

April 28, 2006

STAFF REPORT

MEMO TO: SUTTER COUNTY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION
FROM: DEB COULTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF MINI GRANT AND COMMUNITY IMPACT PROPOSALS

BACKGROUND: The Sutter County Children & Families Commission approved the release of Concept Papers requesting ideas from the Community for Mini grant and Community Impact proposals at the November 2005 Commission meeting. The applications were reviewed by Commissioners and staff. The following Concept Paper applications were asked to submit a full funding proposal at the February 2006 meeting.

Mini Grants –

Creative Kids
First Steps, Mommie & Me
Little Red School House, Lessons Learned
Tender Hearts
Chandler's Busy Bees
Oralia Ramirez
Reach Out & Read, Sutter County Library

Community Impact Proposals –

Parent Education & Coaching, Child Care Planning Council
Joyful Play with a Purpose, Family SOUP
Madame Zo's Safety for Kids, Sutter County Health Department
Peer Empowerment Providers, First Steps
Van Go! Lundberg's Little Red School House
Wee Read, Sutter County Library
Bee Well, Sutter County Health Department
Family & Fathers Initiative, Church of Glad Tidings

A summary of the Mini Grant and Community Impact proposals received by the deadline of April 17, 2006 is attached. The applications were reviewed and scored by Commissioner and independent readers. Commissioners should be aware that the State First Five commission is requiring new reporting standards that must be met in this round of funding. Because the Mini Grants are not as complex as the Community Impact Proposals it is felt that those can be funded right away without creating significant problems for the proponents or Commission staff.

CURRENT PROPOSAL:

Mini Grants –

Based on the scores of the reviewers it is proposed that the following mini grants be funded:

Applicant	Amount
Creative Kids Preschool, Michelle Lightle	\$2500
Mommie and Me, First Steps	\$2500
Lessons Learned, Liz Lundberg	\$2495.50
Tender Hearts Childcare, Kimberlee Friesen	\$2500
Chandler's Little Busy Bees, Michelle Chandler	\$2500
Reach Out and Read, Sutter County Library	\$2500
Oralia Ramirez	\$500

Community Impact Proposals –

Based on the scores and comments of the reviewers, the review group reached the following consensus:

- ◆ Proposals submitted had merit for funding at some level.
- ◆ Within each proposal, there were questions that the review group requested staff to research and report back to the Commission.
- ◆ Individual meetings with proposed grantees should be scheduled to discuss new state fiscal and performance evaluation requirements and to establish the evaluation plan with Duerr Evaluation Resources. During these individual meetings questions raised by the reviewers can be responded to by the proponents.
- ◆ Due to the required implementation of additional state fiscal and performance requirements and to comply with the requests for clarification from the review group it is anticipated that funding and contracts will be issued in the Fall of 2006 following Commission approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

- a) **Mini Grants** - The executive director recommends the Commission approve funding of the mini grant proposals as listed above, with projects scheduled to begin July 1, 2006.
- b) **Community Impact Proposals** - The executive director recommends the Commission allow a two month delay in making a recommendation regarding these proposals for additional discussion with proponents for the purpose of explaining the new standards being imposed by the State First Five Commission and clarifying questions raised in the review process. This recommendation is supported by the members of the review committee. Recommendations regarding approval of these projects will be made at the June 2006 Commission meeting.

IMPACT ON COMMISSION RESOURCES: Approval of these recommendations will generate additional expenditures from Commission funds and expand services for children in the community.

POLICY ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of executive director's recommendation.

DC:bd