

Submitted at
Council meeting 4/3/2012



Literacy Plus

April 2, 2012

LITERACY COUNCIL

René Besold
HR/Training Director, Retired

Flo Deatsch
Retired, Hayward Unified School Dist.

Jerry Egusa
Chabot College

Caren Fiore
Contracts Director

Jean Groth
Retired, Hayward Unified School Dist.

Richard Insdahl
Retired, Hewlett Packard

Connie Rusk
PR Director, Retired

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Retired, Social Security

Winnie Thompson
Hayward Adult School

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Literacy Program Coordinator

Tara Maiden - Baillie
Tutor/Learner Coordinator

Lindsey Vien
Tutor /Learner Coordinator

Amber Bell
Support Services

Lily Chin
Program Assistant

Jami Hiller
Spanish Literacy/ ESL Services

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Hayward City Council
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Hayward, CA 94541

Re: Social Services FY 2012-13 Funding Recommendation

Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the members of the Literacy Plus Council and in my role as their President, I wish to address the Social Services Funding Recommendations for FY 2012-2013.

We, on the Literacy Plus Council, are seriously disappointed by the manner in which the Social Services funding application process was handled this year.

The organizations wishing to apply for grants were told to submit "the most recently completed financial audit" with their applications. The Literacy Plus Council engaged an independent auditor who reviewed all of our books and completed a formal financial audit. We, therefore, met this requirement and fulfilled all other reporting standards as well, but when the Draft Funding Recommendations were released, in the form of the Application Summary Chart, we found out that we were denied funding. No reason for the denial was given.

Upon receiving the Summary Chart, Literacy Plus Program Coordinator, Cindy Breeden-Johnson, talked with the Director of Library and Community Services Sean Reinhart to find out why the request for funding was denied. She was told that the Community Service Commission believed that the Council had not submitted a "fiscal audit" but rather a "reconciled financial report" and the request was, therefore, denied.

This denial is without justification for three reasons: (1) no "audit" was required in previous years and there was no definition of what constituted a "financial audit" in the application instructions; (2) the Literacy Plus Council's "most recently completed financial audit" was presented during the interview with the Community Services Commission and no one stated that the "audit" was insufficient; but in fact, it was accepted without question; and (3) at no time during the funding deliberation process did the Community Services Commission contact the Literacy Plus Council regarding the "audit." On the contrary, the Literacy Plus Council had to seek out the reasoning for the denial, and once that was provided, there was insufficient time to remedy the situation.

Had the Literacy Plus Council been the only organization and/or program that was denied funding for lack of a "financial audit" then at least we would have known we had somehow dropped the ball, but the sheer number of others who also were denied for this purpose, clearly shows that the application process is flawed.

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To make matters even worse, the Application Summary Chart indicated that \$17,400 was still available for further funding consideration for certain categories and the Literacy Plus Council was in one of those categories; but again, without formal notification that funding possibility was eliminated.

All boards, commissions and policy-making bodies are entrusted with the obligation of providing non-discriminatory policies and practices to ensure equity and full disclosure, neither of these obligations were fulfilled in this funding process by the Community Services Commission.

On behalf of the Literacy Plus Council of Hayward, we request that our application and the applications of the others who were denied on the basis of an improper "financial audit" be revisited and funding be reconsidered.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

LITERACY PLUS COUNCIL OF HAYWARD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. René Besold". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

M. René Besold, President

Copies: C. Breeden-Johnson
Members, Literacy Plus Council