

DR. MATT HEINZ

Supervisor
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Pima County Board of Supervisors

To: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board
From: Matt Heinz, Supervisor, District 2
Date: November 17, 2023
RE: BOS Agenda 12/5/23: Outside Agency Program Budget FY25

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Heinz", written over the "From:" line of the email header.

Please add this item to the Regular Agenda for 12/5/2023. Thank you.

Board of Supervisors:

Discussion/Direction/Action: Increasing the overall budget for the Outside Agency Program social services category grants (CWD grants) for FY25 from the current \$3.26M to \$3.86M, an increase of \$600,000. As we know, the pandemic exacerbated long-standing inequalities in American society, including here in Pima County. Those who experienced the greatest hardship in terms of housing, employment, food insecurity and more, were those who already were among the most vulnerable in our community. The needs, therefore, for additional support for our community members who are low-income, elderly, disabled, and the young, are greater than ever before. The Outside Agency Program is funded through the General Fund. All programs are administered by nonprofit partners across the county through a competitive RFP process.

Background:

The Outside Agency Program “targets economically disadvantaged and other at-risk populations, and specifically, it assures that support is provided to meet basic needs and services in rural areas.” (OA website)

Nonprofit partners apply for the funds through a competitive RFP process that happens every other year. All applications are rigorously and thoughtfully reviewed by the **Outside Agency Citizen Review Committee**, consisting of one member each appointed by the Supervisors and one member appointed by the County Administrator. Funding for eligible social service providers happens in two-year funding cycles (Year 1 awarded based on the competitive RFP; renewal for Year 2 based on meeting benchmarks, and availability of funds). The RFP for FY25-FY26 is currently on the street and closes December 18th.

In FY24, the County’s budget for the Outside Agency Program for social services was \$3.26M. This would increase the overall available budget to \$3.86M for FY25. The Outside Agency Citizen Review Committee will begin their review of the current applications in January, interview all applicants during March and April, make their final recommendations in May/June, and those recommendations for FY25 funding will come before the Board of Supervisors at our July 2, 2024, meeting. *Historically, the Citizen Review Committee has often recommended funding levels that are below what the applicants requested, in order to be able to say yes to more applicants. Increasing the overall budget for the program will allow the Committee to recommend full funding for more eligible, deserving, and vitally important programs.*

Below is the overview of the FY24 funding recommendations for the social services Outside Agency Program funding, by program category, as presented to County Administration on 6/29/23 by the Outside Agency Citizen Review Committee and adopted by the Board of Supervisors on July 25, 2023 (FULL DOCUMENT ATTACHED):

Supervisor Heinz

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From the Citizen Review Committee's memo, re FY24 funding recommendations:

The agencies continue to provide important services to help meet Pima County needs, both rural and urban from Ajo, Arivaca, and Green Valley to Catalina. Listed below is a summary of the OA Category Funding Recommendations:

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	AMOUNT
Youth, Young Adults & Family Support	19	\$685,004
General Services	13	\$794,646
Emergency Food & Clothing	12	\$786,164
Senior Support	9	\$240,514
Support Services, Shelter & Domestic Violence Services	12	\$436,496
Community Services	10	\$318,936
Total	75	\$3,261,760

I will note that the "General Services" category included grants this past cycle to such partners as El Rio, Pima Council on Aging, the United Way and others, for programs ranging from rural health to independent senior living to low-income housing counseling to the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA).

I hope my colleagues will agree with the importance of fully funding these vital programs.

CC:

Jan Leshner, County Administrator

Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer

Dan Sullivan, Director, Community and Workforce Development Department