



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager's Office



DATE: January 14, 2013
BOARD MEETING DATE: January 29, 2013
SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING: None
VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: John L. Maltbie, County Manager

SUBJECT: Continuation of Joint Grant Making Opportunity with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation for Food and Shelter Services

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct the County Manager to continue the joint grant program with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation for food and shelter services and return to a future Board meeting with an Appropriation Transfer Request in an amount matching the Foundation funding for San Mateo County projects for this program.

BACKGROUND:

In March of 2009, in response to the economic downturn, your Board appropriated \$500,000 in General Funds to assist County residents with food, shelter and other needs through grants to community based non-profit organizations (CBOs). The County appropriation was matched by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF), for a total funding pool of \$1 million for San Mateo County CBOs. The County and SVCF jointly awarded \$750,000 for food and shelter assistance and the County individually awarded \$250,000 to 32 local agencies providing health care and other support services. Those grants provided groceries, meals, shelter beds and client visits for support services for 11,664 County residents in need.

In 2012, due to the slow pace of the economic recovery, the Board approved \$500,000 in matching funds for another round of the SVCF Food and Shelter grant program. Those grants were awarded to 19 agencies including the eight core services agencies, six agencies providing food assistance and four agencies that focus on shelter assistance and services. There were 11,664 total clients assisted with 13,684 bags of groceries, 35,863 meals, and 43,005 shelter bed nights.

DISCUSSION:

In 2009, the unemployment rate in San Mateo County peaked at just over 9%, but the economic recovery has been slow. Data from the California Employment Development Department indicates that over 24,500 residents of San Mateo County remain unemployed, with an average unemployment rate of 6.2%. There are some communities

in the County where unemployment is as high as 14.9%. So while more residents are now employed than in 2009, many County residents are still affected by the economic downturn. Another indicator of this ongoing need is the continued influx in applications for CalFresh and Medi-Cal assistance, which are up 7.6% and down 8.5% respectively in FY 2011-12 over the prior year.

Due to this ongoing need, the SCVF has asked if the County wants to contribute again to their Food and Shelter grant program in 2013. The Foundation expects to commit \$500,000 for San Mateo County programs and will also provide an equal amount for Santa Clara County programs. The recommendation is that the County again match the Foundation funding for San Mateo County and contribute \$500,000 to create a total funding pool of \$1 million for County agencies.

As in past years, the SVCF/County grant program would supplement, not replace, funding for non-profit organizations and the funding criteria, noted below, would be the same as was approved by your Board in 2012.

- Help low-income and disadvantaged children and adults meet their basic food and shelter needs
- Assist newly vulnerable families and individuals who are struggling due to the economic situation
- Support agencies serving residents in areas of the County where needs are greatest
- Support programs assisting recently released inmates from correctional institutions
- Give priority to organizations that have existing funding relationships with the County, the Foundation or both funders

The projects funded with the County match would be brought to your Board for final approval in the late spring. The grants would be awarded in July of 2013 to coincide with SVCF's grant approval and award schedule.

The proposed grant program with the SVCF meets with County Vision of a Collaborative Community by consolidating County and Foundation resources to help meet the food and shelter needs of County residents.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for the \$500,000 County contribution to the joint grant program would come from General Fund reserves. An Appropriation Transfer Request will be prepared separately in May.