



City of Grand Forks
 Staff Report
 Committee of the Whole - December 8, 2025
 City Council - December 15, 2025

APPROVED & ACCEPTED
by City Council
 12/15/2025
Maureen Storstad
 Maureen Storstad
 City Auditor

Agenda Item: 2026 Community Services Grant (CSG) Allocation

Submitted by: Collin T. Hanson, Community Development Manager
 Sierra Johnson, Planner

Staff Recommended Action: 1) Review and approve 2026 Community Services Grant (CSG) Program funding recommendations; 2) approve any necessary budget amendments.

Committee Recommended Action: Motion by Berg, second by Lunski to move staff recommendation to City Council with a recommendation to approve. Motion carried 6-1 with Osowski dissenting.

Council Action: Motion by Berg, second by Lunski to approve recommendation.
 Motion passed 6-1 with Osowski dissenting.

BACKGROUND:

On October 6, 2025, City Council authorized proceeding with a competitive application process for 2026 Community Services Grant (CSG) funding. Historically, the CSG and CDBG allocation processes were run at the same time. However, HUD staff recommended that the CDBG allocation process begin earlier to allow more time for project planning, resulting in the 2026 CDBG process beginning before final city budget approval for FY2026.

A notice of funding availability was published in the Grand Forks Herald and the City website on October 8, 2025. The budget proposed at that time is shown below.

PROPOSED 2026 CSG BUDGET

Sources		Uses	
CSG Funds	<u>159,135</u>	Competitive CSG grants	<u>159,135</u>
Total Sources	\$159,135	Total Uses	\$159,135

The City opened applications for CSG funding on October 9, 2025, with a deadline of October 30, 2025. Seventeen (17) valid applications were submitted requesting a total of \$455,443 for funding of \$159,135. The minimum request is \$10,000, and the maximum request is \$31,827. After the deadline, one applicant decreased the amount they requested by \$10,000 for a new total requested amount of \$445,443.

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) did not establish any urgent needs or priority areas for 2026 CSG applications. The CAC elected for an open application approach to be responsive and adaptive to immediate community needs. The CAC met and provided their rankings on December 1st. The ranking and staff funding recommendation is below.

2026 CAC Ranking & CSG Funding Recommendation

Agency	Project	Average Ranking	Amount Requested	Recommended Funding
St. Joseph's Social Care	Emergency assistance to prevent homelessness	3.10	\$ 31,827.00	\$ 31,827.00
Homeless Helpers	Temporary emergency shelter assistance	3.50	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
The Salvation Army	Emergency assistance to prevent homelessness	4.20	\$ 31,827.00	\$ 31,827.00
Communities United in Partnership	Temporary emergency shelter assistance	4.90	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Community Action Program Region VI	Operating funds & emergency assistance	5.80	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
United Way	Operating & direct service for Families First Program	6.10	\$ 31,827.00	\$ 31,827.00
Northlands Rescue Mission	Shelter operating funds	7.10	\$ 31,827.00	\$ 13,654.00
F5 Project	Operating funds for transitional housing	7.30	\$ 10,000.00	
St. Vincent DePaul	Emergency assistance to prevent homelessness	7.60	\$ 10,000.00	
Hope Church CCC & Food Pantry	Expansion of Box Bed & emergency assistance programs	7.80	\$ 31,827.00	
Grand Forks Housing Authority	Starting Out Right Program	8.60	\$ 31,827.00	
		TOTAL	\$260,962.00	\$159,135.00

Staff recommend full funding of the top 6 ranked applications in order to maximize funding impact. After fully funding these 6, there is \$13,654 remaining which would be allocated to the 7th ranking application. All of the recommended allocations are for emergency assistance to prevent homelessness or homelessness services, indicating the magnitude of this need in the community.

The period of performance for these awards will not begin until January 1, 2026. Additionally, city staff will not execute any grant awards or agreements until after January 1, 2026.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) advises City Council on community development issues and the prioritization, appropriateness, need and effectiveness of CDBG- and CSG-funded activities.
- No priority funding areas were established for the allocation of 2026 CSG funds.
- On December 1, 2025, CAC members gave each request a YES or NO vote; only applications receiving at least 60% YES votes advanced to ranking. Eleven of the seventeen (11/17) applicants passed the initial vote threshold and were eligible for ranking. The CAC ranked the applications and submitted them to Community Development staff. Staff assigned funding recommendations accordingly, which were provided to the CAC and applicants.
- The purpose of the CSG Program is to provide funding to agencies that serve the human needs of Grand Forks, particularly its low-income populations, and enhance the quality of life for Grand Forks residents; this program is funded locally (Fund 2163). Both operating and capital projects are eligible for CSG funding.
- 2026 CSG funding will not be made available to grantees until calendar year 2026, and expenses incurred prior to January 1, 2026, are not eligible for payment or reimbursement.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- CAC Membership
- 2026 CSG Rankings & Funding Recommendations
- 2026 CSG Applications

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Becca Baumbach, Community Foundation of GF, EGF, and Region

Brandon Baumbach, Grand Forks Public Schools

Allyse Dunnigan, NDSU Extension

Rachel Hafner, The ARC Upper-Valley

Nancy Hanson, ND Special Olympics

Shaun Havis, Valley Senior Living

Tori Johnson, Community Member At-Large

Kathryn Kester, Xcel Energy Community Relations

Tammy Knudson, Grand Forks Human Service Zone

Tricia Lunski, City Council

Janell Regimbal, Insight to Solutions

Michelle Rydz, High Plains Fair Housing Center

Tess Wall, Grand Forks Public Health

Barry Wilfahrt, The Chamber GF-EGF

Lt. Derik Zimmel, Grand Forks Police Department

2026 CAC Ranking & CSG Funding Recommendation

Agency	Project	Average Ranking	Amount Requested	Recommended Funding
St. Joseph's Social Care	Emergency assistance to prevent homelessness	3.10	\$ 31,827.00	\$ 31,827.00
Homeless Helpers	Temporary emergency shelter assistance	3.50	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
The Salvation Army	Emergency assistance to prevent homelessness	4.20	\$ 31,827.00	\$ 31,827.00
Communities United in Partnership	Temporary emergency shelter assistance	4.90	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Community Action Program Region VI	Operating funds & emergency assistance	5.80	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
United Way	Operating & direct service for Families First Program	6.10	\$ 31,827.00	\$ 31,827.00
Northlands Rescue Mission	Shelter operating funds	7.10	\$ 31,827.00	\$ 13,654.00
F5 Project	Operating funds for transitional housing	7.30	\$ 10,000.00	
St. Vincent DePaul	Emergency assistance to prevent homelessness	7.60	\$ 10,000.00	
Hope Church CCC & Food Pantry	Expansion of Box Bed & emergency assistance programs	7.80	\$ 31,827.00	
Grand Forks Housing Authority	Starting Out Right Program	8.60	\$ 31,827.00	
		TOTAL	\$260,962.00	\$159,135.00

The applications below did not receive 60% YES votes and thus were not included in the priority ranking.

Agency	Project	Amount Requested
HOPEful Beginnings	Installation of community playground	\$ 30,000.00
MyAlly Health	Bridging the Gap Project operating funds	\$ 31,827.00
Love in Action	Office remodel & funding for job readiness closet	\$ 31,000.00
CVIC	Shelter operating funds	\$ 31,827.00
ShareHouse	Installation of privacy fence & security gate	\$ 31,827.00
RRV Habitat for Humanity	Operating funds for new housing construction & rehab	\$ 28,000.00

2026 CSG Applications						
Application #	Agency	Description	Proposed Beneficiaries	Amount Requested	Other Funds	Total Project Cost
CSG-01	The Salvation Army	Emergency assistance to prevent homelessness	140	\$31,827	\$0	\$31,827
CSG-02	Northlands Rescue Mission	Shelter operating funds	600	\$31,827	\$58,173	\$90,000
CSG-03	Homeless Helpers	Temporary emergency shelter assistance	295	\$10,000	\$29,000	\$39,000
CSG-04	HOPEful Beginnings	Installation of community playground	3023	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$65,000
CSG-05	MyAlly Health	Bridging the Gap Project operating funds	250	\$31,827	\$35,000	\$66,827
CSG-06	Hope Church Community Care Center & Food Pantry	Expansion of Box Bed & emergency assistance to prevent homelessness programs	632	\$31,827	\$100,618	\$132,445
CSG-07	Love in Action	Office remodel for confidential consultations & funding for job readiness clothing	300	\$31,000	\$5,000	\$36,000
CSG-08	CVIC	Shelter operating funds	115	\$31,827	\$80,139	\$111,966
CSG-09	St. Joseph's Social Care	Emergency assistance to prevent homelessness	525	\$31,827	\$50,000	\$81,827
CSG-10	F5 Project	Operating funds for transitional housing	20	\$10,000	\$100	\$10,100
CSG-11	St. Vincent DePaul	Emergency assistance to prevent homelessness	50	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
CSG-12	Communities United in Partnership	Temporary emergency shelter assistance	40	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
CSG-13	ShareHouse	Installation of privacy fence and security gate	200	\$31,827	\$39,571	\$71,398
CSG-14	RRV Habitat for Humanity	Operating funds for new housing construction & housing rehab	3 households	\$28,000	\$0	\$28,000
CSG-15	Community Action Program Region VI	Operating funds & emergency assistance to prevent homelessness	75	\$30,000	\$150,000	\$180,000
CSG-16	United Way	Operating & direct service for Families First Program	300	\$31,827	\$188,173	\$220,000
CSG-17	Grand Forks Housing Authority	Starting Out Right Program	87	\$31,827	\$18,100	\$49,927

FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$159,135

\$445,443