Grant Management Policy

The purpose of the Grant Management Policy is to ensure grant oversight to support creativity and innovation in identifying and addressing existing and desired City program or partnership needs that cannot be resolved with existing resources, but may be suitable areas for seeking grant funds. The policy sets standards for the consistent acquisition and administration of grants and applies to all grants provided to or facilitated by City departments (federal, state, county, local, corporate, Indian community, and private foundation). Grant support is encouraged unless the prospective grant conflicts with the City’s strategic goals, generates more cost than benefit, or restricts the mission of the City.

Grant Identification, Evaluation and Application

Once potential grants have been identified and prior to the submittal of a grant application to an agency or acceptance of funds from an organization, the Department should give consideration as to whether the grant is consistent with the City’s Strategic and Department Goals, and a funding evaluation should be completed to determine the effect of the grant on the current and future City resources or operations. Factors to consider are:

a. Available funding for required grant matches (i.e. the City’s portion of project costs or in-kind costs)
b. Current and future year(s) budget implications (i.e. added positions, equipment)
c. Capacity and experience of the Department and staff to effectively administer and implement all aspects of the grant.

Grant Approval, Administration, and Operational Oversight

To ensure transparent management of grants, grants valued with City resource commitments that exceed $30,000, or any amount if required by law or the grant agreement, require City Council approval prior to acceptance of funds or upon submittal if award signifies acceptance. Grants do not require City Council approval if governed by another authority (i.e. Public Housing Authority Commission). Transportation capital grants that require a rapid response to prevent forfeiting the grant may be approved by the City Manager or designee, prior to Council approval of capital project funded by said grant. The City Council item should include the grant’s purpose, term and amount, as well as current and future year budget or operational implications, during and after the grant is completed. City Manager or designee are authorized to approve and execute documents related to grants with a gross value of $30,000 or less, unless the grant agreement specifically requires City Council approval.

If an approved grant requires an ongoing General Fund commitment from the City, it will be incorporated into the forecast to ensure expenditures can be supported when the grant expires. If the position funding is only for the life of the grant, the expenditures shall be budgeted from one-time funding.

The City of Chandler’s City Code and Administrative Regulations related to procurement shall be utilized for the purchase of materials, services, and construction with grant funds, in conjunction with any procurement requirements stipulated in the grant requirements.

The City’s Grant Committee shall be made up of Department Grant Liaisons, and will provide grant management guidance and oversight to ensure adherence to the Grant Management Policy. The Committee will serve as a central source for cross-departmental communications regarding the pursuit of grants and effective application of administrative procedures.

Department Directors shall ensure compliance with all grant requirements through ongoing administrative and operational support (i.e. trained staff resources, financial and/or program reporting, subcontractor monitoring of activities and/or performance, pass-thru monitoring, audit compliance by grantor and/or by external auditors, record retention, and any additional requirements detailed in the Grant award documentation such as federal circulars related to federal grants).