

Advisory Information

Agenda Item: NCR Report

Title: Community Engagement Plan on Staff Directive from HECE

Action Discussion Informational

Date: April 22, 2015

Prepared By: Robert Thompson

Attachments: DRAFT Community Engagement Plan for 2015 HECE Directives; NRP Funds Survey from SurveyMonkey.

Requested Action

None. Informational only.

Background

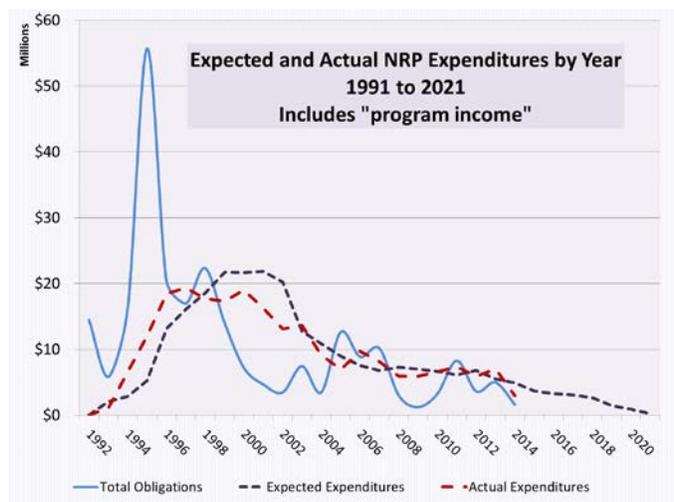
In November 17, 2014, the Health, Education and Community Engagement Committee of the City Council approved the following staff direction:

Staff directed to engage neighborhood associations and the NCEC in developing policy and procedural recommendations for the Council which would establish guidelines for allowable balances of unspent NRP fund allocations and require any neighborhood association not meeting those guidelines to develop a plan with specific timelines on how they will use those funds, as well as developing reporting and monitoring procedures for the deployment of these resources. Staff are to present a draft policy recommendation to Council no later than May 31, 2015.

NCR staff have prepared the attached DRAFT Community Engagement and Communication Plan. Please note that the plan will remain in draft form to allow us to respond to circumstances as they arise.

Discussion

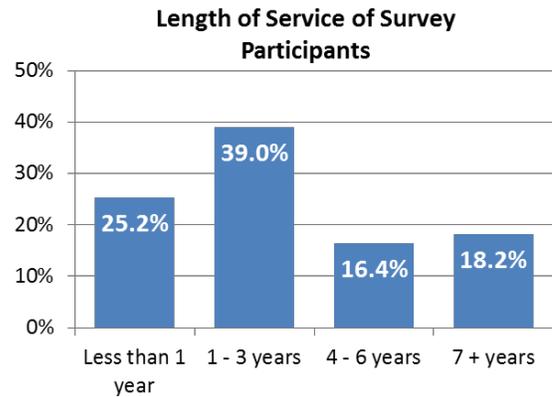
NCR staff has developed an initial framework starting with an assumption of a seven-year timeframe for completion of neighborhood NRP plans. A recent analysis by NCR showed that, on average, neighborhood organizations are expending most NRP funds within seven years of approval of their Phase I and Phase II Neighborhood NRP Plans.



For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department at 612-673-3737. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.

A second assumption is that there is some level of turnover of neighborhood organization boards that is shorter than the average seven year rate. The Board Diversity Survey conducted by NCR last year found that more than 64% of neighborhood organization board members have served for three years or less, meaning that many current board members may not have been involved in the process of developing their current Phase II NRP action plans, let alone Phase I plans.



NCR staff will draft an initial outline for guidelines that will include the following:

- NCR staff will prepare a review of all neighborhood Phase I and Phase II NRP plans to determine percentage of funds contracted and expended as of seven year anniversary of plan approval.
- For neighborhoods with plans past the seven year anniversary, NCR will conduct reviews in chronological order of approval of Phase II plans.
- Neighborhood organizations with plans older than seven years that have not contracted or expended at expected levels may be required to do some level of planning to recommit funds. A planning process could involve (1) submitting a plan to NCR to contract remaining funds within a period of time, (2) a plan modification to reallocate inactive funds to active strategies, (3) begin a new planning process for all uncommitted funds.
- Neighborhood organizations with Phase II plans less than seven years old or meeting minimum expected expenditures would be exempt from planning requirements.
- A neighborhood organization that has not yet submitted a Phase II plan would need to submit a plan by an established deadline.
- A neighborhood organization that fails to submit a plan review or approval may have their funds reallocated to other neighborhood organizations.

These may be changed based on neighborhood organization and NCEC input and review.

NCR staff has created a survey to explore questions around timeline, thresholds for expenditures, and expectations for use of funds if a neighborhood does not fully expend its NRP allocation. Please see the attached survey, which is also available on SurveyMonkey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NRP_Funds.

The purpose of the survey is not to serve as a form of vote or ballot, but rather to gather initial responses and ideas as we develop an initial draft. In addition to the survey, neighborhood leaders, may contact their neighborhood specialist at NCR, or email us.

NCR staff has prepared a web page for information and updates at this link: <http://www.minneapolis.gov/ncr/programs/WCMS1P-139963>, and will provide email updates to neighborhood organizations on a regular basis.

NCR staff have also organized two meetings during the 45 day review process to provide information and solicit further feedback on the draft guidelines on Thursday, May 14, and Tuesday June 16, 2015. Both meetings will be held in the Crown Roller Mill Building in the conference room on the second floor.

Recommendation

We encourage NCEC Commissioners to attend one or both of the community meetings on May 14 and June 16, to listen and observe. We would like to review our findings from the meetings with NCEC as we complete a final draft of the Guidelines, to ensure we are properly reflecting the feedback we heard.

NCR staff also ask that you encourage your neighborhood organizations to contact NCR with questions and comments regarding this proposed policy.

NCR staff request NCEC review of the process and draft document during the June NCEC meeting for final feedback prior to our presenting to City Council for action.