



DATE: January 13, 2022
TO: Recycling Board
FROM: Meri Soll, Senior Program Manager
SUBJECT: Waste Prevention Grant Program – 2022 Solicitation

SUMMARY

The grant solicitation for the current fiscal year opened on January 5, 2022. A total of \$700,000 in funding is available for nonprofits, businesses and institutions that increase individual, community and business involvement in the prevention of waste in Alameda County. At the January 13 Recycling Board meeting, staff will provide an overview of the solicitation and selection process.

DISCUSSION

StopWaste takes several approaches to support and improve waste prevention, recovery, salvage, reuse, repair, and redistribution services and infrastructure in Alameda County. The FY 2021-22 grant solicitation funding is for entities implementing these types of activities to ensure upstream infrastructure and services are available to Alameda County residents and businesses, and to help member agencies advance their sustainability goals. StopWaste funding provides an opportunity to both for-profit and nonprofit organizations to jump start an idea or advance concepts that encourage source reduction and reuse measures as a priority over recycling, composting, and landfiling. The five Fiscal Year 2021-22 grant focus areas include:

Reuse and Repair Grants - \$200,000 available

Projects that prevent waste through reuse, repair, deconstruction, redistribution, product or process redesign, recovery, and other ways that keep goods and other materials out of disposal or recycling. Up to \$20,000 per grant.

Food Waste Prevention & Recovery Grants - \$215,000 available

Pilots and projects that prevent edible food from going to compost or landfill by recovering and redistributing it to feed people, or by preventing the production of surplus edible food through product or process redesign. The goal is to reduce the amount of surplus edible food generated and/or to donate surplus food. Up to \$20,000 per grant.

Reusable Foodware Pilot Project Grants - \$210,000 available

Projects that explore the feasibility of replacing single-use, disposable foodware with reusable systems. The goal is to eliminate single-use foodware and instead develop local infrastructure to make reusable foodware accessible to businesses and consumers. Award range: \$5,000 to \$50,000 per grant.

Surplus Food Donation Equipment Grants - \$35,000 available

Funds to provide equipment to increase the recovery or donation of surplus edible food that would otherwise go to waste, thereby increasing capacity for businesses to donate food and/or organizations to receive more food, safely transport and distribute food for donation. Up to \$10,000 per grant.

Reusable Transport Packaging Grants - \$40,000 available

Projects that incorporate reusable, durable alternatives to replace limited-life packaging used in manufacturing, transportation and/or distribution, such as boxes, pallets, pallet wraps, and dunnage. Funds help cover the upfront reusable equipment costs. Up to \$10,000 per grant.

Outreach to promote the grant funding occurs in a variety of ways, including in partnership with chambers of commerce, business districts, trade groups, for-profit and nonprofit associations as well as organizations serving low-income and non-English speaking communities. Staff will distribute outreach materials to member agencies and board members that include templates for social media and newsletters to assist in reaching as many potential grant applicants as possible.

Staff will also utilize both Agency-led partnership stakeholder groups—the Alameda County Food Waste Prevention Network and the Reuse and Repair Stakeholder Workgroup—to help spread the word. These partnership groups include a wide range of organizations involved with food recovery, reuse, repair and redistribution of goods. These stakeholder groups provide an opportunity for the local industry to meet one another, leverage current work and create industry partnerships.

Staff will provide an overview of grant program, [website](#) and outreach materials at the board meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.