

TOWN *Of* PARADISE VALLEY



STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor Stanton and Town Council Members

FROM: Andrew B. Ching, Town Manager
Duncan Miller, Town Clerk

DATE: June 12, 2025

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

AGENDA TITLE:

Discussion and Possible Action to Award Community Services Funding for Fiscal Year 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

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

Agency	Amount
Central AZ Shelter Services	\$35,000
Duet: Partners in Health & Aging	\$ 5,000
AZ Friends of Foster Children	\$15,000
SUSD Foundation – Food Assistance	\$ 5,000
Voices for CASA Children	\$ 5,000
	<u>\$65,000</u>

BACKGROUND: Fiscal Year 2025 Community Services Funding Program

Mission Statement

The Town of Paradise Valley provides high quality public services to a community which values limited government.

At the March 27th Study Session, the Town Council discussed the annual Community Services Funding Program. The Council Resolution that 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 or under-served populations in need of assistance. 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 staff broaden the focus areas beyond support for homelessness and resources for older residents.

An interdepartmental advisory group comprised of the Town Manager, Town Clerk, Community Resource Officer, and Code Enforcement Officer met and had robust discussions about community engagement, requests for services, and potential program funding options consistent with the Council's direction. It was unanimously agreed to recommend continued funding support for Central Arizona Shelter Services and Duet: Partners in Health and Aging, but at reduced amounts. Based on program user statistics from 2024, the advisory group felt last year's contributions were disproportionate to the need, so other options were investigated. Funding requests were received from Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation, Kiva Elementary School (Scottsdale Unified School District Foundation), Voices for CASA Children, and Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West.

Staff presented the following recommendations at the May 22nd Study Session. There was Town Council consensus the schedule a vote on the Community Services Funding program for Fiscal Year 2025 at the June 12th meeting.

Support for 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 for this regional problem.

CASS

To further assist with this initiative, it is recommended that the Town continues its long-standing support for the Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS). CASS is the largest emergency shelter in Arizona. CASS serves single 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

Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) data shows that the unsheltered count in Maricopa County is increasing. For the period January 2024 – December 2024, there were 19 new people experiencing homelessness for every 10 people finding housing. In December, 905 households experienced homelessness for the first time. In response to the increased need for service, CASS expanded their downtown shelter from 470 beds to 600. CASS sheltered 5,071 individuals in their emergency shelter program, for a total of 253,302 bed nights.

In 2024, the Town provided \$55,000 in funding assistance to CASS. Their Performance Report is attached as Attachment C. CASS provided shelter services to 113 people who were referred from ZIP Codes surrounding 85253. From July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

CASS provided 7,637 bed nights and supportive services to 102 single adults and 11 individuals in their family shelter. In calendar year 2024, the Paradise Valley Police Department referred six individuals for shelter services.

It is recommended that the Town provide funding in the amount of \$35,000 in Fiscal Year 2025, which is less than the previous years. The Town has provided funding assistance to CASS since the 1990s with support ranging from \$18,000 to \$55,000.

Support 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 and deliver groceries when needed. They assist with paperwork, minor home repairs, and other routine needs.

2024 Statistics Provided by Duet

- Duet provided 114 one-way trips and served three homebound residents in Paradise Valley. This included rides to the doctor, weekly grocery shopping, and regular friendly visiting, which provides ongoing meaningful connections but do not count towards trips. Paradise Valley has the distinction of having the oldest resident enrolled in Duet's program at 107 years old.
- 307 new volunteers were recruited to participate in the program, including 8 from Paradise Valley.
- According to Duet, an estimated 60% of the 451 Maricopa County individuals served in 2024 (approximately 260 neighbors) would have been unable to continue living independently without assistance from programs like those offered by Duet. Approximately 80% of these individuals would have required assisted living and 20% skilled nursing care. Using average annual costs in Phoenix (\$60,876 for assisted living and \$110,964 for skilled nursing), Duet's services help save families and taxpayers approximately \$19.1 million last year.

Duet's Community Impact Report is attached as Attachment D.

It is recommended that the Town continue to support this program in the amount of \$5,000 in Fiscal Year 2025, which is less than previous years. The Town has provided funding assistance to Duet since the 2000s with support ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Support for Foster Children

Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (AFFCF)

AFFCF is a nonprofit organization that has been serving the needs of foster children in Arizona for over 41 years. Their mission is to "create opportunities, build self-esteem and empower children in foster care to enrich their life experiences and ensure they have the best opportunity to transition to adulthood successfully". Their three focus areas are:

1. *Childhood Activities (CA) – Funding for extracurriculars, sports, camps, clothing, and tutoring, covering gaps in foster care benefits - this program is available statewide (AZ)*
2. *Keys to Success (KTS) – For youth 16-26 exiting foster care in Maricopa, Yavapai, and Pima counties, providing education, employment, and career tools for independent living.*
3. *Post-Secondary Programs – Supporting foster youth pursuing education through community building and safety-net funding to prevent setbacks and promote perseverance.*

AFFCF submitted a request for \$35,000 to support their Childhood Activities program for children in the Paradise Valley and Scottsdale area. According to AFFCF, 55 children in the Paradise Valley/Scottsdale area were enrolled in the program in 2024 and 169 activity requests were fulfilled totaling \$35,234.

AFFCF's request is attached as Attachment E.

It is recommended that the Town support AFFCF's Childhood Activities program in the amount of \$15,000 in Fiscal Year 2025. This would be the Town's first time partnering with this organization. A funding impact report would be required at the end of the year and consideration of a continued partnership would be evaluated at that time, subject to budget authorization.

Voices for CASA Children (VOICES)

VOICES is a nonprofit organization that supports programs to assist in the recruitment, education, and retention of Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers as well as provide resources to children. According to VOICES, there are approximately 5,500 children in Maricopa County living in foster care. CASA volunteers are appointed by a judge to advocate on behalf of foster children while they navigate the legal process and ultimately find a safe permanent home.

VOICES is requesting funding to support the recruitment of new CASA volunteers and retention of current volunteers. In April, the Mayor and Council recognized CASA Volunteer week. VOICES plans to expand their community outreach efforts to raise awareness of the important role CASA volunteers serve in supporting the needs of foster children.

VOICES request is attached as Exhibit F.

It is recommended that the Town support VOICES in the amount of \$5,000 in Fiscal Year 2025. This would be the Town's first time partnering with this organization. A funding impact report would be required at the end of the year and consideration of a continued partnership would be evaluated at that time, subject to budget authorization.

Support for Food Assistance Programs at Paradise Valley Schools

As part of the Paradise Valley Police Department's focus on community policing initiatives including involvement with local schools through "Blue Wednesday" and school resource officers, they are in a unique position to learn about unmet needs. Based on a suggestion from the PVPD Community Resource Officer, the advisory group contacted Kiva Elementary School and learned that they have students enrolled in the Emergency Food Assistance Program. This is a program that distributes food to low-income families every

month including rice, beans, pasta, fruits, vegetables, bread, and meats. There are three students enrolled in this program. There are another five students who are eligible for the Helpsnakz Program. This provides daily snack bags to students who meet the criteria.

It is recommended that the Town support Scottsdale Unified School District food assistance programs benefiting students attending schools in Paradise Valley in the amount of \$5,000. Any agreement would specify that funds could be used for programs at Kiva Elementary and Cherokee Elementary.

BUDGET IMPACT

The Town Council budgeted \$65,000 in FY 25 for community services. It is recommended that the Town allocate the funds as follows:

Agency	Amount
Central AZ Shelter Services	\$35,000
Duet: Partners in Health & Aging	\$ 5,000
AZ Friends of Foster Children	\$15,000
SUSD Foundation – Food Assistance	\$ 5,000
Voices for CASA Children	\$ 5,000
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ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Staff Report