council held a community grants forum; solicited applications for grants; required all organizations to submit a Council Grant application form by a stated deadline; convened a Grants Advisory Group to provide non-binding comments on grant proposals; and made final funding decisions.
2. The Council's Health and Human Services and Management and Fiscal Policy Committees met jointly on June 28 and October 11, 2007 to hear comments from the Grants Advisory Group and non-profit organizations regarding the FY 2008 Council Grants process and to consider changes for FY 2009. Comments received from members of the Grants Advisory Group and the non-profit community for the June 28 worksession suggested that the Council could improve its process if at the outset the Council: (1) indicated its priorities for funding (with involvement from the non-profit sector), (2) determined the overall amount of funding available (if possible), and (3) clearly identified specific evaluation criteria. The joint Committee reviewed these issues on October 11, formed recommendations regarding the administration of the FY 2009 Council Grant process, and requested additional comments from the non-profit community regarding the issue of priorities and from the County Executive regarding the allocation of funds.
3. The recommendations and comments of the joint Committee were provided to the County Council on October 23, 2007.

Action

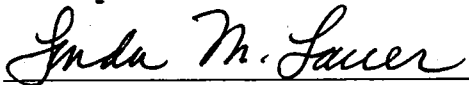
The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. The County Council affirms that partnerships with the non-profit community are critical to meeting community needs. These partnerships may come through competitive contracts and non-competitive contracts, and from proposals made directly from non-profit agencies to the County Executive or Council.
2. For FY 2009, the Council will continue to have a Council Grants process that will require non-profit agencies seeking funds to submit a Council Grant application form or other acceptable form (such as a Community Services Grant application). The application will be posted on the Council's website by December 14, 2007. The deadline for applications will be February 1, 2008. No applications will be accepted beyond this date. While the Council is not interested in a burdensome application process, a common requirement for information enhances the Council's decision process and improves the County's accountability to taxpayers.
3. The Council will reach out to non-profit agencies through existing mailing lists, the media, and with a grant application workshop in order to facilitate an open and fair process. This effort will inform non-profit agencies about what they may seek funds for and what the requirements are to receive County funds through a non-competitive contract.
4. The Council is not placing limits on the amount that non-profit agencies may request or the number of applications submitted. Applications may be submitted for capital or operating funds.
5. The Council will convene a Grants Advisory Group as a part of the FY 2009 process. The Grants Advisory Group will be asked to categorize and evaluate the applications. The Council will provide information on the evaluation criteria in the Council Grant application. The Grants Advisory Group will evaluate County Executive-recommended Community Grants that have not gone through a competitive process. Grants Advisory Group members will be informed that their recommendations are advisory and final decisions are made by the Council. The Grants Advisory Group will be asked to report to the Council by April 25, 2008. Non-profit organization funding requests for County matching funds for State Bond Bills will be reviewed by Council Committees.
6. As a part of the FY 2008 process, the Council required non-profit organizations awarded funding as a Community Grant recommended by the County Executive as a Council Grant to submit a one-page report describing the results achieved by February 1, 2008 and July 31, 2008. The Council will continue to seek ways for the County to better evaluate outcomes, including outcomes from programs and services provided by the non-profit sector. For FY 2009, the Council will require non-profit organizations awarded funds to submit semi-annual reports. The Council requests the Grants Advisory Group to review the February 2008 reports for any programs that seek continued funding for FY 2009.

7. Non-profit agencies seeking funds for arts and humanities should apply directly to the Arts and Humanities Council, and those seeking funds for literacy, including ESOL, should apply directly to MCAEL, the Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy. If any Council Grant applications fall into these categories, the Council will forward them to the appropriate organization; such applications will not be reviewed by the Grants Advisory Group. The Council will make final funding decisions for the Arts and Humanities Council and MCAEL as a part of its overall budget process. For FY 2009, the Council intends that grant awards to community-based non-profits for arts and humanities or literacy and ESOL programs will be made through grant programs administered by the Arts and Humanities Council and MCAEL respectively.

8. The Grants Advisory Group, Arts and Humanities Council, MCAEL, Council Committees, and the Council will make interim recommendations at various stages of the application review process. However, funding decisions are not final until the Council has completed its deliberations, reconciled expenditures and revenues, and taken action on the County Government's operating budget at the end of May.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council