

Request for City Council Committee Action from the Office of Intergovernmental Relations Grants and Special Projects

Date: March 6, 2008

To: Council Member Betsy Hodges, Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Subject: Report on grants technical assistance - 2007

Recommendation: Receive and file

Prepared: Jenny Chayabutr, Senior Resource Coordinator, 673-2509

Approved by: Gene Ranieri, IGR Director

Presenters in Committee: Gene Ranieri / Jenny Chayabutr

Financial Impact

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.

(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

Action requires use of contingency or reserves

Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Office of Grants and Special Projects
Technical Assistance for Community-Based Organizations
2007 Year End Report
February 26, 2008

Background

In 2007 the Office of Grants and Special Projects completed the 4th year of offering grants-related technical assistance to Minneapolis community-based organizations in their work that supports City goals. Assistance is also provided to City Departments, but not summarized in this report.

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance may include:

- Using project planning tools, such as the Logic model
- Identifying potential collaborators
- Communicating with appropriate City departments
- Setting a grants strategy
- Recommending tools for researching potential funders
- Developing the letter of inquiry, grant application and project budget
- Problem-solving and finding resources
- Evaluation plan tools
- Advising on grants management

Assistance can range from a one-time phone consultation to regular meetings. In addition, the website of the Office of Grants and Special Projects (www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/grants) has information for community-based organizations as well as City departments. The site lists public and private funding opportunities, providing brief descriptions, deadlines and links to a full announcement. Other grants related information is posted on the site as well. The web site is updated every 2 weeks.

Resources

Referrals from Council Members, City staff, other community organizations, or people who call 311 for grant-related information continue to be the primary contact point.

Frequently used resources include the Foundation Center Cooperating Collection, MAP for Nonprofits, Minnesota Council of Non-Profits, and Minnesota Council on Foundations.

Activities & Outputs

Activities

- Made contact with community-based organizations (primarily through referrals).
- Provided technical assistance to community-based organizations.
- As appropriate, made referrals to other technical assistance resources.
- Updated web site (www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/grants) with grant opportunities and other resources.

Outputs

- Assisted a total of 26 organizations, representing 18 different neighborhoods and 12 of the 13 City wards. 15 were new organizations not previously assisted in 2006.
- The most frequently provided type of assistance was assistance with an application. Proposal development was the next most frequently provided type of assistance.
- Assisted with 27 grant applications, resulting in \$41,000 in grants (4 applications are pending).
- Made updates to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/grants every 2 weeks.

Impact on Goals

The 2007 goals were to help community-based organizations increase their grant expertise, and increase success in grant seeking and management activities.

Examples

- Lyndale Park Peace Garden
Project: Construction of a peace bridge at the Lyndale Park Peace Garden near Lake Harriet, featuring relic peace stones from the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
Partners: Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board and volunteers from the Peace Garden Project Committee
Assistance: Grants Strategy, Funder Approach, Proposal Development, Application
Outcome: 1 grant was awarded, with 3 applications pending
- Somali Youth Development Center
Project: A new organization providing after-school programs, targeted specifically to Somali youth
Connected to other City departments: Civil Rights-Multicultural Services and Health and Family Support
Assistance: Link with a City Department and Grants Strategy
Outcome: Prepared to apply for private foundation grants in 2008
- West Bank Community Coalition
Project: Lighting and public art leading to and from the Cedar Riverside LRT Station and Cedar Avenue
City departments involved: CPED – Business Development and Cultural Affairs
Assistance: Grants Strategy, Project Planning, Funder Research, Funder Approach, Proposal Development, Application, Grant Management
Outcome: Funds raised to complete a portion of the project

In 2008 the Grant's Office will continue working with some of the same (and new) organizations to build on their knowledge base and increase their success with grants and fundraising. A logic model with goals for 2008 is attached.