

TOWN
Of
PARADISE VALLEY



STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor Bien-Willner and Town Council Members

FROM: Jill Keimach, Town Manager
Duncan Miller, Town Clerk

DATE: May 25, 2023

DEPARTMENT: Town Manager
Duncan Miller, 480-348-3610

AGENDA TITLE:

Discussion and Possible Action to Award Community Services Funding for Fiscal Year 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Town Manager to execute funding agreements with the agencies listed in the staff report in the total amount of \$65,000.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Town Council budgeted \$65,000 in Fiscal Year and directed staff to conduct a needs assessment to identify services and programs benefitting underserved populations in the Town or broader community. Staff presented funding recommendations at the meeting held on May 11, 2023 to award \$55,000 to Central Arizona Shelter Services and \$10,000 to Duet: Partners In Health and Aging

BACKGROUND

Each year the Town Council budgets funds for the Community Services Funding Program. The policy which governs the program gives the Council discretion to either invite applications for funding from government, non-profit, educational institutions, or civic groups that provide valuable services to the community; or conduct a community service needs assessment to identify essential services not provided by the Town to under-served populations in need of assistance.

At the March 9th Study Session, the Town Council discussed the annual Community Services Funding Program. There was Council consensus to direct staff to conduct a needs assessment and, based on those findings, investigate agencies or programs which address the needs identified. The Council suggested that focus areas should include regional partnerships to address homelessness and support services for older residents.

An interdepartmental working group comprised of staff members from the Police Department and Town Manager's Office identified the following agencies or programs that would provide needed services consistent with the Council's direction.

Regional Homeless Initiatives

The Town has allocated funding in previous years to assist with regional homelessness initiatives and continues to recognize the importance of partnering with neighboring communities to find long-term solutions.

CASS

To further assist with this initiative, it is recommended that the Town continue its long-standing support for the Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS). CASS is the largest emergency shelter in Arizona. CASS serves signal adults and families with children. Their clients include individuals with serious mental illnesses, those with addictions to alcohol and drugs, victims of domestic violence, veterans, the elderly and young adults, single parents, and those who are chronically homeless.

Their mission is to end homelessness. In addition to providing beds for the night, they also offer case management and/or other support to all clients and work with them to obtain employment, benefits, medical care, mental health treatment, dental care, housing and more. Their case management model meets clients where they are to address barriers, with the goal of helping them permanently resolve their homelessness.

Demand for CASS Services is Increasing

CASS provided the following statistics to the Town underscoring the need for a regional approach to homelessness, as well as a summary of the new initiatives they are implementing to respond to the increased demand.

- In FY22, CASS provided services to 30% more individuals than the prior year. In response to the increased need for service, CASS expanded their downtown shelter from 470 beds to 600 beds in 2022. CASS sheltered 5,051 individuals in their emergency shelter program, for a total of 231,492 bed nights.
- CASS served 39% more young adults (ages 18-24) than the year prior, rising to 423 young adults served. Additionally, their veteran's population increased by 45% over the prior year.
- CASS's data has shown a rapid rise in seniors over age 55, accounting for 30% of those served at CASS. Last year, CASS served 1,717 seniors, which was a 43% increase over the prior year. In July 2023, CASS will open the Senior Haven shelter with a 170-bed capacity expected to serve 500 homeless seniors aged 55 and older
- Last year, CASS created housing plans with 6,119 individuals, provided case management support to 2,203 individuals, and were proudly able to support 1,262 of our clients' moving into safe and stable housing through our many support services.
- In 2024, in partnership with COPA Health, CASS will open a 54-bed transitional housing facility for individuals with serious mental illness.
- CASS also operates a center in Glendale offering robust services, including housing programs, street outreach, vocational training, ID assistance and

more. CASS served more than 6,600 people last year with safe shelter, diverse case management services, extensive housing services, resources, and more.

- Their wrap-around case management and supportive services include Rapid Rehousing, flexible financial assistance, employment support, assistance with finance and budgeting, hygiene kits, a clothing bank, and move-in kits

It is recommended that the Town provide funding in the amount of \$55,000 in Fiscal Year 2023, which is consistent with previous years. The Town has provided funding assistance to CASS since the 1990s with support ranging from \$18,000 to \$50,000.

Support Services for Older Residents

Duet: Partners In Health and Aging

Duet is a private non-profit organization based in Phoenix. Their mission is to promote health and well-being for homebound adults and family caregivers. The Town has partnered with this organization for many years. The specific recommendation is to provide funding for their program called Promoting Independence through In-Home Services. This program uses volunteers to provide transportation to homebound seniors and disabled adults to medical appointments, social service agencies, grocery stores, shopping centers and other locations. The volunteers also help unload groceries at their home or shop for and deliver groceries when needed. They assist with paperwork, minor home repairs, and other routine needs.

2022 Statistics Provided by Duet

- 214 homebound adults received transportation to medical appointments and 214 to grocery stores, including 4 Paradise Valley residents
- Duet provided 28,617 one-way escorted rides to medical appointments and grocery shopping. This includes 362 rides for Paradise Valley residents which is a 126% increase from the previous year
- 66 new volunteers were recruited to participate in the program, including 2 from Paradise Valley.
- Duet conducted 12 volunteer orientations.
- 7 volunteers from Paradise Valley served their neighbors by providing transportation, assisting with paperwork, and/or conducting friendly visits.

It is recommended that the Town continue to support this program in the amount of \$10,000 Fiscal Year 2023, which is consistent with previous years. The Town has provided funding assistance to Duet since the 2000s with support ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

BUDGET IMPACT

The Town Council budgeted \$65,000 in FY 2023 for the Community Services Funding Program. Past practice has been to wait until the end of the fiscal year to consider appropriation of these funds.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Staff Report