



Richland County Council
Community Impacts Grants Committee
MINUTES
March 26, 2024 – 3:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Jesica Mackey, Chair, Derrek Pugh (arrived at 3:03 PM), Paul Livingston, Gretchen Barron, and Cheryl English

OTHERS PRESENT: Allison Terracio, Chakisse Newton, Anette Kirylo, Kyle Holsclaw, Lori Thomas, Stacey Hamm, Angela Weathersby, Ashiya Myers, Jennifer Wladischkin, Michelle Onley, Chelsea Bennett, Susan O’Cain, Leonardo Brown, Patrick Wright, Maddison Wilkerson, Tamar Black, Jackie Hancock, Venyke Harley, and Michael Maloney

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Chairwoman Jesica Mackey called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 PM.
Ms. Mackey indicated Mr. Pugh had contacted her and he would be arriving late for the meeting.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. **December 5, 2023** – Ms. Barron moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Ms. English.
In Favor: Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English
Not Present: Pugh
The vote in favor was unanimous.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Livingston moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Ms. Barron.
In Favor: Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English
Not Present: Pugh
The vote in favor was unanimous.
4. **ELECTION OF CHAIR** – Ms. Barron moved to nominate Ms. Mackey for the position of Chair, seconded by Ms. English.
In Favor: Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English
Not Present: Pugh
The vote in favor was unanimous.
5. **ITEM FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**
 - a. **Fiscal Year 24 CIG Quarterly Reports** – Ms. Mackey noted as a part of the awarding process, organizations were required to submit quarterly reports. For those organizations that have submitted their quarterly report, the spreadsheet provided in the agenda packet will indicate they are in compliance.

Ms. Barron inquired if there was a date in the “1st Qtr Report” column instead of complaint/non-compliant; what does that mean?

Assistant County Administrator Lori Thomas replied that this is the date the organization filed their report. The reports were due on January 31st. She indicated reminders were sent on January 16th and again on February 2nd.

Ms. Barron inquired, if an organization was deemed non-compliant, does that mean they have not submitted their quarterly report?

Ms. Thomas responded in the affirmative. She pointed out that whether you have received your funding or not, you still have to file a report regarding your activities.

Ms. Barron asserted that one of the organizations is non-compliant, and several filed their report late. As we have tightened the rules on how we distribute funds and hold our applicants accountable, she wants to ensure we stay consistent with getting these reports. If the organizations are going to show up late or not at all, that warrants us to take a further look at whether or not they should be funded in the future.

Ms. Mackey stated the report was for informational purposes and no action was needed.

- b. Fiscal Year 25 Grant Application Results – Ms. Thomas declared the application process was opened on January 1, 2024. The grant process closed on February 4th. The agenda packet includes the grant guidelines, the application, the grant application inventory, the community partners' grant requests, and the general grant applications. We received 77 grant requests for over \$4M, with eight of the nine community partners applying. She noted thirteen of the applicants were deemed ineligible by the consultant.

For clarification, Mr. Pugh inquired if the funds would come back to the County if the organization does not utilize the funding.

Ms. Thomas affirmed that the funding is for the fiscal year; therefore, it will be returned to the General Fund if it is not spent by June 30th.

- c. Fiscal Year 25 Community Partners Grants Request – Ms. Thomas acknowledged Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services (PALSS) did not apply for funding for FY25. The total request for funding from the community partners was \$1,201,546. At the 2024 value, one mill equates to \$1,830,000; however, we reserved 10% of the available budget to have the applications reviewed. She indicated that 60% of the remaining balance comes to \$988,200.

Mr. Livingston inquired if the amounts notated on p. 26 are the same amounts requested in FY24. He requested the amount awarded last year versus what was requested for FY25.

Ms. Thomas pointed out that a sheet that contained that information was handed out before the start of this meeting. She noted the amount requested by Senior Resources is significantly different than what they were awarded last year.

Ms. Newton inquired if the \$988,200 is the total grant funds available or the amount identified for the community partners.

Ms. Thomas responded the \$988,200 is the amount available for community partners.

Ms. Barron stated that many of our community partners have not come close to spending the funds awarded to them.

Ms. Thomas stated the awards from last year were not made until the 3rd Quarter (October).

Mr. Livingston inquired about the amount of ARPA funding the organizations received.

Ms. Thomas responded that it is her recollection the organizations were awarded ARPA funding as follows: Mental Illness Recovery Center - \$1M; Senior Resources - \$548,046; Greater Columbia Community Relations Council (CRC) - \$50,000; and Midlands Housing Alliance - \$200,000.

Mr. Livingston inquired how much Senior Resources was awarded prior to receiving ARPA funds. He noted his concern is that we may have had some agencies receiving a certain amount of funding, but because of ARPA funding, their other funding was reduced, which left them with a permanent deficit.

Ms. Thomas responded that she could provide that information.

Ms. Mackey moved to award \$50,000 to Pathways to Healing, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh, Barron, Mackey, and English

Opposed: Livingston

The vote was in favor.

Mr. Pugh moved to award \$100,000 to the Columbia Urban League, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Pugh, Barron, Mackey, and English

Opposed: Livingston

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Barron moved to award \$50,000 to the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council (CRC), seconded by Mr. Pugh.

Ms. Newton inquired what portion of CRC's budget this award would represent.

Ms. Barron responded there are other funding sources for CRC besides this allocation.

In Favor: Pugh, Barron, Mackey, and English

Opposed: Livingston

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Barron moved to award \$53,500 to the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh, Barron, Mackey, and English

Opposed: Livingston

The vote was in favor.

Ms. English moved to award \$250,000 to Senior Resources, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Ms. Barron noted her concern is that Senior Resources provides staples for the seniors in Richland County. Last year, we were able to supplement funding with ARPA funds, but those funds are not available this year.

Mr. Pugh stated that having information regarding the organization's past funding is vital in situations such as this.

Ms. Mackey stated the organization could have requested any amount, but they requested said amount. Therefore, she is hesitant to question why a previous amount is a determining factor on an organization's request now.

Mr. Livingston indicated he voted against the previous items because that would leave less funding for Senior Resources. In the past, there was a Lexington/Richland Council on Aging and a Council of the Midlands, which were funded by different counties. Unfortunately, Richland County did not treat ours the same way others did. For example, Lexington created a special-purpose district—the same for Newberry County. Richland County did not take the opportunity to fully fund ours because of the significance of Senior Resources working in our community.

Ms. English withdrew her motion.

Ms. Barron moved to award \$350,000 to Senior Resources.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Ms. Barron moved to award \$50,000 to the Oliver Gospel Mission, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh, Barron, Mackey, and English

Opposed: Livingston

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Barron moved to award \$75,000 to the Mental Illness Recovery Center, Inc., seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh and Barron

Opposed: Livingston, Mackey, and English

The motion failed.

Ms. Mackey moved to award \$100,000 to the Mental Illness Recovery Center, Inc., seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Pugh, Mackey, and English

Opposed: Livingston and Barron

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Newton expressed that Transitions is a unique resource that addresses homelessness in our community. The results of not having, or less functioning, Transitions would affect the whole County.

Ms. Barron moved to award \$384,700 to Senior Resources and \$200,000 to the Midlands Housing Alliance, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Pugh, Barron, and Mackey

Opposed: Livingston and English

The vote was in favor.

Mr. Livingston requested that staff provide a report on the lump sum funding each organization received for the past three years. In addition, he asked that the requests be grouped by category.

Ms. Thomas responded that the confidential briefing documentation provided to council members had funding requests broken down by score, district, and category.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Barron moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:51 PM.