

Council Communication

October 5, 2015, Study Session

Discussion of social service grant funding

FROM:

Dave Kanner, city administrator, dave.kanner@ashland.or.us

SUMMARY:

Councilor Voisin is proposing that Council ask the Housing and Human Services Commission to propose a specific percentage of the general fund that is dedicated to the social service grant and propose criteria for the grants enconcing them in a resolution to replace resolution 86-35.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Ashland established a social service grant program in 1986 with the adoption of Resolution 86-35. Up to that point, the City had funded health and social service programs with Federal revenue sharing dollars, which were discontinued during the Reagan administration. Resolution 86-35 called on the City to continue funding social service programs from the General Fund, in amount equal to \$46,444, adjusted annually for inflation. Those inflation-adjusted dollars totaled \$130,660 in FY 2016 and \$133,275 in FY 2017.

COUNCIL GOALS SUPPORTED

People

5. Seek opportunities to enable all citizens to meet basic needs.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND REQUESTED ACTION:

N/A

SUGGESTED MOTIONS:

N/A. This item is for discussion and direction to staff only.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution 86-35

Information sheet from Councilor Voisin



RESOLUTION NO. 86- 35

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AS CITY POLICY THE FUNDING
OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City Council has in past years funded a number of health and social services through the City Budget with funds from Federal Revenue Sharing monies; and

WHEREAS, it appears that Federal Revenue Sharing monies will not be available in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has appointed a committee on Community Health Care and Future Social Needs which has concluded that the City should continue to fund certain Health and Social programs; and

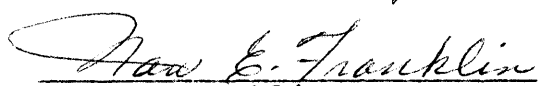
WHEREAS, the Council, adopts the recommendations of the Mayor's Committee insofar as it recommends said funding; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that the funding of health care and social service needs is an important City function which contributes to the health and well being of the citizens of Ashland.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the City of Ashland to fund in future years from the General Fund, health and social services needs of the type currently being funded in fiscal year 1986-87 by the City of Ashland in an amount at least equal to \$46,644., expressed in 1986 dollars, adjusted for inflation.

The foregoing Resolution was READ and DULY ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Ashland on the 2nd day of September, 1986.


Nan E. Franklin
City Recorder

SIGNED and APPROVED this 4th day of September, 1986.


L. Gordon Medaris
Mayor

October 5 Council Study Session
Councilor Voisin

Topic: Social Service Grants

Proposal: To ask the Housing and Human Services Commission to propose a specific percentage of the general fund that is dedicated to the social service grants and propose criteria and reporting metrics for the grants ensconcing them in a resolution to replace resolution 86-35.

Reasoning:

U. S. Census data for 2014 says number of people below poverty level in Ashland is 18.2% of population. $20,684$ (2014 Census population for Ashland) $\times 0.182 = 3,764$. OHRA estimates the number of homeless to be somewhere between 200 and 300. Thus it could safely be said that in our City of 20,700 there are about 3500 who are in homes and one paycheck away from being on the street. These are America's "Working Poor" who are served by our social service grants. Thus keeping our citizens from falling into homelessness. (OHRA Board Member)

In addition, people making 80% Area Median Income or below make up about 40% of the Ashland's population. Low Income is defined by HUD to be 50% of Area Median Income or below. The social service grant funding is about 130K a year as well and while it is intended for services to low-income/special needs populations that is not defined (such as it is for CDBG) and no reporting is required, so some of that money may not be going to the poor. (Linda Reid)

The Housing and Human Services Commission has the experience to delve into this subject. The Commission is responsible for the CDBG funding, therefore having worked with metrics that qualify for funds and evaluating the reporting of the use of the funds. They have done their homework and have a strategic plan upon which they can base some of their work on this request from the Council.

Below are links to additional supportive material.

Social service grant city page - <http://www.ashland.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=15304>
Scroll down to bottom of the page for the strategic plan.

CDBG city page - <http://www.ashland.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=10854>