

TOWN Of PARADISE VALLEY



STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor Stanton and Town Council Members

FROM: Andrew B. Ching, Town Manager
Amy Rebenar, Management Analyst

DATE: May 14, 2026

DEPARTMENT: Town Manager
Amy Rebenar, 480-348-3544

AGENDA TITLE:
Discussion of FY 26 Community Services Funding Recommendations,

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Town Council budgeted \$265,000 in Fiscal Year 2026 and directed staff to conduct a competitive application process based upon needs in the community. After the conclusion of the competitive process, the application review committee met and has prepared funding recommendations for Council.

1. BACKGROUND – Fiscal Year 2026 Community Services Funding Program

At the December 11th Study Session, the Town Council discussed the annual Community Services Funding Program, and process. The policy which governs the program gives the Council discretion to either invite applications for funding from government, non-profit, educational institutions, or civic groups that provide valuable services to the community; or conduct a community service needs assessment to identify essential services not provided by the Town or under-served populations in need of assistance. There was Council consensus to direct staff to conduct a hybrid process with a narrow scope of work for needed services, and to invite applications for funding to address those needs.

An application process was initiated in March, with applications accepted through the April. A review committee comprised of staff members from the Police Department and Town Manager's Office, as well as two members of Council appointed by the Mayor consisted of Community Resource Officer Vasilije Sagovnovic, Town Manager Andrew Ching, Management Analyst Amy Rebenar, and ASU Intern Erin Sweeney, Vice Mayor Christine Labelle, and Councilmember Liepmann, identified the following agencies or programs that would provide needed services consistent with the Council's direction from submitted applications.

2. FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Homeless Initiatives

Aris Foundation

The Aris Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Gilbert. Their mission is to serve individuals experiencing homelessness and crisis through outreach resource distribution, and pathways to long-term stabilization. The specific recommendation is to provide funding for their program to provide short-term emergency housing for homeless families in the Paradise Valley, Scottsdale, Tempe, and Mesa corridor, ensuring inclusion for any families connected to or referred from Paradise Valley. The program funds two-night motel stays paired with minimal stabilization support, ensuring families have immediate access to safe shelter while longer term solutions are coordination.

It is recommended that the Town support this program in the amount of \$50,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

Phoenix Children's Hospital

Phoenix Children's Hospital is a non-profit organization based in Phoenix. Their mission is to advance hope, healing, and the highest quality healthcare for children and families. The specific recommendation is to provide funding for their Homeless Youth Outreach Program which provides comprehensive care and health navigation services to the unsheltered youth experiencing homelessness, poverty, abuse and other barriers to living physically and emotionally healthy lives through their mobile medical units and fixed site clinics.

It is recommended that the Town support this program in the amount of \$50,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

Phoenix Rescue Mission

Phoenix Rescue Mission is a non-profit organization based in Phoenix. Their mission is to provide life-transforming solutions to people facing hunger, homelessness, addiction and trauma. The specific recommendation is to provide funding for their Street Outreach, Food Distribution and Transformations Program serving individuals with a high levels of food insecurity, unsheltered homelessness, and long-term recovery from addiction including direct outreach and support to individuals experiencing homelessness in and around Paradise Valley. Residential recovery campuses in Phoenix support men, women, and children.

It is recommended that the Town support this program in the amount of \$50,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

UMOM

UMOM New Day Centers, Inc. is a non-profit organization based in Phoenix. Their mission is to end family homelessness by restoring hope and rebuilding lives. The specific request is to fund their UMOM Family Emergency Shelter Program, which offers safe, stable emergency shelter, combined with individualized services designed to help families exit homelessness as quickly as possible and build a path toward long-term stability and reduce the rising family homelessness rates.

It is recommended that the Town support this program in the amount of \$50,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

Community Services for Older Adults, Youth, and Substance Abuse Response

Duet: Partners In Health and Aging

Duet is a private non-profit organization based in Phoenix. Their mission is to promote health and well-being for homebound adults and family caregivers. The Town has partnered with this organization for many years. The specific recommendation is to provide funding for their program called Vital Services for Paradise Valley Homebound Seniors. This program uses volunteers to provide transportation to homebound seniors and disabled adults to medical appointments, social service agencies, grocery stores, shopping centers and other locations. The volunteers also help unload groceries at their home or shop for and deliver groceries when needed. They assist with paperwork, minor home repairs, and other routine needs.

It is recommended that the Town continue to support this program in the amount of \$10,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

Friends of the Scottsdale Public Library

Friends of the Scottsdale Public Library is a non-profit organization based in Scottsdale. Their mission is to provide direct financial and volunteer support to the Scottsdale Public Library to expand the programs and experiences that help the community learn, grow, and connect. The specific recommendation is to provide funding for their program to purchase and install four Assistive Web-based Technology for Education (AWE) learning workstations for Scottsdale Libraries. These after-school workstations give youth ages 6-10 a safe, guided learning platform aligned to STEM/STEAM standards.

It is recommended that the Town support this program in the amount of \$20,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

Hushabye Nursery

Hushabye Nursery is a non-profit organization based in Phoenix. Their mission is to embrace substance exposed babies and their caregivers with compassionate, evidence-based neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) care and behavioral health care that changes the course of their entire lives. The specific funding recommendation is to provide funding for their program to provide Community-Based Maternal & Infant Health Stabilization and Relapse Prevention.

It is recommended that the Town support this program in the amount of \$25,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

Valley Youth Theater

Valley Youth Theater is a non-profit organization based in Phoenix. Their mission is to inspire young people to be the best they can be through a variety of performing arts opportunities, serving as a safe place where young people from all backgrounds can learn and grow as individuals, performers, and leaders. The specific funding recommendation is provide funding for their Governor's Award-Winning Literacy and the Arts Program, which addresses the reading comprehension and literacy needs of K-8 students.

It is recommended that the Town support this program in the amount of \$10,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

NEXT STEP

Staff is asking for Council direction on the proposed funding recommendations for FY 2026.

BUDGET IMPACT

The Town Council budgeted \$65,000 in FY 26 for community services and \$200,000 in FY 26 for homelessness initiatives. The total recommended funding awards are within the existing budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Staff Report
- B. PowerPoint Presentation
- C. Community Services Funding Policy
- D. Community Services Funding Resolution