

CITY OF BETHEL

COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT

Review Process

The Community Action Grant Technical Review Board's role is critical to ensuring the selection of strong grant proposals. Their primary responsibility is to read grant applications, review them for scope, and determine how best to allocate the limited resources available to those programs or projects that must serve the goals and needs of the Bethel Community and its most vulnerable citizens.

General Process

Applications will be submitted to the City, per the Application Instructions. Following the submission deadline, the Ex Officio will email the complete application submissions, the individual score sheets, and the requirements of the application to each Board member.

The Board members are strongly encouraged to review the application packets, identify any questions to ask the applicants and provide individual scores for each application submitted prior to the quarterly initial review meeting.

During the quarterly initial review meeting, the applicants will be invited to attend and provide information to the Board to assist the Board in finalizing the scores. This will be an opportunity for the Board to ask for any clarifying information and to request any supplemental information that may support an application.

The Board will hold at least one additional public meeting to consider any supplemental information and finalize their individual scores. At this meeting, the members will discuss and deliberate individual scores in order to make a final recommendation to the City Council for funding. In the event a consensus is not met between the Board members, an average of the scores may be applied as the consensus score.

Guidelines for Reviewers

Scores must be assigned based on criteria provided in the application directions. The scores should reflect the Board member's opinion on the applicant's ability to meet each criterion provided on the Grant Review Score Sheet. The reviewer cannot make assumptions about missing background or project information, only what was provided can be evaluated. Additionally, it is important that the scores be based on substance. A high-quality application is not always going to be grammatically perfect. A reviewer should judge the substance of an idea, rather than the manner in which it is presented.

When individually reviewing the application submissions, reviewers should make thoughtful comments to justify their individual score, commenting on both strengths and weaknesses.

Steps for the Board in Reviewing and Rating the Applications

1. Read the application guidelines and instructions.
 - It may be difficult to fairly evaluate a proposal unless you have an understanding of what has been asked.

2. Review the Grant Review Score Sheet.
3. Skim all of the applications before you begin scoring.
 - Understand how the applications relate to one another in terms of general strengths and weaknesses.
4. You will rate the applications on a numerical scale.
 - Assign a score for each question on the score sheets.
 - Provide specific comments about strengths and weaknesses on the score sheet that justify your score and identify any issues that may need to be clarified.
 - Bring the completed score sheets to the initial review meeting where representatives of the applicants will be available to provide clarification on any questions or concerns.
5. Consensus Scoring and Recommendation to Council.
 - Consensus scores and final recommendations will be determined at the second meeting.
 - If the Board cannot come to a consensus, then scoring will be based on averages of score totals.
 - The Recommendation to Council shall include the suggested funding amount as well as the project summary and scores.

Review Criteria

Description of Criteria	Score
Request Summary & Project Details	Total 80
Project is clearly described	10
Application includes a statement of need	10
Estimated number of people this project will impact	10
Documented community support for the project	10
Explanation on how the impacts of the project will be measured	10
Goals are clear and objectives measurable	10
Matching dollars/in-kind services/donated labor/ etc.	10
Identify individuals involved with the project with their roles and relevant experiences.	10

Budget For Project	Total 30
Is budget complete, clear and detailed	10
Proposed expenses are reasonable	10
Income and expenses balance on project budget including matching funds if applicable	10
Subjective Criteria	Total 60
Meets community needs	10
Strength of the plan and idea	10
Applicant appears capable	10
Project meets funding priorities	30