



Review of Proposed Changes to the Outside Agency Funding Process

7-17-24



Background: Non-profit Application Processes

Today's Discussion:

- Agency Budget Review Team (ABRT)

Other processes not recommended for FY 26 changes:

- Cultural, Arts, and Festival Contributions
- Department of Finance & Budget Application Review Process (for larger regional agencies & those with a state relationship or regional agreement in place)



Background: Agency Budget Review Team

- Serves as a method of evaluating requests for County funding from outside agencies
- Teams of community volunteers and staff review and score applications against a prescribed rubric
- Funding recommendations are not made by the team and final approval is made by the Board of Supervisors
- Every year, County staff evaluate the process and make improvements



FY 25 ABRT Process

70 applications, representing \$4,690,882 in requests from 49 organizations, were reviewed, resulting in \$2,035,515 in funding awards.

- 49 applications for traditional ABRT review
- 12 applications for Human Services Emergent Needs funding review
- 9 applications for 'contractual' support



Feedback Loops

- Survey responses from applicants
- Survey responses & debriefing session from staff and community volunteer reviewers
- Feedback from the Center for Nonprofit Excellence
- Debriefing session with Human Services & Finance & Budget staff



Big Picture Changes

Staff from the Health & Human Services area and Department of Finance & Budget have determined the need for changes to the County funding process to better reflect best practices and the County's human services needs.

Staff propose that these changes would occur over two years beginning with the FY26 funding process.



Specific Recommended Changes for FY 26 Budget Process

- A. Change the name to 'Albemarle County Human Services Funding Process' to more accurately reflect the process
- B. Improve descriptions on the county website to help applicants determine which application best fits their programming
- C. Review which agencies are included in the contractual obligations pool
- D. Prioritize those applications that provide critical human services to Albemarle County including:
 - Providing basic needs safety net services
 - Serving a particularly vulnerable population
- E. Create abbreviated process to allow staff to continue ABRT process improvements in advance of FY27 process and provide more straight-forward access for nonprofit partners
 - Applicants will be asked to submit an abbreviated application reporting on significant changes in programming, progress, number of County community members served in the current year and anticipated in the funding year



Anticipated Changes for FY 27 Funding Process

- Revised application process & application
- Expanded technical assistance
- Sophisticated online platform
- Enhanced compliance reviews by County staff