



# The City of NORMAN

201 West Gray • P.O. Box 370  
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SOCIAL & VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMISSION  
Phone: 405-366-5404

January 21, 2025

To: City of Norman Finance Committee

Re: Social and Voluntary Service Committee

The Social and Voluntary Services Commission (SVSC) was founded in 1973 as an advisory body to the Norman City Council regarding the evaluation of social services. The SVSC Commission consists of nine members each serving a three year term. The current members are: Marc Bonge', Sandra Duncan, Jennifer Newell, Scott Meier, Ann Way, and myself. There are three positions that are currently vacant awaiting appointment by the Mayor. I currently serve as the chair, and Jennifer Newell the Vice-Chair.

Within the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 City of Norman budget, funding for social service agencies was \$250,000, an increase from \$175,000 in 2020. To distribute these funds, a formal application process was held in which qualified interested agencies were required to submit an application. The application required information regarding the overall mission of the agency, specific project for which funding was being requested, financial information including budget summary and projected budget, copy of most recent audit, their 990 return for the prior year, and a copy of IRS tax exempt status letter. The application also required a list of the current board members and staff members of the agency.

In June of 2024, the Social and Voluntary Services Commission met to review the applications submitted by 35 Norman service agencies. The submitted applications totaled \$332,523.00 in requests for funding. Maximum award for the 2024/2025 application cycle was \$10,000. During the review of each application, Commissioners discussed any questions or clarifications needed from applicants. Staff obtained this information from the agencies and forwarded the responses to the Commissioners.

After the initial meeting of the commission and prior to the funding meeting, each Commission member evaluated the applications independently and determined an appropriate funding level within the allowable total of \$250,000. These results were provided to staff and compiled into a spreadsheet. At the funding meeting the Commission reviewed the compilation of budgets and discussed the criteria that the Commission members applied to each funding proposal. The Commission evaluated multiple subjects including but not limited to: possibilities of duplications of efforts, past performance of the agency, and potential for other funding sources.

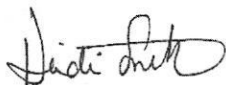
Agency project funding is administered on a reimbursement basis. Payments are made as invoices with appropriate documentation of project execution and receipts are received. Each of the funded agencies have a check-in by a Commissioner at minimum of once during the fiscal year. During check-ins we inquire about future trends, any special challenges for the organizations, and how partnerships with others doing work in this field can be established. The visits are to not only check for contract compliance in expending the awarded funds, but also allow commissioners to assess possible needs in our community.

The pandemic and subsequent recovery had a profound effect on the Norman Non-Profit community. The rise in the cost of goods and services, due to the inflation costs of the last several years, have continued to increase programmatic needs. As individuals and established funders have experienced the contraction of the economy, less funding has been made available than in previous years. While understandable, this creates a scarcity of normal operating funds. As agencies can only spend funds on the projects and programs specifically funded this creates a Catch 22 effect. Agencies can have hundreds of thousands of programmatic dollars to spend but struggle to pay rent, utility and administrative costs that enable them to keep the doors open. The SVSC is a funder that allows for, has made known that general operational funding requests are welcome.

The Social and Voluntary Services Commission respectfully requests the consideration of a minimum of \$250,000 of funding to be included within the City of Norman FYE26 Budget. If possible, the consideration of an increase to \$275,000 will be a necessary safety-net for the amazing agencies that make up the social safety net for our community.

If you have any questions regarding the Social and Voluntary Services Commission please do not hesitate to contact me at (405) 471-2666 or Lisa Krieg, our City staff liaison.

Regards,



Heidi Smith  
Chair, City of Norman SVSC  
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<u>Agency</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>
Able	Kitchen upgrades	\$5,000
Aging Services	Utilities, Special Assistance, laptop, food	\$10,000
Among Friends	Scholarships	\$9,600.00
Assistance League	Operation School Bell shoes	\$5,000.00
Bethesda	Therapist Salary	\$8,750.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters	21 matches	\$8,367.00
Bridges	Student Utility Assistance	\$10,000.00
CASA	Fuel/Food gift cards & continuing education	\$8,945.00
Catholic Charities	Sanctuary	\$10,000.00
CCFI	Therapist salary	\$8,750.00
CSBI	Utilities	\$9,250.00
Food & Shelter	Share Center Groceries	\$10,000.00
Fostering Futures	Beds	\$10,000.00
Full Circle	Scholarships	\$10,000.00
Hope Community Services	Homeless Assistance	\$10,000.00
Legal Aid	Office rent	\$10,000.00
Little Read Wagon	Books	\$7,500.00
Loveworks Leadership	Afterschool Leadership Program	\$5,140.00
Mary Abbott	Client Assistance	\$10,000.00
Meals on Wheels	Meals	\$10,000.00
Mission Norman	Food cart, driver salary, plastic bags	\$9,250.00
Norman Care A Vans	Auto Insurance	\$9,648.00
Pantry Partners	Adopt a Senior Program	\$7,500.00
Salvation Army	Staff Salaries	\$10,000.00
Share & Grow	Programs, zoom, equipment, location rentals, admin costs, office supplies, etc.	\$500.00
St Francis	Storage unit, doog food, supplies	\$9,300.00
Thunderbird Clubhouse	staff healthcare costs	\$10,000.00
Transition House	Drop-in Center, Transitional Apartments, bike locks, wellness kits, storage.	\$8,000.00
Virtue Center	Alternative to Suspension	\$9,500.00
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>		<b>\$250,000.00</b>