

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: *The Community Service Funds – The Supplement*
Report Date: May 16, 2013
Public Release Date: May 21, 2013
Please Respond By: August 21, 2013
Respondent: Marin County Board of Supervisors

FINDINGS

- (I) We agree with the findings numbered: F1, F3, F5
- (I) We disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: F2, F4
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendation numbered R4 has been implemented.
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered R1, R2, R3, R5, R6 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Number of pages attached _____

Marin County Board of Supervisors
Response to Findings and Recommendations from Grand Jury Report
The Community Service Funds – The Supplement – May 14, 2013

FINDINGS

- F1.** The proposed changes to the Community Service Funds program address and eliminate many, but not all, of the deficiencies highlighted in the Grand Jury's January 2013 report.

Response: Agree.

- F2.** The Board of Supervisors and the CAO need to take further steps to ensure that the CSF is implemented on a truly objective basis.

Response: Disagree.

We believe that the reforms we have made will address past concerns.

- F3.** All potentially eligible grant recipients should be made aware of the revised program's processes.

Response: Agree.

Our revised program guidelines are posted on our website.

- F4.** There appears to be confusion among some of the Supervisors regarding the extent to which they have individual priority "rights" to steer to their Districts some of the \$530,000 in surplus funds placed at the end of the Fiscal year in One-Time Funds account used for broad emergency (or non-repetitive) County disbursement needs.

Response: Disagree.

Since the report was written, the Board has allocated most of these funds. With the remaining unspent balance of \$72,000, the Board of Supervisors is clear that the funds will be allocated by the full Board for one-time community needs.

- F5.** The revised CSF program is a "work-in-progress" that will be inaugurated for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2013-14. It will be important to monitor and, as appropriate, further modify the program, based on experience.

Response: Agree.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Marin County Civil Grand Jury recommends that:

- R1.** The revised CSF Program specifically prioritizes Countywide projects and grants that have impact on more than one Supervisor District.

Response:

This recommendation will not be implemented. Given the size of the grants, many of the allocations that have substantial merits are for a specific community and may not have countywide impacts. With that said, countywide projects will also receive serious consideration for funding.

- R2.** The new CSF Program provides grants that are truly for one-time needs, and not for ongoing recipient programs.

Response:

This recommendation will not be implemented. Although the program is not limited to one-time allocations most of the allocations will be one-time in nature. In addition, as stated on our website, allocations that are approved for the current fiscal year only and do not indicate any support for future year funding.

- R3.** The revised CSF provides objective criteria that will be used to rank applicants' requests. Suggested criteria, for instance, might include consistency with the County's "4-Es" goals and the promotion of that fiscal year's County Budget's theme.

Response:

This recommendation will not be formally implemented, but clearly countywide goals will inform staff recommendations for funding.

- R4.** The Board of Supervisors launch a publicity campaign well before the start of Fiscal Year 2013-14 that explains the revised CSF Program, its application process and the criteria to be considered for granting monies under the Program.

Response:

This recommendation has been implemented. We have issued a press release concerning the revised program. In addition, the revised program guidelines and the program request forms have been highlighted on a redesigned page of the County's website.

- R5.** The CAO (and/or Director of Finance, if appropriate) provide an explanation of the "One-Time Fund" account and the procedures for determining and authorizing expenditures from that account. The explanation should make clear that

Supervisors have no preferential District-specific rights to the portion of that account comprised of the \$530,000 “surrendered” by the Board of Supervisors from their cumulative unspent CSF monies. The BOS should review and endorse this explanation.

Response:

This recommendation will not be implemented. At this point, there are approximately \$72,000 unspent funds remaining. These funds will be allocated by the full Board at a regularly scheduled meeting for one-time community needs. For example, \$25,000 of these funds was approved by the full Board to be allocated to the Law Library on the Board meeting of July 16th.

- R6.** The revised CSF Program to be inaugurated in Fiscal Year 2013-14 be evaluated by the CAO at the end of that Fiscal Year and a Report on its operation be provided to the BOS and posted on the County’s website. The Report should summarize number of applicants, number of applications rejected and reasons for rejection, number of applications granted broken down by sectors that include non-profits, local governments, and any other appropriate categories, and range of dollars granted pursuant to applications received during the Fiscal Year.

Response:

This recommendation will not be implemented, but staff will monitor the effectiveness of the revised program and recommend program revisions as necessary.