



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Board of Supervisors



Date: January 4, 2016
Board Meeting Date: January 26, 2016
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Carole Groom

Subject: Use of District-Specific Measure A Funds – Supervisorial District 2

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing a one-time \$20,000 grant of district-specific Measure A funds for the Math Scholars Program organized by the St. James Community Foundation in the City of San Mateo and authorizing the County Manager, or his designee, to prepare and execute the grant agreement.

BACKGROUND:

Measure A is the ten-year half-cent general sales tax approved by San Mateo County voters in November 2012. The Board and County staff have conducted study sessions and community outreach efforts to inform priorities for Measure A spending.

On March 17, 2015, the Board adopted the Measure A allocation plan for the FY 2015-17 budget, during which the County anticipates Measure A receipts of approximately \$80 million annually. The plan included \$5 million in one-time loans or grants for FY 2015-16, and \$1 million each year for FY 2015-16 and 2016-17, divided equally among the five Board districts, for district-specific needs or projects. On April 28, 2015, the Board approved the criteria and process to be used by staff to administer these funds. In accordance with such criteria, District 2 has submitted a request to use Measure A funds as set forth below and in the attachment hereto:

| District/Project | Amount |
|--|----------|
| District Two (Supervisor Carole Groom) – St. James Community Foundation: Operating Costs for the Math Scholars Program | \$20,000 |

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is a one-time \$20,000 allocation of District-specific Measure A funds to the St. James Community Foundation for the Math Scholars Program.

ATTACHMENT – Project Summary

DISTRICT 2 (Supervisor Carole Groom)
FY 2015-17 Measure A Request
St. James Community Foundation
\$20,000 One-Time Grant

San Mateo County strives to promote the education and welfare of all of our children and residents. Students in North Central San Mateo have disproportionately lower academic proficiency than other neighborhoods, and only 10% of low-income students demonstrated Algebra proficiency in 8th grade, the second lowest among all school districts in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

The St. James Community Foundation is dedicated to assisting primarily middle school students in North Central San Mateo prepare for placement in Geometry in 9th grade, to ensure that students will be fully qualified for entry into the four-year university of their choice upon graduation from high school.

This is a \$20,000 one-time request for grant monies that will promote math proficiency skills for middle schoolers so they are on track to enter Geometry in 9th grade and follow a positive trajectory toward the college of their choice. The County Manager's Office will work with St. James Community Foundation staff on terms of the grant agreement for this one-time contribution.

The St. James Community Foundation's Math Scholars Program:

The Math Scholars Program currently provides tutoring to 50-55 students per week during the school year and 55-65 in its summer program each year. The program provides the tutors, the supplies, parent empowerment sessions and a healthy dinner meal to participating students. The students and parents make a commitment to regular attendance and full participation in all program components. Attendance is 98%.

The cost of the program at its current level of services is approximately \$50,000 per year. This \$20,000 grant would be allocated to support the operating costs associated with the program – food, stipends for tutors, and supplies (which include chrome books to assist the students with math reinforcement lessons). The St. James Foundation has already received \$33,000 in funding from other sources, including the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the City of San Mateo, and individual donors, for 2016 program year. With this grant, the Math Scholars Program will be a fully funded program in 2016, enabling staff to devote its time and energy to program development and implementation.

The total allocation request is \$20,000.

The release of funds will be contingent on the execution of a Grant Agreement providing for the County's confirmation of the expenditure of funds during FY 2015-16 for the purposes stated herein.