

COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAMS TO NONPROFITS

NOVEMBER 18, 2025
TOWN COUNCIL



COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANT

- Existed since at least 2011; funding was \$8,000 per year/\$2,000 per quarter, up to \$500 per request. Criteria were:
 - Community-based, benefitting Castle Rock residents
 - For specific nonprofit community-based projects as not general support
 - Eligible projects contribute to Castle Rock's quality of life, with special emphasis on:
 - Youth programs and activities
 - Senior programs and activities
 - Community-based environmental and sustainability programs and activities
 - Community-based performing and visual arts programs and activities
 - Criteria were expanded in 2013 to include:
 - Unused funds may be used in subsequent quarters, nte \$8,000 per year
 - Town Council will evaluate each application individually
 - Preference will be given to applicants who have not received grants previously
 - Nonprofit organizations may receive only one grant per year
- 2023: funding increased to \$8,000 per year/\$2,000 per quarter, up to \$500 per request

PHILIP S. MILLER RESOURCE GRANT

- Existed since at least 1995; annual budget up to \$45,000, providing up to five grants:
 - 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) organizations operating for a minimum of five years
 - Funding requests must include provisions for the necessities of life as listed below:
 - Water
 - Energy
 - Food
 - OR shelter assistance

OTHER COMMUNITIES

- Peer and other communities range from providing no grants (Parker and Lone Tree) to \$1.9 million program with individual grants exceeding \$200k (Broomfield – city and county)
- Some administer through foundations, and some use CDBG funds
- No common themes or best practices were observed – see packet for details
- It is Council's discretion what funding levels and criteria work best for Castle Rock

OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Increase the annual program budget to \$20,000, with quarterly disbursements up to \$5,000. This can be accommodated within the 2026 General Fund budget
2. Collect information on the nonprofit organization's total revenues and expenditures, and how the requested grant would be leveraged with other dollars and volunteer resources (this is part of the Town's service contract process)
3. Give preference to Castle Rock-based organizations (under current criteria, organizations based outside of Castle Rock are eligible as long as they serve Castle Rock residents)
4. Lower the per grant cap from its current \$1,000 to allow for funding more requests — potentially allowing organizations to receive more than one award per year if funds are available
5. Redirect performing and visual arts applicants to the Art and Culture Grant program that was established this year

OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

6. Work with a nonprofit group such as the Douglas County Community Foundation to administer the grants, like Douglas County does with its Philip S. Miller Grant
7. Establish reporting requirements for recipients and ensure compliance for ongoing eligibility
8. Once criteria are updated and eligibility is verified, fund quarterly grants by lottery, so awardees are randomly selected
9. Require grantees cycle out of applying for a certain time period after an award

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION

Apply any changes to the upcoming fourth quarter awards or to awards beginning in 2026?