



Town of Taos  
**PRESS RELEASE**  
400 Camino de la Placita, Taos, NM 87571  
(575) 751-2002

**CONTACT:** Richard Bellis, Town Manager, [rbellis@taogov.com](mailto:rbellis@taogov.com), (575) 751-2002

*For Immediate Release:*

**OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**TOWN AWARDS LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANTS**

In the first ever Town of Taos Local Community Services Block Grant (LCSBG) awards made Tuesday December 9th by the Mayor and Council, the Town awarded \$100,000 in funding to 13 local non-profit organizations serving senior citizens, victims of domestic violence, the homeless, youth services, historic restoration, non-profit capacity building, the arts, and increased educational opportunities.

Contracts will be awarded for services to be provided to the community for the period January 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015. A new round of funding will be announced in March 2015 for the Town's fiscal year, July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

The "block grant" format was instituted by the Town in order to provide an objective, non-political method for evaluating and ranking the dozens of solicitations received annually from local groups seeking public funding.

A two tiered application process was developed for new projects and those requests of \$5,000 or less and all other requests in excess of \$5,000.

The format awards point based on whether the project serves one or more community service priorities, populations or neighborhood areas.

Those that apply must demonstrate that the program provider has up-to-date audits, an active local board of directors, an approved financial

reporting system, and is in good-standing with the State of New Mexico, IRS and other regulatory agencies.

The agencies awarded funding must provide monthly reporting on their contracted levels of service and financial expenditures before being reimbursed by the Town's Finance Department.

In this first round, an emphasis was placed on funding the expansion of programs or development of new programs and services to address service gaps in the community, rather than funding on-going operational and staffing costs.

For this round of funding the Town received requests for \$325,575 in funding, compared with the \$100,000 available. It is hoped that by using the federal Community Services Block Grant format, that the Town will be able to identify other state, federal and foundation support for local non-profits by having applications prepared and waiting when funding opportunities or the availability of materials and equipment needed by local service providers arise.

As an example, while the only group not to be awarded funding was the Stray Hearts Animal Shelter, the Town is seeking to meet the Shelter's request for a panel van to transport cats and dogs and a washer dryer to clean dog blankets by obtaining that equipment through the federal surplus equipment program. The Town has also secured an environmentally controlled self-contained kennel for after-hours drop-offs to the shelter of stray animals picked up by local law enforcement agencies.

The Town recently hired an experienced full-time grant writer and is also assisting local qualified service providers by providing grant writing and technical assistance services to increase the self-sufficiency of local providers and expand services in the community.

For further information on the LCSBG awards and program, or to learn if your organization is eligible to receive Town technical or financial support, visit the [LCSBG tab](#) on the Town's website or contact the Town Manager, Rick Bellis, at [rbellis@taosgov.com](mailto:rbellis@taosgov.com), or (575) 751-2002.

The 2014 awards are as follows:

In the large grants category:

1. Bridges Project \$7,950

2. Community Against Violence \$2,400
  3. Non-Violence Works \$8,800
  4. Rocky Mountain Youth Corp. \$3,000
  5. Taos Coalition to End Homelessness \$20,000
  6. Taos County Senior Program ~~\$25,000~~ **\$30,000**
  7. Youth Heartline \$9,478.70
- Subtotal \$81,418.70

In the \$5,000 and under small grants category:

1. Just This \$5,000
  2. Sierra Vista Cemetery \$5,000
  3. Taos Children's Theatre \$2,500
  4. Taos Community Foundation \$5,000
- Subtotal \$17,500

-End-



**TOWN OF TAOS GOVERNING BODY**

Mayor Daniel R. Barrone  
Mayor Pro Tem Andrew T. Gonzales  
Councilmember Frederick A. Peralta  
Councilmember George "Fritz" Hahn  
Councilmember Judith Y. Cantu

400 Camino de la Placita  
Taos, New Mexico 87571  
(575) 751-2002

Town Hall Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Visit us on our website: [www.taosgov.com](http://www.taosgov.com)