

ESR Program Subcommittee Recommendations

March 3, 2021

1. Adopt a resolution that recognizes the Extended Social Resources (ESR) Program and sets a minimum funding goal for the entire program, which has two components to address community-based initiatives and overnight emergency shelters. The resolution is intended to:
 - a. Establish two distinct and operationally independent components of the ESR Program: (a) the Community Based Initiatives Program, which will provide funding through grants to the following priority areas: community wellness and safety, childhood and youth development, and food insecurity and nutritional access; (b) the Overnight Emergency Shelter Program for the basic human right of overnight emergency shelter services for those experiencing homelessness, which shall include the Hope Center and all emergency shelters in Fayette County, even those previously funded outside the ESR Program, and which shall provide funding through grants or other agreements.
 - b. Establish a funding goal for the ESR Program, for each fiscal year, of at least 1 percent of the General Fund revenue collected from the last full fiscal year.
 - c. Divide the total amount allocated to the ESR Program (under the direction of 1 percent of general fund revenues from the previous fiscal year) so that 60 percent is dedicated to the Community Based Initiatives Program, which is administered by the Department of Social Services and 40 percent is dedicated to the Overnight Emergency Shelter Program programming, which is administered by the Office of Homelessness, Prevention and Intervention.

2. Recognize and emphasize specific community needs and direct the ESR Program to seek proposals from nonprofit partners to help provide services and resources to meet those needs under the ESR Programs Community Based Initiatives Program.
 - a. Community wellness & safety, emphasis on:
 - i. Youth violence intervention
 - ii. Mental health
 - b. Childhood & youth development, emphasis on:
 - i. Student learning loss (specifically kindergarten through 12th grade)
 - ii. Youth violence prevention
 - iii. Mentorship

3. Consider providing an opportunity in the application for grant funds under the Community Based Initiatives Program to explicitly state how the proposal supports or enhances recommendations made by the Mayor's Commission on Racial Justice & Equality. This could be added to *outreach and inclusion* (evaluation criteria under *capacity and sustainability*) but the Department of Social Services should take into account measurability before adding it. (The commission's final report was distributed October 23, 2020.)
4. Support and understand the need for a two-year funding cycle for the ESR Program but a one-year funding cycle is recommended for FY2022 due to the current budget conditions and the uncertain pandemic environment. The subcommittee recognizes the desire of many ESR partner agencies for a two-year funding cycle that could create greater opportunities for new programs to address the city's most urgent needs.
5. Encourage administrators of the ESR Program to:
 - a. Engage the nonprofit community in the grant process;
 - b. Fund more of the application amount requested;
 - c. Increase the window of time in which applications can be received.

Additional Considerations

6. Consider allocating one-time funds as a separate budget request for educational support focused on helping students make up for the learning loss created by COVID-19 after the ESR Program is underway and it is understood what gaps remain after related efforts by FCPS are initiated.
7. Refer *workforce readiness* to the Chief Development Officer as a need in the community. The subcommittee recognizes this area may need more emphasis based on respondents' feedback to a survey issued to nonprofit agencies but that area more aligns with economic development than the ESR Program.