

County of Maui

FY27 Countywide Grants Modernization

Committee Briefing Handout

The County of Maui is implementing a comprehensive modernization of the County's grants framework to improve transparency, consistency, compliance, and fiscal stewardship across departments. The following initiatives are planned for FY27.

1. Countywide Grants Governance

Countywide Grants Network

- Establishment of a Countywide network of departmental grant managers and staff
- Quarterly coordination meetings to share best practices, training, and compliance guidance

Countywide Administrative Rules

- Adoption of uniform Administrative Rules under **MCC Chapter 3.36**
- Replaces fragmented department-level rules with a consistent Countywide framework

Companion Countywide Grants Policy Manual

Operational policies supporting the Administrative Rules, including:

- Fiscal Sponsor Policy
 - Fiscal Sponsor Allotment Policy
 - Compensation of Board Members Using Grant Funds Policy
 - Grant Application Vetting and Scoring Policy
 - Conflict of Interest Policy for Evaluators
 - Interdepartmental Grant Transfer Policy
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2. Program Improvements

Small Grants Program

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Cynthia Lallo

- New simplified application process for grants \$25,000 and under
- Maintains MCC 3.36 accountability while reducing administrative burden

Grantee Readiness Filter

- Countywide readiness checklist to evaluate applicant capacity, including:
 - Organizational history
 - Fiscal controls
 - Prior grant performance
 - Administrative capacity

Organizations without a proven track record may apply using a **qualified fiscal sponsor**.

3. Technology and Transparency

Countywide Grants Management Platform

Implementation of centralized grants software for:

- Application intake
- Evaluation and scoring
- Agreement management
- Payment tracking
- Compliance monitoring
- Closeout documentation

Centralized Grant Tracking

Countywide tracking of both:

- Incoming grants (County as grantee)
- Outgoing grants (County as grantor)

County Grants Website

A new centralized webpage providing:

- All County grant opportunities
 - Department program links
 - Grant writing resources and training materials
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4. Training and Professional Development

Countywide Grants Summit

Annual summit for County grant managers and writers to focus on:

- Compliance and fiscal accountability
- Fraud, waste, and abuse prevention
- Industry best practices
- Updates to Federal and State grant requirements

Ongoing Standardized Training

- Training for departmental grant staff
 - Resources for community applicants
 - Guidance on reporting and documentation requirements
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5. Operational Improvements

Residency Area Funds

- Designation of a **Residency Area Grant Manager** to oversee compliance and coordination of Council residency-area grants.

Advancement Documentation Timeline

- Standardized reporting timeframe extended from **30 days to 90 days** for documentation supporting advance payments.
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6. Recommended Code Adjustments (MCC Chapter 3.36)

To strengthen implementation and clarity, the following code updates are recommended:

Allotment Payment Authority

Clarify the County's authority to issue grant payments through allotment-based disbursement structures when appropriate.

Countywide Administrative Rules

Shift from department-specific administrative rules to a unified Countywide grants administrative rule framework.

Organizational Eligibility

Require nonprofit applicants to:

- Demonstrate a minimum two-year operating history with the service or activity for which funds are sought, or otherwise demonstrate sufficient expertise with the service or activity.
 - Apply through a qualified fiscal sponsor that meets County eligibility standards.
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