

Empowering Community Safety Micro-Grant Program Close Out Report

*June 3, 2024
City Council Work Session*



- Fall of 2021- Police Chief proposed a series of crime reduction strategies
- Economic and Community Development Department and City Manager's Office developed program
- Goal: improve communities while building capacity for organizations to become nonprofits
- City Council appropriated \$250,000 to fund the Empowering Community Safety Micro-Grant program
 - Duration: two years consisting of four funding cycles
 - One-time fund balance appropriation in Fiscal Year 2023
 - All funds have been expended within the budgeted four rounds

Major Investment Themes

Conflict Resolution and Mediation

- Anti-bullying/harassment training and activities
- Conflict resolution/de-escalation training
- Activities that promote peace and non-violent communication

Community Crime Prevention

- Community-based violence prevention activities
- Opportunities for returning Citizens
- Safety and Security for seniors
- Restorative Justice programs and activities
- Neighborhood blight patrol
- Gun intervention strategies

Opportunities for Youth / Parents / Families

- Leader/mentor training/activities
- Out of school college and career experiences for youth 14-20
- School to community connections for families in underperforming schools
- Music or dance classes
- Improvisation or spoken word competitions

Family Stability

- Nutrition and food security projects
- Access to affordable housing projects
- Access to public transportation projects
- Projects that support Kinship Caregivers

| Major Themes | Grant Amounts | # of Grants |
|--|------------------|-------------|
| Addressing Upward Mobility | \$12,000 | 6 |
| Community Crime Prevention | 68,500 | 28 |
| Conflict Resolution and Mediation | 29,500 | 11 |
| Family Stability | 12,000 | 5 |
| Implicit Bias and Diversity | 6,500 | 3 |
| Opportunities for Youth/Parents/Families | 97,100 | 43 |
| Total | \$225,600 | 96 |

Addressing Upward Mobility

- Career Training
- Actions that reduce barriers and build relationships among diverse groups of people
- Community education on the impact of segregation in housing and education
- Trainings and workshops to increase community engagement on current issues

Implicit bias and Diversity

- Training and workshops to address stereotypes and inclusion
- Strategies that give tools for changing behavior
- Program that exchanges perspectives of others
- Dialogue that increases interactions with different people

Types of Organizations

- The program was designed to fund different organizations that typically do not receive funding from the government because of audit requirements.
- However, the small sums of funding allocated to each awardee enabled the City to fund six different types of grant recipients

| Types of Organizations | Grant Amounts | # of Grants |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Churches, Temples, or Mosques | \$12,000 | 5 |
| Civic Associations | 7,500 | 5 |
| Community Group | 40,600 | 21 |
| Community Watch | 39,500 | 18 |
| Individuals | 76,000 | 37 |
| Non-Profit Organizations | 50,000 | 10 |
| Grand Total | \$225,600 | 96 |

Types of Organizations:

- **Churches, Temples, or Mosques** – do not have to have 501 (c) status.
- **Community Watch** – residents of a neighborhood who meet to discourage crime.
- **Community Group** – any group of people who work for the benefit of the public.
- **Civic Associations** – Boy/Girls Scouts, HOA, Fraternities/Sororities, etc.
- **Non-profit Organizations** – a legal entity organized for a collective public/social benefit.
- **Individuals** – Community leaders within the City of Fayetteville.

- The program awarded three different amounts of funding based on the experience and legal status of the applicant
- The City invested \$29,616 from the allocated \$250,000 program budget to Nonprofit Capacity-Building Workshops through **FTCC's Center for Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Small Business**
- The courses were facilitated by subject matter experts within the local nonprofit sector

| Tier and Amount | Cycle 1 | Cycle 2 | Cycle 3 | Cycle 4 | Grand Total |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Tier One – up to \$1,500 | \$39,100 | 12,000 | \$9,000 | \$18,000 | \$78,100 |
| Tier Two – up to \$2,500 | 0 | 26,500 | 11,500 | 6,500 | 44,500 |
| Tier Three – up to \$5,000 | \$10,000 | 21,500 | 35,000 | 36,500 | 103,000 |
| Total | \$49,100 | \$60,000 | \$55,500 | \$61,000 | \$225,600 |

- Courses (two-hour workshops):
 - “How to Start a Nonprofit”,
 - “How to Operate a Nonprofit” and
 - “Finding and Writing Grants”
- Several awardees benefited from the in-person class options to increase relationship building
- Multiple micro-grant recipients have been awarded funding through other Federal, State, and Local grant programs and fundraising

- In the fourth and final cycle, City Council directed staff to include doorbell cameras, specifically to senior citizens
- All nine of the programs and projects requesting doorbell cameras were funded, totaling \$27,000, including:
 - four community watch groups,
 - three organizations, and
 - two individuals
- As a result, 39 doorbell cameras were installed, 52 dawn-to-dusk socket sensors were purchased and provided to community members and 144 dawn-to-dusk light bulbs were obtained and distributed

- “Society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.”
- While programs like these can be viewed as planting seeds and are hard to measure in two short years, some successes of note:
 - 20,237 residents have participated in programs offered through the initiative
 - 65% reported that the capacity-building workshops helped them form partnerships with others
 - Seven agencies received their nonprofit certification
 - 60% said that the classes will lead to the formation of a nonprofit
- The City advanced funds to individuals and small organizations
 - any unspent funds were returned
 - all funds were accounted for by ECD staff (*administratively burdensome*)



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