



TOWN OF LOS GATOS
FINANCE COMMISSION REPORT

MEETING DATE: 09/30/2026

ITEM NO: 1

DATE: September 30, 2026
TO: Finance Commission
FROM: Chris Contantin, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Review the Community Grants Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Review the Community Grants Program

BACKGROUND:

At the August 10, 2026, Finance Commission meeting, the Commission approved the Community Grant Program Review Scoping Memorandum as the Commission's roadmap through the review of the Town's Community Grant Program.

DISCUSSION:

The attached scoping memorandum (attachment 1), also received as a desk item at the August 10, 2026, Commission meeting, outlines the proposed three-phase review of the Town's Community Grant Program as approved by the Commission. At the August 10, 2026, Finance Commission requested that a special meeting be held to resume and complete the community grant program review continued from August 10, 2026, so the Commission can provide recommendations to the Town Council for the grant program.

Phase 1 proposes establishing clear baseline standards for all grant applicants and applying them consistently to both sustaining and competitive grants.

Phase 2 recommends a full evaluation of the rental assistance program, including the number of households served, cost-effectiveness, use of multiple providers versus a single provider, and clarity of reporting.

PREPARED BY: Kristina Alfaro
Administrative Services Director

Reviewed by: Town Manager

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SUBJECT: Community Grants Review

DATE: September 18, 2026

Phase 3 calls for a review of Policy 2-04 to restore or strengthen guidance on recusals when conflicts arise.

These phases would result in recommendations for the Town Council's consideration and are expected to be reviewed over at least three Commission meetings.

Attachments:

As provided in commissioner comments from the August 10, 2026, meeting:

1. Scoping Memorandum
2. Community Grant Program Review Phase 1 – The duty to know your applicants
3. Proposed eligibility standard memo - Rough framework
4. Proposed new scoring card to be applied to all Community Grants - Sustaining and one-time awards
5. Commissioner's Communication - Community Grant Program
6. Commissioner's Communication - Rental Assistant Program
7. Commissioner's Communication - Conflict Disclosure Briefing