

FY27 Competitive Grantmaking Process

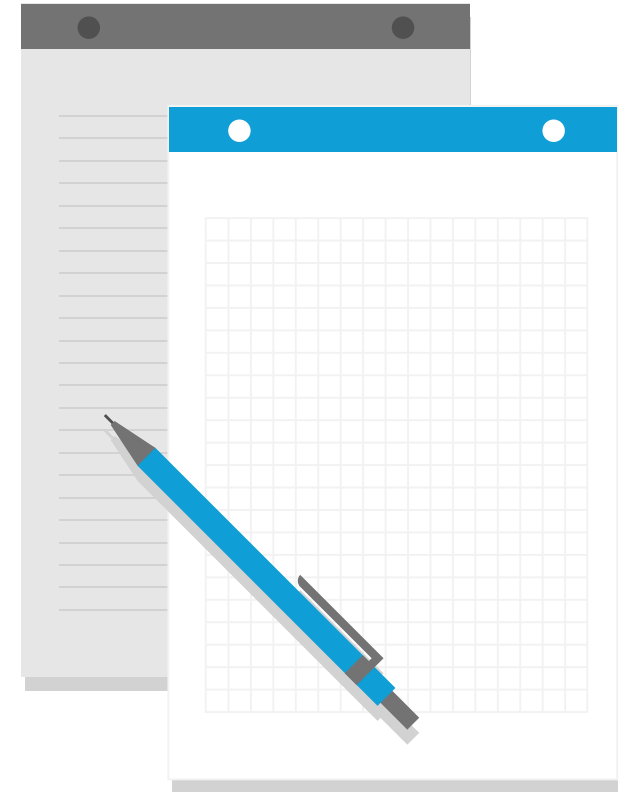
Amy Popovich, DCAO Human Services

*Organizational Development Standing Committee
October 6, 2025*

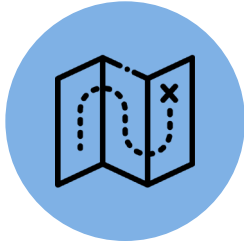


Existing grantmaking process

- All organizations apply directly to the City
- City staff manage the entire process, from application review through contract development and monitoring
- Application opens October 1, contracts executed August – September of the following year



Why change now?



Mayor's vision and
Action Plan



Best practices



Internal capacity,
expertise, costs



Audit findings &
stakeholder
feedback

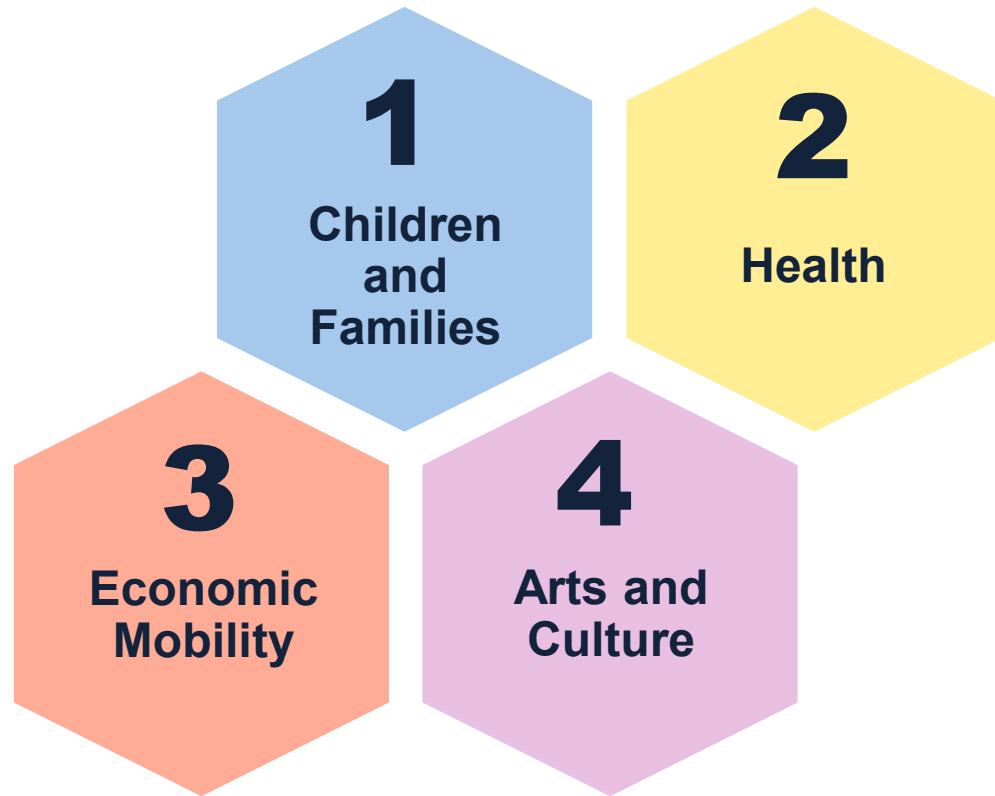
Audit considerations



In February of 2025, City Auditor released a report on the FY23 Non-Departmental Charitable Organizations Application & Oversight Process. Along with other identified needs, the new process addresses key audit recommendations.

- It will establish a funding mechanism for determining the **total amount available for charitable grants** before the award review process begins.
- New process allows us to **access professional capacity and expertise**. Audit noted previous internal process was "decentralized" across seven departments where grant management was "in addition to their regular daily operational duties" with "limited training and staffing."

Framework for the new process



- Competitively identify grantmaking partners
- Clearly define the priority areas and sub-topics for the grantmaking partners
- Identify key indicators that will drive grantmaking
- Obligate grantmaking partners to hold grantees to reporting and transparency standards

Budget allocation

Mayor's introduced budget would include an allocation for each priority area.



After budget adoption, selected grantmaking partners release open applications and make grants by Fall of 2026.



Processes for quasi-governmental agencies and strategic city-driven initiatives would still be managed by the City.

Benefits of new process



More grantee support and better outcomes with enhanced oversight and tracking



Independent evaluation and review; applications vetted by grantmaking SMEs



Cost effective - allows City staff to focus on day-to-day work and grant oversight of remaining city-managed contracts

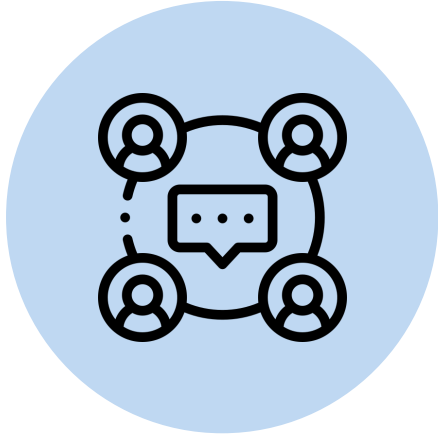


Opportunity for equity framework, community input, and data-informed decisions

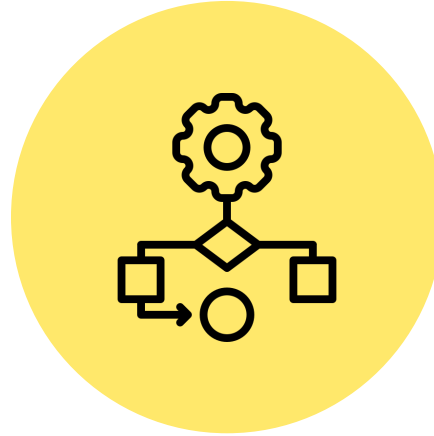


Consistent reporting to City Administration & Council

What's next?



Ongoing communications with stakeholders including past grantees and applicants



Build-out of the priority-area framework and requirements for grantmaking partners



Competitively identify and select external grantmaking partners:
October 2025 - February 2026

Questions?

