

September 24, 2008
Funding Process Review

Office of Community Services Community Resources staff has identified four areas of potential improvement and/or evaluative questions related to the 2009-2010 Community Resources application process. Over the next year the respective committees (including the ECCEB or subcommittee of the Board) are encouraged to explore the questions raised and make recommendations or determinations for the next funding process. The Board shall decide at the October meeting how it wishes to proceed in addressing these questions/issues and how to integrate its work with the Commission.

The Priority Setting Process

Questions:

1. Does the current program area structure reflect the current reality of community need, our contracted programs and their relationships to our stated priorities?
2. What information was the most useful in identifying community needs? What information was lacking?
3. Is it realistic to think we can get a community wide needs assessment every two years, or might we take a more targeted approach, i.e. develop structure/plan that conducts needs assessments by program areas or neighborhoods on a rotating basis?

Application

Questions:

1. Does every agency/program have to apply every two years? Might we have a separate more comprehensive application for new programs or agencies and a simplified version for continuing funding?
2. The quick turnaround time on these applications limits the amount of analysis staff can complete before the applications go to the committees. Does this current timeline still make sense given that we are no longer engaged in a “joint” process with other funders?
3. Does the current application give Board members the information they need to make informed decisions?
4. Can we move to a digital application (not necessarily on line)?

Early Childhood Care and Education Board Review of Applications

Questions:

1. Do Board members understand the format of the application well enough so that they can evaluate the content of the application?
2. In this last process, expectations regarding staff input was not clear or well defined. Are there standardized questions that staff should respond to about the strengths/weaknesses of every application or agency, performance issues, and their roles in key networks or communities?

The Role and Execution of the Public Hearing component of the Community Resources Funding Process

Questions:

1. Does the Public Hearing as currently structured give the Board information it can use to inform decision-making? Would a structure that incorporates agency presentations as a part of the application process be more informative, useful, and fair?
2. Can we explore avenues of public input and feedback that are not so closely tied to specific funding for specific programs?