



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

October 20, 2021

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Maria Baird, Recreation & Community Services Manager

SUBJECT: Receive Report on the Vegetation Management Grant Program

RECOMMENDATION

Receive report.

DISCUSSION

At its July 7, 2021 meeting, the Town Council authorized the Town Manager to create and implement a vegetation management grant program and allocated \$25,000 to the program.

On August 4, the Town launched the Vegetation Management Grant Program, with the following criteria: Applicant must be Town resident, applicant must be age 65 and over, applicant must fall into the low income category to qualify for the grant. Income levels were used from the Marin Housing website. Applicants were required to submit photos of before and after work, as well as an invoice of payment in order to be reimbursed for the work. The program was advertised on the Town's website, weekly e-newsletters, and through the Ross Valley Seniors Club.

On August 25, the criteria was amended, as the program was underutilized. At this time, the following criteria was changed/added: Applicant must be Town resident. In order to qualify for \$1,000 in grant funds, applicant must be EITHER over age 65 OR low income (again using Marin Housing website eligibility status) to qualify for the grants. Residents who were under the age limit or did not fall into the low-income category were allowed \$500 per household in grant funds. Additionally, residents were allowed to have their landscape contractor bill the Town directly for payment, rather than file for reimbursement.

As of September 25, all of the funds were used. A total of 20 grants in the amount of \$1,000 were issued to residents in the over-65 and/or low-income category, and another 10 grants in the amount of \$500 were issued to residents who did not fall into the age or income restriction category. Of these, three payments were made directly to landscape contractors, while the other twenty-seven were issued as reimbursement to the residents.

Overall, the program was deemed a great success, based on feedback from the recipients.

FISCAL IMPACT

The \$25,000 that was previously authorized on July 7 for the program was spent.

ATTACHMENTS

None.