



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

MEETING DATE: 5/1/2025

ITEM ID: 2025-810

FROM: Alison Rogers, County Attorney

SUBJECT: Recommendation Concerning Adopting a Proposed Community Support Fund Policy.

DEPARTMENT: County Attorney

ITEM TYPE: Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION/REQUIRED ACTION:

That the Board adopt the attached proposed Community Support Fund Policy.

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

The Board has allocated district discretionary funds since 2016. The attached proposed policy addresses parameters for use of the funds and follows the discussion held by the Board on April 3, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS/SIGN-OFF:

The proposed policy was drafted by Alison Rogers, County Attorney.

PERSONNEL

N/A

POLICY/REQUIREMENT FOR BOARD ACTION:

N/A

IMPLEMENTATION/COORDINATION:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Community Support Fund Policy - APR Stamped 5.1.25
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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Escambia County, Florida

Title: Board of County Commissioners Community Support Fund Policy
Date Adopted: May 1, 2025
Effective Date: May 1, 2025
Policy Amended: New Policy

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Community Support Fund Policy ("Policy") is to ensure that Escambia County is fiscally responsible in the use of County Commissioner community support funding and to ensure that the expenditure of such County funds serves a public purpose. This Policy creates a uniform procedure for the submission, review, approval, and accounting of such funding requests.

II. AUTHORITY:

Article VII, Section 10, Florida Constitution, and Section 125.01, Florida Statutes.

III. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- A.** Each fiscal year, the Board may allocate community support funding equally to each County Commissioner. Subject to the availability of budgeted funds, Commissioners may request Board authorization for a community support funding allocation to an eligible applicant or for a County project or program.
- B.** Commissioners may request Board authorization for a community support funding allocation for a County project or program by submitting a recommendation with any supporting documentation for agenda placement. A funding application is not required.
- C.** An applicant for funding must qualify as:
 - (a) a municipality/city government or other governmental agency in Escambia County; or
 - (b) an organization that is incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation pursuant to Chapter 617, Florida Statutes, authorized to conduct business in the State of Florida, and designated as a tax-exempt corporation by the Internal Revenue Service as provided in the Internal Revenue Code.
- D.** The applicant must have been established, as described above, for a minimum of one (1) year prior to submitting the application.
- E.** The applicant must provide a completed funding application to the sponsoring Commissioner. The application, with any supporting documentation, shall be made available to the Board when the Commissioner requests Board approval.
- F.** The applicant must certify that all services associated with the project or program will be made available in a non-discriminatory manner and ensure non-discriminatory access to said services as required by law.
- G.** The applicant must describe how the project or program will serve a public need for the benefit of the community; how the project or program will be conducted;



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Escambia County, Florida

and how the County's funding would be utilized. Funds may not be used for any purpose prohibited by law.

- H. The applicant must agree to make all documentation relating to the project or program, including financial information, available to the County and must permit on-site visits by representatives designated by the County.

IV. APPLICABILITY:

This Policy shall apply to all requests for a community support funding allocation.

V. PROCEDURES:

The applicant must submit either a "Not-for-Profit Funding Request Application" or "Governmental Agency Funding Request Application" (as attached to this Policy) to the sponsoring Commissioner, along with supporting documentation necessary to establish that the use of the funds is consistent with this Policy and all applicable county, state, and federal rules, and regulations.

VI. REVIEW:

The County Administrator, or designee, will review each application to confirm the eligibility criteria and receipt of all required information prior to agenda placement.

VII. APPROVAL:

Applications that meet the eligibility criteria will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration. A recommendation requesting Board authorization for a community support funding allocation must be submitted for agenda placement prior to the initial publication of the agenda. Any community support funding allocated in an amount of \$10,000 or more shall also require the Board's approval and authorization to execute a Miscellaneous Appropriations Agreement.

VIII. LIMITATIONS:

If a funding allocation is approved to sponsor an event, function, or other program or project, tickets, admission, promotional items, or other gratuities may not be accepted on behalf of an individual Commissioner or County staff, and any such thing of value offered in exchange for said contribution shall be declined.

IX. ACCOUNTING & REPORTING:

For funding allocations up to \$10,000, the applicant shall provide adequate supporting documentation showing proof of payment for eligible expenses incurred in accordance with the Policy and provide such other documentation as necessary to show compliance with all applicable county, state, and federal rules, laws, and regulations. For funding allocations of \$10,000 or more, the applicant shall also enter into a Miscellaneous Appropriations Agreement. Any entity that receives funding pursuant to this Policy may be subject to an audit by the Board of County Commissioners or its designee regarding use of these County funds.

X. AVAILABILITY:

This Policy and the "Not-for-Profit Funding Request Application" and "Governmental Agency Funding Request Application" (as attached to this Policy) will be posted on the County's website and available at all times to the general public. On a quarterly basis, the County will also post a report of all funding allocations during the preceding quarter.