



TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: ANNA JONES, DEPUTY TOWN CLERK
DIANE MCBRIDE, ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER
RE: DISCRETIONARY FUND REQUESTS FOR BUDGET YEAR 2025
DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

Summary & Background: On an annual basis, the Town of Frisco considers requests for in-kind services and up to \$5,000 grants through the Summit County common grant application. Staff refer to these grants as “micro grants” and in-kind requests. Applicants must be tax exempt under the provisions of section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This year, the Town received 71 applications for these micro grants and/or in-kind services. This number is up from the 57 applications received for 2024 funding.

In 2024, the Town of Frisco also implemented the Frisco Community Impact Grant Program. The purpose of this grant is to create a formal, annual process for evaluating worthwhile Frisco investments in non-profit projects that support the Town’s goals and that can be evaluated within the budget process. These are significant grants for non-profits which have programs that will have an exceptional impact on the Frisco community, and therefore, require a higher level of support.

- Non-profits could request up to \$100,000 through the Frisco Community Impact Grant Program.
- Non-profits could apply for both the annual countywide \$5,000 micro grant process and the Frisco Community Impact Grant.
- Grants are based on impact on the Frisco community, a clear statement of intent, and past efficacy of the applicant organization, as well as available budget.

These grants are intended to encourage significant progress on and support for the Town’s strategic objectives: Community Inclusivity, Thriving Economy, Vibrant Culture, Arts, and Recreation and Quality Core Services. The Town received seven (7) applications for these Community Impact Grants.

Staff (Dylan Olchin, Nico Cruz, Anna Jones and Diane McBride) and a Council subcommittee (Elizabeth Skrzypczak-Adrian and Martin Allen) reviewed all applications and will present funding recommendations to Council during the September 24, 2024, work session. These recommendations are included as Attachment 1 to this memo.

During the 2025 budget work session with Council on September 10, 2024, Council requested additional details regarding the support Frisco provides to local non-profits beyond the Summit County common grant program and the Frisco Community Impact Grant Program. This information has been compiled and is included in Attachment 2. This information will also be reviewed with Council during the work session.

Analysis: The following criteria were considered when reviewing all non-profit grant applications for 2025:

- To what degree does the non-profit's vision and mission align with the Town of Frisco's strategic objectives?
- To what degree does the non-profit's work have a significant and positive impact on Frisco and Summit County residents?
- Does the organization have strong and stable leadership and sound fiscal health and practices?
- How well does the organization understand the community's needs and meet them with a clear vision, mission, and plan to achieve measurable results for the Frisco and Summit County communities?
- Does the organization receive money from the town through alternate means?
- Non-profits that benefited infrastructure and public safety were given more consideration per the new strategic pillar weights.

Eleven criteria were used to rate each of the applications, with each criteria given a score of 0-5. A total of 55 points were possible for each application.

Budget parameters were also considered throughout the process. In 2024, a total of \$85,200 was awarded in cash grants for the micro grants, \$28,622 for in-kind services, and \$100,000 in cash grants for the Community Impact Grant Program. The committee started with the following budget parameters for the 2025 process:

- \$100,000 for the micro-grant program, which includes in-kind services.
- \$100,000 for the Community Impact Grant Program.

The proposed funding recommendations for 2025 are included in the "Financial Impact" section of this report.

Micro Grants

The Town received 71 applications for micro cash grants and/or in-kind services. Please note that the maximum amount that can be requested per the parameters of the micro-grant is \$5,000 per non-profit. All applications were reviewed and rated per eleven (11) criteria. Based upon this review, the following are recommended:

- Fully funding 14 of the 71 organizations at their requested dollar amount.
- Partially funding 29 of the 71 organizations at their requested dollar amount.
- Not funding 15 of the 71 organizations as their requests do not meet the strategic priorities of the Council, their ratings were low, their positive impact to Frisco and Summit County is not well demonstrated, or they received money from the town via other town sources, such as the nicotine tax.
- Funding seven (7) youth sports organizations at \$1,000 each
- Funding six (6) new, start-up non-profits at \$1000 each

- Awarding in-kind services to all organizations who applied for such in-kind services unless awarded substantial cash award.

Total cash funding request for the micro grant program was \$217,200, and total in-kind services funding request was \$45,688. Staff is recommending a cash amount of \$81,500, and in-kind services at the full amount of \$45,688. These in-kind services of \$45,698 are further broken down into the Marina Fund (\$15,812) and the General Fund (\$29,876). The breakdown of these recommendations is included in Attachment 1 and will be reviewed in detail with Council. Please note that staff is recommending additional funding for the in-kind services as these service prices have increased from 2024 to 2025.

Community Impact Grants

The Town received seven (7) applications for the Community Impact Grants. All applications were reviewed and rated per eleven (11) criteria. Based upon this review, the following are recommended:

- Funding six (6) of the seven (7) requests. The one organization who did not receive funding through this program did receive \$5,000 through the micro grant program above.
- Prioritizing funding for one time asks and program/equipment specifics, not staffing expenses.
 1. Funding \$20,000 to Advocates for Victims Assault to support services to include, but are not limited to, crisis intervention both in person and through our 24/7 hotline, baseline and follow up case management, legal advocacy, emergency shelter options, and transitional housing.
 2. Funding \$10,000 to Smart Bellies to purchase nutritious food for kids and families living in our community.
 3. Funding \$45,000 to Summit County Preschool for staff bonuses, capital improvements and ongoing maintenance
 4. Funding \$5,000 to Search and Rescue for a new vehicle
 5. Funding \$5,000 to The Cycle Effect to purchase new equipment.
 6. Funding \$15,000 to Treetop Advocacy to enhance community awareness, expand business partnerships, and attaining national accreditation.
 7. Café Food Rescue was not funded through the Community Impact Grant program but instead funded \$5,000 through the micro grant program.

Total cash funding request for the Community Impact Grant program was \$323,500. Staff is recommending funding this program at the proposed budget amount of \$100,000.

Additional Funding for Non-Profits

During the 2025 budget work session with Council on September 10, 2024, Council requested additional details regarding the support Frisco provides to local non-profits beyond the Summit County Common Grant Program and the Frisco Community Impact Grant Program. This information has been compiled for the 2023 budget year and is included in Attachment 2.

In addition to the \$76,400 cash awarded to non-profits in 2023 through the micro grant program, the Town also funded non-profits a total of \$965,785 in 2023. This funding is broken down as follows:

- Nicotine Tax (\$629,935): The nicotine tax is broken into Part I and Part II funding through County-wide IGA's. Funding goes to Building Hope, the Family and Intercultural Resource Center (FIRC), the Community Care Clinic and Summit County Government Youth and

Family Services. In 2023, Summit County Preschool was also funded \$80,000 out of nicotine funds. This was a direct ask from the Preschool to the Council.

- ECO and First Step Tuition Assistance was funded through an IGA in the amount of \$164,739 for the year 2023 with the source of the contribution coming from Nicotine Tax.
- The Summit Combined Housing Authority received \$98,450 through 5A sales taxes collected by the County for each of the entities for payment of deed monitoring services in 2023.
- General Fund / Operations. High Country Conservation Center (HC3) was funded \$40,110 in 2023 to assist with sustainability operations/programs including Energy Smart and Resource Wise programs.
- General Fund / Events and General Fund / Concerts in the Park: The Town partners with local non-profits to assist with events. Non-profits are encouraged to apply in February each year and they are randomly selected to assist with the different events. Such assistance includes food and beverage sales, course marshalling, etc. The organizations are paid for their services. Total amount spent in 2023 was \$57,354.
- General Fund / Direct Ask of Council: In 2023, the Council funded the SOL Center a one-time ask of \$100,000, which came out of Nicotine Funds. For 2024 and 2025, the Council also supported funding the food insecurity program \$50,000/year. In 2023, the Council also funded Summit County Search & Rescue \$50,000 out of the General Fund.
- General Fund / Sponsorships: The Town of Frisco also allocates sponsorship dollars to local non-profits on an annual basis. In 2023, this total was \$23,647. This sponsorship budget has been in existence for at least 12+ years. The Town uses these funds as a vehicle to support Council's desired presence at community nonprofit events, to encourage events that provide economic benefit to the Town (for example, Colorado High School League bike races), and/or to provide high visibility branding/name recognition opportunities in the community that showcase Frisco's values (for example, youth soccer jerseys).

This additional funding information is provided for Council's reference. Through the work session on September 24, 2024, staff is seeking Council's input specific to the micro grant funding recommendations for 2025 and the Community Impact Grant recommendations for 2025. Staff also welcomes Council feedback regarding these additional funding avenues for non-profits as represented in Attachment 2.

Financial Impact

Grants are included in the 2025 proposed budget in the following amounts

- \$100,000 for the micro-grant program, which includes in-kind services.
- \$100,000 for the Community Impact Grant Program.

Staff and the Council Grants Subcommittee recommend the following:

- Micro Grants: \$127,188. This amount includes \$81,500 cash awards and \$45,688 in-kind awards. In-kind requests include field and facility rentals, as well as gift certificates for our

amenities such as tubing, Nordic and boat rentals. Rates for these products and services are increasing in 2025, and as a result, the in-kind amount is also increasing. For 2024, in-kind requests totaled \$28,622.

Of the \$45,688 requested for in-kind services, \$15,812 is requested from the Marina Fund and \$29,876 is requested from the General Fund. These funds are traditionally reimbursed from the grants fund to the appropriate accounts upon receipt of the gift certificates and usage of the facilities.

- Community Impact Grant Program: \$100,000. The additionally requested funds are reasonable and will be included in the 2025 proposed budget.

Alignment with Strategic Plan

The Frisco Town Council regularly revisits and updates the Town's Strategic Plan, which is intended to describe the long-term vision and mission for the Town of Frisco and identify high-priority goals, the actions to achieve those goals, and the timelines by which they intend the work to be completed. This Plan was updated in August 2024. The Strategic Priorities in this Plan served as a guiding document for reviewing and recommending all non-profit grant requests, while understanding parts of the strategic plan are weighed more heavily, specifically those interests that support a thriving economy, provide safety to our citizens and basic human services to our community.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Council review and approve the recommendations above for both cash and in-kind service requests for 2025.

Reviews and Approvals:

- Leslie Edwards, Finance Director
- Tom Fisher, Town Manager

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Discretionary Funding Recommendations for 2025
- Attachment 2 – Town of Frisco Non-Profit Awards