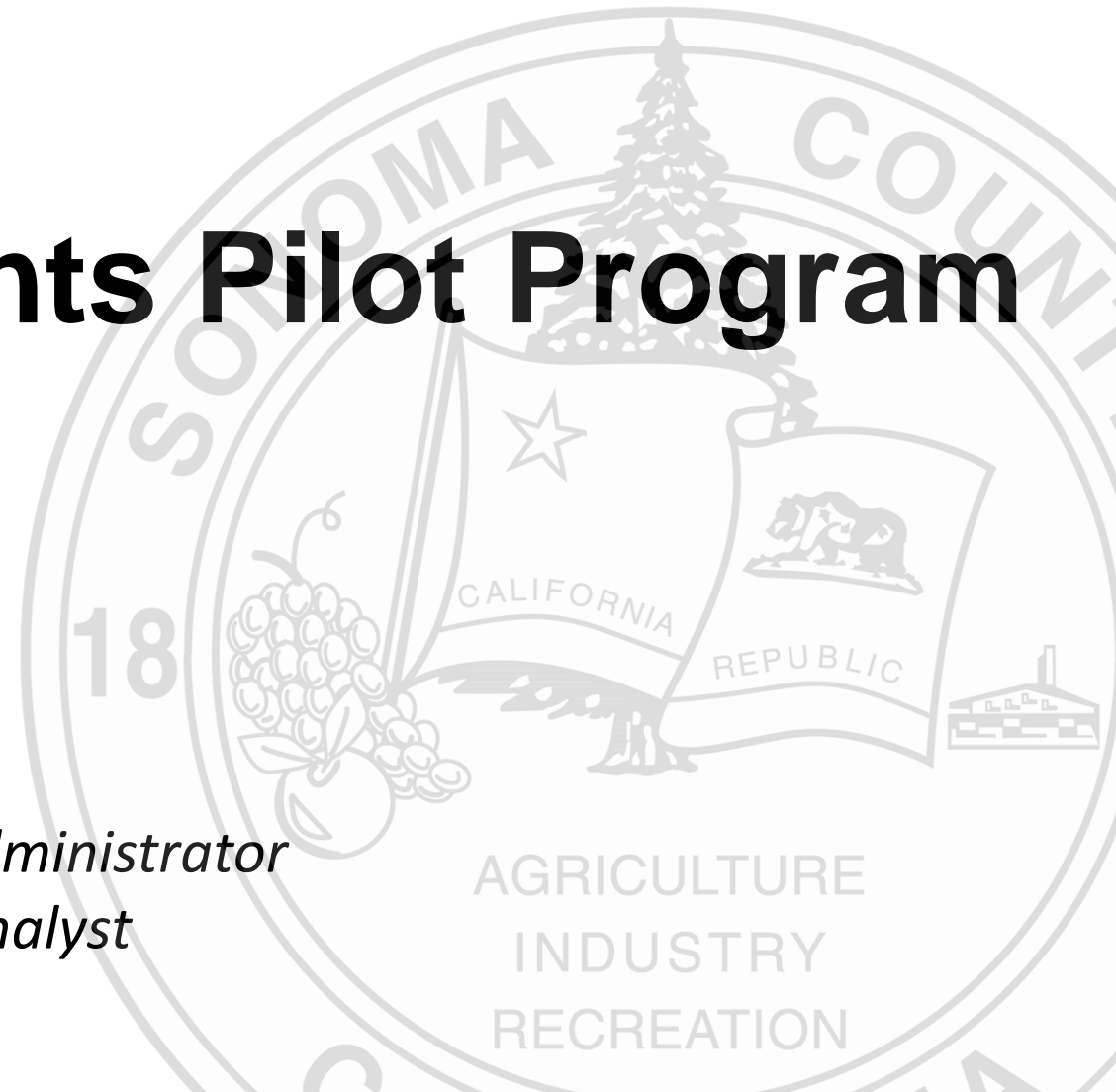


Community Grants Pilot Program

- Jennifer Solito, *Assistant County Administrator*
- Katie Kavanaugh, *Administrative Analyst*

August 26, 2025



Agenda

- ▶ Review historic funding practice during Budget Hearings
- ▶ Review options to implement Community Grants Pilot Program
- ▶ Review Recommended Action

Background

- ▶ Over the last ten years, the Board of Supervisors has awarded \$9.9 million of general fund allocations during Budget Hearings, with annual amounts varying from \$0 to \$5.3 million.
- ▶ The Board of Supervisors approved a \$500,000 general fund allocation in the FY25-26 Budget to pilot a new transparent and efficient Community Grants program.



Options for Consideration

Option 1 – Manage Pilot Grants Process In-House

- ▶ Solicitation, review, contracting, and reporting done within the County Executive's Office

Advantages & Possibilities

- ▶ Funding available to community: \$500,000

Challenges & Limitations

- ▶ Capacity and systems not in place
- ▶ Administrative burdens
- ▶ Delayed funding awards

Option 2 – With CFSC, Partner on New Fund

- ▶ Establish new fund with CFSC, based on broad areas of interest consistent with past funding
- ▶ Solicitation, review, contracting, and reporting managed by CFSC, with guidelines provided by the County Executive's Office

Advantages & Possibilities

- ▶ Consistent with broad funding approach historically taken by Board of Supervisors
- ▶ Relies on partner specialized in community grantmaking to manage process

Challenges & Limitations

- ▶ Funding available to community: \$425,000
- ▶ Limited match funding likely

Option 3 – With CFSC, Partner Through Existing Resilient Organizations Program

- ▶ Program focuses on building resiliency within organizations and the nonprofit sector through training and grants. County funds would enhance grant opportunity.
- ▶ Solicitation, review, contracting, and reporting managed by CFSC, with guidelines developed by CFSC.

Advantages & Possibilities

- ▶ Funding available to community: \$525,000 minimum, via \$100K CF match
- ▶ Provides critical resiliency support to nonprofit sector
- ▶ Grant process and community needs assessment will daylight needs

Challenges & Limitations

- ▶ Change of focus from previous funding priorities

Recommended Actions:

Option 3 -

Authorize the County Executive Officer, or designee, to execute a \$500,000 agreement with the Community Foundation Sonoma County's - Resilient Organization program for period ending on December 31, 2026, subject to review and approval by County Counsel.

