



**CITY OF PLANO
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

CITY SECRETARY'S USE ONLY				
<input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory				
Council Meeting Date:		12/13/2010		
Department:		Planning		
Department Head		P. Jarrell		
Agenda Coordinator (include phone #): Doris Carter x5350				
CAPTION				
A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Plano, Texas, approving updates of the regulations for the use of Buffington Community Services Grant funds; authorizing its execution by the City Manager or his authorized designee; and providing an effective date.				
FINANCIAL SUMMARY				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE <input type="checkbox"/> OPERATING EXPENSE <input type="checkbox"/> REVENUE <input type="checkbox"/> CIP				
FISCAL YEAR: 2010-11	Prior Year (CIP Only)	Current Year	Future Years	TOTALS
Budget	0	0	0	0
Encumbered/Expended Amount	0	0	0	0
This Item	0	0	0	0
BALANCE	0	0	0	0
FUND(s): GENERAL FUND				
COMMENTS: This item has no fiscal impact to the City.				
STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL: Updating grant regulations relates to the City's goal of "Partnering for Community Benefit."				
SUMMARY OF ITEM				
At the direction of Council, the Community Relations Commission has reviewed and provided updates to the Buffington Community Services Grant (BCSG) regulations. If approved, regulations will be in effect for the 2011 Consolidated Grant Applications.				
List of Supporting Documents: Memo, Resolution			Other Departments, Boards, Commissions or Agencies	

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 29, 2010

To: Tom Muehlenbeck, City Manager
Frank Turner, Deputy City Manager

From: Christina Day, Community Services Manager

Subject: Buffington Community Services Grant and Community Development Block Grant
Public Service Fund Requirements

At the April 26, 2010, City Council meeting, the Council directed the Community Relations Commission to review the Buffington Community Services Grant (BCSG) for recommended updates, including the much discussed definition of "emergency services."

The BCSG is very desirable to local nonprofit agencies due to its flexibility. While the simplicity of the BCSG grant is one of its greatest strengths, the lack of more specific standards has resulted in expenditures that may not be in the best interest of the community.

At their July 13, 2010, meeting, the Commission appointed a subcommittee to review and make recommendations on this topic. On November 18, 2010, the Commission approved the subcommittee recommendations.

Proposed Modifications

The following is the resulting update to the BCSG standards for your consideration (additions are underlined; deletions are struck-through).

- A. OBJECTIVES - *The City of Plano recognizes the need for community services within the City and, for this reason, makes funds available for social services. ~~The majority of these funds will be granted to agencies that provide for emergency needs for Plano residents, such as food, shelter, clothing, and preventive health care.~~ The Buffington Community Services Grant (BCSG) supplies funds for programs that provide short-term, urgent economic assistance or care services, offering immediate relief of crisis impacting the physical and/or mental health of Plano residents. General categories for such assistance and care include food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and medical or crisis counseling care. All such services will contribute to one or more goals of the City's current, adopted Consolidated Plan of Housing and Community Development Goals.*
- B. REQUIREMENTS - *Grants are for expenses incurred within the City of Plano Fiscal Year, between October 1 and September 30. All funds must be spent no later than September 30. Bills remaining to be paid after that date may not be paid with BCSG funds. Unspent funds must be returned to the City of Plano. Records to*

justify expenditures must be maintained by the agency for a period of five years after termination of the grant agreement.

Per the State of Texas, grants to a social service organization may not exceed 50% of the organization's annual budget.

C. INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES – Non-profit organizations may not utilize ~~The following activities MAY NOT be assisted with BCSG funds for any of the following:~~

- ~~1. No more than 50% of the grant request may be for salaries. However, under unusual circumstances, exceptions may be approved by the Commission.~~
2. Duplication of services or programs.
3. Social functions, parties, receptions, fund-raising benefits, refreshments, or beverages.
4. Licensing fees of any kind.
5. Underwriting, investments, stocks, bonds, or any financial obligation.
6. ~~Interest and/or depreciation on loans, Fines, penalties, or costs of litigation.~~

Explanation of Proposed Modifications

A. Objectives

1. Emergency Services Provider: Due to regular difficulty in determining which agencies “provide for emergency needs for Plano residents, such as food, shelter, clothing, and preventive health care”, the Community Relations Commission established a definition for Emergency Services Provider as follows: “an organization whose primary mission is to provide short-term, urgent economic assistance or care services, offering immediate relief of crisis impacting the physical and/or mental health of Plano residents. General categories for such assistance and care include food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and medical or crisis counseling care.”

As the language is structured, a grant request coming from an agency that provides emergency services is qualified as part of the required majority funding, whether or not the request itself is for an emergency service. Additionally, in recent years, the Commission has struggled with the preponderance of valuable preventative health and counseling programs that provide significant benefits for the community by stabilizing vulnerable residents, yet do not necessarily meet an emergency need. Some of these services directly benefit the City by assisting Police, Fire, Property Standards, and Community Services staff in providing mental health and other support for residents that otherwise create a considerable demand on City resources.

To resolve these concerns, it is recommended that Commission's definition be adopted as the objective of the grant. All grant requests would be required to meet the definition.

2. Consolidated Plan Goals: The City spends considerable resources developing a Consolidated Plan of Housing and Community Development goals every five years. This plan researches, seeks public input and adopts public service goals consistent with the objectives of the Buffington Community Services Grant. Therefore, it would be reasonable that the City's community service funds be allocated in a manner consistent with its related, adopted Consolidated Plan.

B. Requirements: No changes are recommended to this section.

C. Ineligible Activities:

1. Item 1: The salary funding limitation is recommended for removal. The Commission prefers to focus on funding of eligible activities at a reasonable cost by fiscally responsible agencies. Since many quality programs have high personnel costs, it is recommended to fund personnel as an eligible program expense regardless of the percent of the grant funding.
2. Item 2: Duplication of services should be allowed due to the variation of clients between agencies. For example, rent assistance service may be provided by two agencies, but the programs are different because each agency only serves a limited clientele, such as victims of domestic violence or severely disabled. As long as programs are not duplicated (i.e. we do not fund two agencies supporting rent assistance for the severely disabled) our funds are not going to serve the same clients for the same purpose in more than one agency.
3. Item 6: Removing the restriction on interest on loans will allow use of the funds to support agency operating costs in the form of mortgages and homeowner homelessness prevention for mortgage assistance.

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Plano, Texas, approving updates of the Rules and Regulations for the use of Buffington Community Services Grant funds; authorizing its execution by the City Manager or his authorized designee; and providing the effective date.

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the continuing need for community services within the City and, for this reason, makes funds available for social services;

WHEREAS, the City Council directed the Community Relations Commission to review the Buffington Community Services Grant for recommended updates, including the definition of “emergency services”, to ensure these regulations are meeting their intent and directing funding in the best interest of the citizens of Plano; and

WHEREAS, the Community Relations Commission has considered the existing regulations and is recommending the Buffington Community Services Grant regulations be adopted as stated below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PLANO, TEXAS, THAT:

Section I. - The Buffington Community Services Grant regulations, having been reviewed by the City Council of the City of Plano and found to be acceptable and in the best interests of the City of Plano and its citizens, are hereby in all things approved as follows:

- “A. **OBJECTIVES** – The City of Plano recognizes the need for community services within the City and, for this reason, makes funds available for social services. The Buffington Community Services Grant (BCSG) supplies funds for programs that provide short-term, urgent economic assistance or care services, offering immediate relief of crisis impacting the physical and/or mental health of Plano residents. General categories for such assistance and care include food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and medical or crisis counseling care. All such services will contribute to one or more goals of the City’s current, adopted Consolidated Plan of Housing and Community Development Goals.
- B. **REQUIREMENTS** - Grants are for expenses incurred within the City of Plano Fiscal Year, between October 1 and September 30. All funds must be spent no later than September 30. Bills remaining to be paid after that date may not be paid with BCSG funds. Unspent funds must be returned to the City of Plano. Records to justify expenditures must be maintained by the agency for a period of five years after termination of the grant agreement.

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3. Licensing fees of any kind.
4. Underwriting, investments, stocks, bonds, or any financial obligation.
5. Fines, penalties, or costs of litigation.”

Section II. - This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

DULY PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2010.

Phil Dyer, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Diane Zucco, CITY SECRETARY

Approved as to form:

Diane C. Wetherbee, CITY ATTORNEY