**Transcript**

March 17, 2025, 8:06PM

 **Elizabeth Lemieux** started transcription

 **Jim Snell** 0:04
He he just sent a teams message saying that he would either be late or might not make it at all because something came up unexpectedly so.

 **Eileen** 0:14
OK. And he's not?
He's he's a ex officio anyway, right?

 **Jim Snell** 0:19
He. Yeah, he's ex officio. But, you know, it's still good to have have ex officio on per per discussion purposes.

 **Eileen** 0:22
Oh, sure.

 **Jim Snell** 0:27
So we originally we were supposed to have three of the four members, but now we only have two of the four Members.

 **Latiyfa Fields** 0:37
OK.

 **Eileen** 0:39
Oh, I'm muted. OK.

 **Latiyfa Fields** 0:42
I will go ahead and get started then, if that's OK, Lizzie.

 **Elizabeth Lemieux** 0:46
Yes, take it away.

 **Latiyfa Fields** 0:48
Shall do so.
Thanks for the last minute. Join up on this meeting.
This is literally just going to be the process.
So you all are probably in the know on this, but this is going to be separate from the AmeriCorps funding process review.
And this is for volunteer generation fund. So I'm just going to give like a brief background.
Which you all may have already seen, but of course, for volunteer generation fund this funding application.
Process we did mini grants for both you civic engagement and volunteer centers, which was initially or in the last year, the last past year. Those two grants were funded through a different grant, but we are using the Volunteer Generation fund ARPA dollars for these two. It's going to.
Be a year of funding a year funding from July 25 to 26.
Maybe that's even June.
But there were nine applicants. One new applicant, volunteer Odyssey, which is over in Memphis, West Tennessee area and the remainder of our applicants are actually repeat applicants from either volunteer center grants or EUS civic engagement grants. And we did have three programs United Way US, Tennessee.
United Way Greater Chattanooga and also United Way Middle Tennessee.
All who applied for both grants with the.
Slight distinction for United Way Middle Tennessee.
It was the hands on Nashville branch, or however you would call that that applied for the Volunteer center grant and the the umbrella Agency United Way Middle Tennessee, that applied for you civic engagement.
So we've put together a document.
Jim, do you want me to share that on my end? And then you go through it or did you want to share it on your end?

 **Jim Snell** 2:41
I actually just opened it because I'm gonna add Lizzie's scores really quickly.

 **Latiyfa Fields** 2:48
Hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 2:48
So it the document that I'm gonna show will be a little bit different from what what I sent out just a little while ago.
And that's primarily because we had some reviewers who didn't get their review forms back to us by the deadline.
And so we had.
We had one applicant that essentially only had one review score.
Which was it? We didn't really feel like that was enough. So I I I did a quick review of that one applicant to have another set of scores. And then Lizzie did it as well. So that we got 33 review scores for that applicant. But I am.
Adding I'm adding that in right now because I just saw Lizzie's e-mail just a second ago about that.
So apologies.
Well, I.
Add that in and then I'll share it.

 **Latiyfa Fields** 3:53
Jim is doing that I could. So for I know, Patricia. Eileen, if you're not familiar with the Volunteer center grant in the distinction between youth, civic Engagement, Volunteer Center grants, the Volunteer center one, I think it's fairly obvious obvious. It's for literal entities that are, you know, connect.
Folks, individuals and groups to volunteer opportunities that meet community needs and then use civic engagement grants.
Those are kind of designed to involve young people.
In various service learning projects.
And there are five eucific engagement applications and four volunteer centre applications that we're looking at for across the state of Tennessee.

 **Eileen** 4:30
OK.

 **Jim Snell** 4:33
All right. So so thanks for your patience.
I've got that so.
I'm gonna pull up a couple things.
And and.
The most of these are exactly the same as what I sent via e-mail, just a a little while ago.
The only one that's different is the one that actually has the the you know the funding scenarios.
So let me share my screen.
OK.
So this is just a a spreadsheet that lays out the applicants, whether or not they request volunteer center funding or use civic engagement funding.
The the total request for each of those and then just to really brief their executive kind of a a shortened executive summary program summary.
So the volunteer center applicants are at the top and the use civic engagement are at the bottom.
And we had.
We had and sorry, they're not exactly in alphabetical order that I, which I realized after I sent it.
So I apologize for that. But we had three agencies request funding from both pools of money.
So you know, we have greater Chattanooga.
United Way Middle Tennessee and United Way of West Tennessee requested both volunteer center funding and use civic engagement funding.
The total request.
Was actually latifah this amount here?
I'm not entirely sure is correct for Oasis Center.
Their title page says 100,000, but this was the amount that that was entered into this sheet so.

 **Latiyfa Fields** 6:21
Hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 6:23
So I I I think we should for the purposes of the review, I think we should look at the higher amount and we'll clarify with them. I I couldn't.
I couldn't find their full budget Latifah.
All I could find was the second page of their budget document, which is the the narrative and not the the condensed sheet.

 **Latiyfa Fields** 6:40
Yeah.

 **Jim Snell** 6:43
So we need to follow up with them to clarify that, but I think it.
I think again the other sheet has 100,000 in it. So anyway.

 **Latiyfa Fields** 6:50
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 6:52
We've got requests for.
And again, this'll go up to about 700,000, but we only have 478,000 available. So there's a pretty significant difference between what's available and and the request.
The other thing that I sent was the pre award risk assessment that Neelam does. She we collect various information from each applicant and then Neelam reviews that from kind of her monitoring hat and assigns a score.
You can look through these if you want, but I'm not going to go through each one of these.
They're summarized on the actual.
Spreadsheet.
Which is this document.
And I'll make that a bit bigger.
So the risk assessment is in this column over to the the right.
Most of them had low scores.
There was one volunteer odyssey had a high score based on their.
Their lack of experience managing federal and state grants, and also it's a relatively small organization.
And so they didn't have some.
Some processes and systems in place for things like human resources and a couple other things. So.

 **Eileen** 8:18
Hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 8:19
The Neelam's assessment of them was was that they were a high risk. OK, so.
This is the chart and hopefully this isn't too confusing.
Again, at the top are the applications for the Volunteer Center grants.
At the bottom are the applications for for the civic engagement.
And again the three.
The three agencies requested two separate.
Money from the two separate funding sources.
The individual reviewer scores are kind of underneath their names.
The average.
Of those, those scores and and this this sheet is is ordered by not alphabetically but by by average review score.
Which almost works out perfectly for alphabetically for the top one, not and and and the bottom one as well.
But it it is, it is.
They're sorted based on their average review score.
Just, just so you know, and the ones in bold are essentially those that.
That have kind of the higher review scores.
They they were relatively close.
For the the Volunteer center application.
As you can see, the highest was 89 point something and then the lowest was 76.
The EU SIP engagement had a bit more of a spread, one of the highest score of 96 and then the lowest score of 69.
The other things on this chart that Jessica asked.
For for the Executive Committee meeting, that's gonna happen on Friday to review this committee's recommendation was whether or not they'd previously receive funds, and then some data about their outcomes and outputs. So.
All of the applicants, except for volunteer Odyssey, have received some sort of funding from Volunteer Tennessee.
Either in the past or currently.
The two that have A/C on them.
Those right now have Amir core planning grants.
So.
And they're in the middle of those planning grants.
Those planning grants don't have members associated with them, so we don't currently have any any outcomes or outputs data from them because they're they're they're. They're just planning for potentially applying for an Ameri Corps application later.
And that's why they have Nas and of course, volunteer Odyssey. We've, we've never given them a grant.
So we don't have any any outcomes data from for them.
So just a real quick explanation.
The outputs is just a count of things like the number of people served, the number of volunteers recruited, etc.
And you can see.
For United Way of Middle Tennessee and specifically their hands on Nashville, they had three different.
Outputs they exceeded 1 by quite a bit. 193% of what they originally proposed.
One was a little less than half of what they proposed, 949%.
And then the the third output that they had, they were at 80%.
So they they fell a little bit below that one.
Their outcomes.
They didn't achieve.
Any of their outcome for that first output they were.
90% of what they proposed for the second one and then they didn't get any for.
Their and that they had various reasons for not being able to achieve those outcomes from those outputs.
You know we have greater Chattanooga, they got 142% of 1 output, 40% of another and 67% of the third, all of their outcomes.

 **Eileen** 12:38
Hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 12:39
Were above what they proposed or at or above what they proposed?
Oasis center. They had one output and they were at 73% of that, but they exceeded the proposed outcome from from that output by the United Way and Middle Tennessee.
They were far below their outputs. They had one that they only got about 8%.
Sent the other 36%.
And they had a mix of results from their outcome.
So they didn't achieve any. For one, they were at 59% for the 2nd and then they were 151% for the for the third.

 **Eileen** 13:27
Hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 13:28
So anyway, that's kind of outputs outcomes.
In general, you know the the all of the programs did OK.
You know, we didn't have anybody that was a stellar performer, as you can see by the the output.
So you know, some of them were below their outputs and exceeded their outcomes.
And some of them didn't do so great on either their outputs or their outcomes.
And I mentioned the risk assessment score already.
Then their their request.
Now this tab has on it.
Proposed funding.
And we can change this up. However, the two of you want but this one.
Funds the.
The top scoring applicant at 100% of their request.
So for the volunteer center, that would be the ETSU.
And for EU civic engagement because.
Two of them were in the 90s, we.
We proposed funding both of them at 100%.
Because they, you know, they're they're so much further above the the next applicant.
So, but we can again we can change that if you all want.
So the top scoring gets 100% and then then the others get.
About 75% of their requested, I think is what we did.
Yeah, 75% of what they asked for.
And that utilizes most, but not all, of the money that utilizes all but 30,000.
I personally don't recommend that even though we have 30,000 left over.
You know you could.
You could give some to United Way of West Tennessee if you wanted.
I I wouldn't suggest that we fund the Volunteer Odyssey because of their low average score in the packet.
They have a high risk assessment.
Alternatively.
Instead of funding United Way West Tennessee for their volunteer center grant, which had a slightly higher score than their E Civic engagement grant.
You could plug in that 30,000 here.
That's roughly half of what they proposed, whereas for the volunteer center, 30,000 is almost what they proposed.
So if we applied the same formula of 75% that that we applied to others, it would actually be less than that.
So there would still be a little bit of money left on the table, but I think that's OK.
I for the same for the volunteer center.
In grant process and volunteer Odyssey.
I wouldn't recommend funding United Way of West Tennessee because.
They had the lowest, the lowest score of all the applicants, and you can see it's a significant difference between the next highest one.
So their application just was not, was not scored as highly as some of the others.
So that's one possibility and we can come back to this after we look at the other, the other possibility.
Is to.
Essentially.
Start at the top.
And give each applicant.
The proportion of funding based on their score.
So, for example ETSU, they would get 89.27% of their request.

 **Eileen** 17:26
Hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 17:34
And that's a little easier to see.
Let me make some of these columns. You can see the percentage over here. This percent in this far right column is just the amount.

 **Eileen** 17:36
Hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 17:44
Awarded divided by the amount requested.
And you can see it matches their. It matches the score, so.
This proposal would do that until, oh, sorry, the starting point, though, is to divide the funds evenly between the two processes.
One has five and one has four.
So I mean, we could mess around with that a little bit if you'd like to do a little bit more proportional.
But each process would have roughly $239,000.
In this scenario, would start funding.
Them until the money's gone and you can see that funds all of the volunteer centers, except for volunteer Odyssey.
And it funds all of the you civic engagement, again based on a percentage, so.
You know, way West Tennessee would only get 22%.
Sent a bear requested.
The request in their application.
So those are the two, the two scenarios that staff drafted up, we can we can add other scenarios and we can dive into either one of these.
As as you'd like Eileen. So I'll. I'll stop talking and kind of turn it over to you.

 **Eileen** 19:09
OK.
Alright, I'm I'm wondering why.
Since there seems to be.
Some.
Volatility.
In the success of some of the out outputs and outcomes.
I'm I'm I'm wondering why?
Let's say for example.
United Way of Middle Tennessee under the Youth Civic engagement, so their outputs are just 8% and 36%.
And then the outcome they've got is 0 and a 59 and then A and then a, you know a good 151.
I'm wondering why that's why is that low risk?

 **Jim Snell** 20:04
Oh well, so the the the risk assessment.
Looked at the.
Essentially, the stability of the of the agency and not at anyone program.
So it looks at it looks at their most recent audited financial statements we have.

 **Eileen** 20:22
OK.

 **Jim Snell** 20:29
A.
A financial management survey that we have all applicants complete and then ask a wide variety of questions about.
Systems and processes.
For the agency, again, this is about the agency itself and not for any individual program.

 **Eileen** 20:44
OK.

 **Jim Snell** 20:45
So.
It's more.
It's more of an assessment of can the agency handle administering federal funds?
Than can the agency perform once it has those forms funds?

 **Eileen** 20:59
OK.
OK.
That makes sense.

 **Jim Snell** 21:01
Yeah. And that that's why, you know, I think it was a good idea for that.
Jessica asked for that performance stuff because that.
The ones that are low risk are you know.
We don't have to worry as much about them of them misusing the funds or, you know, not not tracking the funding appropriately or, you know, those kinds of things that have more to do with complying with with federal grant.
Requirements we don't have to worry as much about that now.
That's not just because they have a low risk.
Doesn't mean that those things can't happen.
It just means that their potential for those kinds of errors and mistakes is lower than the ones that are medium or high risk.

 **Eileen** 21:49
Who can you?

 **Jim Snell** 21:50
Yeah.

 **Eileen** 21:52
So United Way of West Tennessee, it is medium risk in both categories.

 **Jim Snell** 22:00
Well, it's it's again it's for.
It's for the agency.

 **Eileen** 22:03
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 22:03
So they.
When Neelam did her risk assessment, she she only did one risk assessment per agency.
And again, it's looking at the agency.

 **Eileen** 22:14
OK.

 **Jim Snell** 22:14
So she only did one risk assessment for United Way of Middle Tennessee United Way of Greater Chattanooga. And then I way of West Tennessee.
And again, it's because it's not looking at the program that they're proposing. It's looking at the agency itself and the internal structure.

 **Eileen** 22:26
OK.

 **Jim Snell** 22:31
And viability of the agency itself to be able to handle managing federal funds.
So yes, they're their score is is medium in both cases because it's, you know, it's the same.

 **Eileen** 22:39
OK.
It's same agency.

 **Jim Snell** 22:46
It's the same agency, right?

 **Eileen** 22:48
Yeah. OK.
What else was I gonna ask?
The.
Vvo. Yeah. What were they?

 **Jim Snell** 23:08
Yeah, that's volunteer odyssey.

 **Eileen** 23:09
What was it? Volunteer odyssey.
Where are they located?

 **Jim Snell** 23:15
They're in Memphis.

 **Eileen** 23:16
Here in Memphis. OK.
And you said that they were quite a small agency and we weren't sure if they had the the infrastructure to support.
Let's see.

 **Jim Snell** 23:31
Yeah, well, sorry.
Let me go back to the we can go to the risk assessment.
I'll. I'll show you kind of neelam's assessment of it. Let's see.
Here it is OK.
So one is previous grant experience and again.
It doesn't appear that they've managed any federal or state grants in the past.
Administrative performance on a comparable awards, again since they haven't had a federal or state award, they get you know they get dinged for that again.
They.
In terms of the audit results, they're not large enough or they don't get any federal funds. And so the the single audit requirement is for agencies that receive federal funds now.

 **Eileen** 24:26
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 24:32
Lots of nonprofits, even though they don't get federal funds.
Will still have.
Usually they have a CPA review their their financial statements and it's so it's not an audit it, but it's a review of their financial statements.

 **Eileen** 24:47
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 24:47
So volunteer Odyssey doesn't get federal funds, so they're not required to do an audit.
But that in and of itself, because they don't, they don't have their financials audited is potential for risk.

 **Eileen** 25:00
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 25:02
Latifah yeah, go ahead, yeah.

 **Latiyfa Fields** 25:03
Sorry so I am realizing.
That in the survey I don't remember where Neelam pulls that information from for the federal funding, but in the survey that they completed or in the application they completed, they said that they had two to five years of experience managing federal grants.
For volunteer odyssey. So.

 **Eileen** 25:23
Hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 25:25
Well, we can check with Neelam for that. I think she pulled that from from the from their financial management survey, I think.

 **Latiyfa Fields** 25:37
And let me just really quick do a cross check.

 **Jim Snell** 25:41
OK, OK.
Yeah, we yeah, OK.
Well, we we'll definitely need to follow up on that then if if they said in one place that they have. But if they said in another place that they didn't but that that wouldn't change the, that probably wouldn't change the audit results because again you have to have.

 **Eileen** 25:46
Yeah.

 **Jim Snell** 25:59
This actually this 500,000 is an old number. I think it's currently it's at 700,000 or maybe even higher.

 **Eileen** 26:04
Hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 26:06
And so they, even if they get federal funds, they probably don't get enough to to have an audit.
Again, they didn't provide their financial statements, so Neelam wasn't able to do a test of solvency, which is essentially, you know, do they have enough money in the bank to keep going?

 **Eileen** 26:26
Yeah.

 **Jim Snell** 26:28
So that not having that is is an item of risk internal controls.

 **Eileen** 26:30
Hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 26:40
Neelam in her review.
And again, this is based on their responses.
They didn't have policies related to whistleblowers, document retention and destruction.

 **Eileen** 26:52
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 26:53
They also didn't have kind of human resources accounting policies in place.
Oh, no, wait.
Sorry, they do have.

 **Eileen** 27:03
But it has it says it has them.

 **Jim Snell** 27:04
They do, yes.
Yeah. So they got, they got a better score for that one. A A4 is is a better score.

 **Eileen** 27:08
OK.

 **Jim Snell** 27:11
So most of their responses were C2, which is the lowest you can get for this survey.

 **Eileen** 27:18
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 27:19
So those those things combined, give them, give them a high risk.

 **Eileen** 27:28
Did they have?
Did they have a planning grant prior to this?

 **Jim Snell** 27:32
No, that's that's United Way of West Tennessee.
And and ETSU both have planning grants so.
And you know where West Tennessee is is medium.
We could go back and look and see what their rating was when we provided the planning grants, but it's not unusual for us to fund an agency that has a medium score because, as you can tell, there's a lot of things in there that they could potentially get.
Dinged.
For that are things that they really can't do anything about.
So for example, the audit, you know, either they have a a federal audit or they don't.
And it, and even if they don't have a federal audit because they don't get enough federal funds, that still results in a a bit of a lower score for them.
So it's yeah, it's unaware, West Tennessee, that has the median score that we provided that we as a current planning grant.

 **Eileen** 28:35
It's like vont to me.
Volunteer odyssey. You know, since since they're at high risk and and they seem to be kind of a small agency.
They are asking for an awful lot of money, so this is their this is an ambitious.
Program that that they'd like to start.
Can we offer them a planning grant of some kind?

 **Jim Snell** 29:07
Well, the the planning grants are for AmeriCorps programs we don't have.
We don't have funding specifically to do planning grants for volunteer centers.

 **Eileen** 29:13
Oh.
OK.

 **Jim Snell** 29:19
So it's yeah, it's kind of it's it's a different source of funding.

 **Eileen** 29:22
OK.

 **Jim Snell** 29:23
So no, we we we wouldn't be able to do that.

 **Eileen** 29:27
Hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 29:31
Yeah, I mean it is it.
Is it is a significant amount of money for a relatively small agency.
And especially given that we've never funded them before.

 **Eileen** 29:43
Mm H.

 **Jim Snell** 29:44
It is.
It is a bit.
It's a bit of money.

 **Eileen** 29:50
Yeah.
Can I see the description of what what they're planning to do? Again, that little short executive summary?

 **Jim Snell** 29:57
Sure.
Yeah.
Yeah. Let me make it make it bigger. So it is.
I'll make it the.
The top one.
I can get it all on the screen.

 **Eileen** 30:16
But there it is, up at the top.

 **Jim Snell** 30:18
Yeah, it's up at the very top.
Sorry.
Trying to make it as big as possible.
But yeah, that's not sorry that I think that's as big as I can get it and still get it all on the screen so.

 **Eileen** 30:28
OK.
That's fine.

 **Jim Snell** 30:36
Capacity building for other nonprofits.
So 10 new nonprofit nonprofit.

 **Eileen** 30:44
1500.

 **Jim Snell** 30:45
Yeah, 1500 volunteers to address those kind of those priority areas, mentorship, food and security and poverty reduction.

 **Eileen** 30:50
Hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 30:59
So the what they're proposing is is not.
Not.
Kind of out of the range of what?
Some of the others have requested to do.
But you can see, let's see.
United Way of Greater Chattanooga. They don't say how many volunteers, but.
Their their 7000 hours.
Middle Tennessee Middle Tennessee hands on is 4500 volunteers.

 **Eileen** 31:36
18,000 hours.

 **Jim Snell** 31:37
West Tennessee is 100.
Only 150 volunteers.
But they're gonna be serving 15 counties.

 **Eileen** 32:01
I kind of hate to.
Discourage volunteer odyssey by not giving them anything at all, but it it it feels like they're, you know, they're trying to bite off more than they can chew.
I don't know what we can do about that.
You know, if we give them a little bit of money, can.
They start off on a smaller scale or.

 **Jim Snell** 32:30
Well, that, that's.
That's that's up to to you all so again.
It depends on which which funding allocation.
Scenario you want to do again. The first one is just fully funding the top scoring ones and then starting to give out a percentage of money to the others until it's gone.

 **Eileen** 32:47
Mm hmm.
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 32:56
That and the the ones that are funded are are highlighted.
So the ones that are highlighted in green.
Get full funding in the ones that are in this kind of orangey color.
Get 75% of their their ask and 75% was somewhat of an arbitrary number.
So it could be different.
Then this one again is where.
The funds are based on their average review score and starting out and giving funding until they're gone until the funds are gone.
This this doesn't leave any money at all on the table.
So all of the.
All of the available funds are already.
Doled out and you can see.
Let me sorry, let me make it get on the screen a little bit better.
So.
The top three.
Etsu, you know Wayne, Middle Tennessee and United Way Greater Chattanooga.
There was enough funding within their pool.
Again we we split the available in half.
For the three of those to get the percentage based on what they they scored. But when you get to United Way Middle Tennessee or West Tennessee?
There was only $17,000 left, so that gets put into their bucket.

 **Eileen** 34:26
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 34:27
That's that's only 48% of what they requested and then kind of the same thing for.
The civic engagement the top three get the full percentage.
Of based on their review score, but United Way of West Tennessee is only 22% of what they requested.
Now we can change the percentages.
But that might get a little complicated.

 **Eileen** 34:59
Right.

 **Jim Snell** 35:00
And Lizzie has her hand up so.

 **Eileen** 35:03
Yeah. Well, see, you've got your hand up.

 **Elizabeth Lemieux** 35:06
Yes, I had a question.
So if we give smaller amounts than what they initially asked for, do they get a chance to change their outputs or outcomes?
Program design to meet the smaller amount. Or is it the same thing that they applied for?

 **Jim Snell** 35:21
No, we we as part of the negotiation we would offer the funds to them and if they accepted them, we would allow them to revise their well what they would have to revise their budgets.

 **Elizabeth Lemieux** 35:25
OK.

 **Jim Snell** 35:33
But then we'd also allow them to revise their performance measures in their program proposal as well.

 **Eileen** 35:39
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 35:41
I I think you know out of the two options, the option 2 is not my favorite because.
One, it's.
Funds to applicants that were.
Kinda below the others and at a percentage that's gonna be pretty hard for them. I think to do much.
You know, 48% of their request and 22%.
I I just don't know that they're gonna be able to do a whole lot with that.
I mean, they could.
Certainly not what they fully proposed.
This option.
There is some money left on the table.
And so.
It's possible that we could go back up and take this 30,000 that's left and add some more to that. You know, if we did, let's see.
So if we added United Way of West Tennessee's Volunteer Center application again because it it scored higher than its used civic engagement application. If we did 75% like these, these others that weren't at the very top, that would use all but about 2800.
Dollars of the the amount that's that's available.

 **Eileen** 37:12
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 37:13
So it would fully fund.
Three applications.
And then the 75% for another.
Sorry, another three from the volunteer Center and one from the.
The civic engagement and you know, in my opinion, 75% is is a workable number whereas like 22 or 48% would be kind of hard for them to pull off something with such a such a low amount so.
This one I think is is a little more realistic in terms of programs being able to operate.
Now the other thing we could do.
To adjust this even further would be to kind of do a hybrid, and so you know fully fund the ones that are in green because they they had high the highest scores and then applied the same formula.
So instead of 75%.
For hands on, it would be 82% and and then for Greater Chattanooga 8082% and you went nine away. West Tennessee would be 80%.
So it would increase some of the funding, although we might run out of funding by the time we get to United Way with Missy.
But would it could increase some of the funding for those that currently are only funded at 75%?
But we might not be able to fund as many programs.
Oh, I think I think got frozen.
Hey, Eileen.

 **Eileen** 39:10
I got booted out for some reason.

 **Jim Snell** 39:12
Yeah, you're you're still showing an honor on our screen is just kinda frozen in time.
So I don't know what the last part you heard before you got kicked out.

 **Eileen** 39:28
What was the last thing I heard?

 **Jim Snell** 39:33
Well, I was. Well, that's OK.

 **Eileen** 39:34
I've forgotten.

 **Jim Snell** 39:36
Well, I was saying so we could do a hybrid of option one and option 2.

 **Eileen** 39:39
Yeah, right.

 **Jim Snell** 39:41
So instead of like these three, volunteer center applications are currently showing at 75% of their request.
You know, I greater Chattanooga is also showing 75% of their specific engagement, but we could instead use the formula that's in option two to have it be a ratio.
Go based on.
Their average score, again keeping the full full funded for the highest scoring applicants.
But then doing a ratio.

 **Eileen** 40:15
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 40:18
For funding instead, which would give.
Give the funded programs a little bit more money to operate with.
But again, that could mean that, for example, there might not be any funding left to fund the United Way of West Tennessee Volunteer Center.
If we change that that formula.
I can.
I can do that formula right now if you'd like to to see what it does.

 **Eileen** 40:45
OK.
Yeah, let's see what that does.

 **Jim Snell** 40:48
Now let me put these columns a bit smaller.
To see if I can.
Get it all on.
Same page. OK, so if we did.
This one.
OK so.
That would increase, you know, way Middle Tennessee to 63,000.
Umm.
I I've just for the sake of easy numbers, I'm just gonna round it up to 63,100.
And then.
Create a Chattanooga would be 98.
Let's see.
Again, I think for the sake of.
Using easy numbers.
I'm gonna use.
88900.
So that puts us at a deficit. So.
No way we're going to see. You wouldn't be able to be funded and then let's see 2200.
Uh.
Yeah. So if we applied that kind of mixed, there would be 12,000 left on the table.
Which?
We could then offer as.
As funding for United Way West, Tennessee's volunteer center.
1000.
So that would be.
That would be 35% of their request, so.
Potentially not worth worth their while, but.

 **Eileen** 43:19
Yeah.

 **Jim Snell** 43:23
It it would increase the funding for the the other applicants beyond the the 75%.

 **Eileen** 43:35
Hmm.
Patricia, do you have any any thoughts about this?

 **Patricia Powell** 43:44
Yeah, I actually kind of do.
I don't feel comfortable voting for anything because I didn't even know this is what we would be covering.
Like I don't.
I don't know enough about the programs or anything to really make.
A.
A justifiable decision of considering how much money's on the table and so.
When it comes to voting, if we're if that's what we're doing, I'd have to abstain.

 **Jim Snell** 44:12
Well, not, I mean you can.
You can have a vote if you want, but with only two people, I think it's it's probably makes more sense to have just a a recommendation for the executive committee and the executive Committee will have to vote on it because they that they're the ones that would be.
Making the actual funding decision based on the recommendation from the from the Grants Committee.

 **Patricia Powell** 44:35
Got it.
But that's what I mean.
I can't even make a recommendation 'cause I don't know enough.
I don't feel comfortable with making a recommendation for that.

 **Jim Snell** 44:49
OK.

 **Eileen** 44:50
Umm.

 **Patricia Powell** 44:55
I'm not like obviously I've seen some of the information based on what you provided, but I'd rather get to see the applications, not necessarily in terms of reviewing the whole thing of like the grant reviewers did whatever, but just to see the program and what it does all.
Of that stuff, and I'd need more time than just this one hour thing to look at it.
So that's what I'm saying is for me, I would not be comfortable making a recommendation for anything.

 **Jim Snell** 45:23
Yeah, sure.
No. Yeah, I I hear that.
The the executive Committee meets on Friday.
So.
There's not a whole lot of time.
To be able to to do that and then get the Grants committee back together to to talk, especially since Wednesday is the day on the Hill.
So I'm not. I'm not sure in terms of timing, what we, what we do about that.

 **Patricia Powell** 45:54
See and that's why I was asking before about what would happen if this, like, if an issue were to arise because did we, like, did somebody ever send out an agenda for this, this meeting?
Like because in all honesty I didn't know why we were having a special meeting.
And so that's the thing about it is that it was.
This is the first I'm seeing all of this stuff.

 **Jim Snell** 46:19
Yeah, I think the description was in the calendar appointment.

 **Eileen** 46:24
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 46:25
That went out, but we we didn't send a separate agenda.

 **Patricia Powell** 46:25
OK.

 **Jim Snell** 46:32
Outside of the calendar and then we we had an issue where some of the reviewers didn't get their forms back. I mentioned earlier that we we had some that.

 **Patricia Powell** 46:42
Right.

 **Jim Snell** 46:43
Were mixed up on the dates so.
We got some of the review forms back in today, but you know, honestly, I would prefer that we give you more time to review it too, but we're under kind of a tight timeline.
Partly because of the the contract process.
These would all be July 1.
Start contracts and in order for us to get.
Get the funding announcement to them.
And have them revise their their budgets if necessary, and revise their performance measures if necessary.
We really we've got to start.
We've got to start that contract process.
Essentially, next week to be able to have time to get it through so that we can have those contracts.
Start and the.
The internal the state Central Procurement Office.
To complicate things a little more, set an internal deadline that we have to have everything to them by May 31st.
So that shortens the time frame that we have to to get everything done.
So it's just a.
It's a tight timeframe that we have to to do this.
I mean the other option is that we don't provide this funding and we send it back to the feds.
And this is all funding from the Volunteer Generation fund.
Which is a is not a recurring grant.
And we're in the third year of that grant. So we could potentially ask for a no cost extension to go beyond the current end of that grant, which would be, it's on a weird time frame.
It ends in March of 2026.
So we we could potentially ask for a nocost extension.

 **Eileen** 48:49
Hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 48:53
But it would have to be a no cost extension.
For a weird time frame because.
Either we would have to go back and revisit these grants as being.
A January start and start January of 2026 and go for a calendar year.
Or have them start on some other time frame other than a July July 1 start.
Because again, if we want, if we want to get this money out the door for July 1 start, it's gotta happen.
It's gotta happen soon.

 **Eileen** 49:33
Umm.
So I have.
I have kind of a suggestion.
I'm not sure how it works out.
Mathematically.
But we have there, there are.
4.
Yeah.
For volunteer center applications.
And three youth civic engagement applications that.
Are 8 have have average scores of 80% or more?
And so I don't know if that sounds too arbitrary. This this is basically, I mean what we're looking at on the screen now is is basically funding.
Those that are.
Have 80% scores or above.
So what if we?
I'm feeling OK about the youth civic engagement. What about?
In the volunteer center, if we take.
A little bit.
Off of the Middle Tennessee and the greater.
Chattanooga so that we can give West Tennessee a little bit more.
Umm.

 **Jim Snell** 51:20
Oh.

 **Eileen** 51:21
I'm not.
I'm not exactly sure about how the numbers work, but the like Jim you said a little bit ago that you know, you didn't think that West Tennessee would be able to do a whole lot with just 12.

 **Jim Snell** 51:27
Hmm.
Yeah, well, that's.
I mean, that's just my guess based on, you know it's it's only 35% of what they asked for.

 **Eileen** 51:36
Yeah.

 **Jim Snell** 51:41
Which seems like probably not really enough to do a whole lot.
So.
The.
So one possibility is to do.
So let's see.
Well, we could go back to the the 75%.

 **Eileen** 52:11
Yeah.

 **Jim Snell** 52:17
See what that does?

 **Patricia Powell** 52:19
The problem with this that I have is that without actually getting to see the full application and understanding what each program is doing 'cause it may have changed from other things.
Is that?
We could be taking money away from a program that like.
It it's not fair to pick and choose of just like can we give this money to this versus that and all that stuff? To me it's the way I kind of see it for myself is I'm being presented this data.
It's not enough data for me to make a conclusive understanding, but then I feel this pressure because of all the other dates and everything, and so that's not fair to me 'cause. Then it makes me feel like.
Well, shoot, if I don't make this decision, then these are the out this. This is the consequence. And so that's where I'm at with this. And so I'm like, I don't know what to tell you because I just feel like I'm being put in an in like an.
Unfair position, if that makes sense.

 **Jim Snell** 53:21
Sure. Well, I guess what I would say is that that's why we have the reviewers.
I mean we we get people who have read and scored each application and that's that's where the application scores come from.
If the if you feel like the only way you can make any grant decision is by reviewing the applications, then I would say that then for all of our future application processes that you should be part of the the grant review team.
So that you read and score each individual application so that you feel comfortable with it.
In general, though, it's typically not possible for every single member of the Grants Committee to read and score and review every single application that we have from for every single grant process.
So the Grants Committee has typically and traditionally relied on.
The grant review scores and staff recommendations to make their decisions.
So that they don't have to read every single application they can trust. Kind of the experts in the field.
Through their.
Through their review scores.
And and then again combined with the staff recommendation and some of the other data that we provided for you all to be able to make an informed decision.
Now again, it's not.
You don't have 100% of the information.
But it's it's typically what the Grants Committee has has needed to be able to make a a funding decision.
So you know what are the review scores?

 **Eileen** 55:01
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 55:03
What are they asking for?
What has been kind of their their historical performance?
Those are the kinds of the kinds of things that the Grants Committee has taken into consideration in the past.
So that that's just historically how it's been done. And but I hear I hear your concerns.
Again, I would say though that if if those are the kind of concerns you have, then it's really gonna make the most sense for you to actually be part of the review team so that you can.
Read each application and have a an in depth understanding what they're proposing and what they're what they wanna do with with the funding.
That obviously doesn't help for this process.

 **Patricia Powell** 55:43
So.

 **Jim Snell** 55:46
It's too, too late for that for this.

 **Patricia Powell** 55:47
Right. Sorry. I was waiting until you're done.

 **Jim Snell** 55:49
Yeah. No, no. Yeah, yeah, go ahead.

 **Patricia Powell** 55:52
So what?
I would suggest then for future cause what I would have appreciated was to have for this meeting to have it to where or even in like I said, for future meetings to have the applications for each attached. I don't need a rubric or anything just so I can.
Read through and see a summary of the sections or something like that and gives me kind of more of an understanding of.
This is what's going on because me reading the data doesn't really give as much as if I can actually.
Get just a brief description of like whatever the different things are, and so that's what I'm saying is so I can be more prepared for the process and not come to the meeting and feel surprised by it because for me to vote on or vote. Sorry for me.
To recommend something I want to be fair to these organizations.
I want to make sure the organizations get the money that they need.

 **Jim Snell** 56:47
Sure.

 **Patricia Powell** 56:51
And so that's the thing. I feel like it would be unfair to them for me to recommend something that I'm not entirely.
Sure about because that could.
Go in either direction for any of the organizations that that could help them or hurt them.
And so that's what I also feel that pressure of of like all of this stuff.
So that's what I'm saying for me to be prepared, I don't need to be a reviewer to get into that much of it, but just enough to where it's. I just have the information that I need, I guess I don't.

 **Latiyfa Fields** 57:22
Yeah, I think that's it, Jim.
Is it possible for? Does the recommendation have to be made right now on this call?
Could it be made over via e-mail?

 **Jim Snell** 57:36
Potentially could be made over e-mail.
But again.

 **Latiyfa Fields** 57:40
Just to address Patricia's concerns.

 **Jim Snell** 57:42
The.
Yeah. Well, and and I appreciate Patricia.
I I agree.
This has not been done very, very well, and I apologize for that.
We need, we need to do better on our end to make sure that we're getting you the information that you need in a timely manner so that you can review things.
We will absolutely do that in the future.
Including.
Sending the actual applications.
But we are where we are with this process.
And again it's I apologize that we we've been doing it kind of haphazardly in last minute.
We're not going to do that again.
We'll we'll make sure that we get you the information early enough for you to be able to review the application and we'll we'll include the applications along with the analysis and the other information that you need.
So.
We could send out the additional information.
I'm not sure again if if we don't, if we don't get this process started.
And underway soon. We're not gonna be able to do it.
Certainly not for a July one start, which means that we potentially push things back to a later start and again that we we could have more of a discussion about what that might look like.

 **Patricia Powell** 59:02
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 59:08
But.
I I yeah, I don't know.
I don't know it it it would either have to be potentially on.
The the federal fiscal year, which starts in.
In October or the calendar year starting in January.
Be the two that would make the most most sense based on the time that we have.
That we would potentially have to get.
The review process completed or the the funding process completed with the the either the Executive Committee or the full Commission.

 **Eileen** 59:49
I would.
I would suggest that we not delay.
Because.
I.
I don't.
I don't trust that promised funding is going to be always adhered to.

 **Jim Snell** 1:00:05
Yeah.

 **Eileen** 1:00:06
So that that's that's that's that's a big concern of mine.
11 thought that I have is we're having this executive committee meeting on on Friday.

 **Jim Snell** 1:00:20
Mm hmm.

 **Eileen** 1:00:20
And the committee chairs are invited.
So we should have a nice, you know, good, fairly good sized group of people.

 **Jim Snell** 1:00:29
Mm hmm.

 **Eileen** 1:00:31
What if when you send the materials, if you could send the materials to?
The executive committee as soon as possible.
And include the the applications for just for reference.
So that the executive.
Committee members, if they choose to, could take a look at the applications and, you know, have a little bit of time to prepare so that they know what they're doing on on Friday.

 **Jim Snell** 1:01:03
Yeah, sure we could.
We could certainly do that. We could.
Essentially, the Grants Committee could punt the decision over to the the Executive Committee, which is is is totally fine and I we could certainly provide them with the information that we provided you all today along with the applications so that they can, like you said if they wanted.
To review it, they can, but then they. Then they would. They would.

 **Eileen** 1:01:30
Yeah.

 **Jim Snell** 1:01:34
They would essentially have to make the decision that you all have been discussing today.
Between the two different options of you know whether it's option one or option two, or how to adjust the funding here or there. So it would.

 **Eileen** 1:01:46
Yeah, I would.
I mean, I'm. I'm not a quorum.

 **Jim Snell** 1:01:52
Yeah.

 **Eileen** 1:01:53
But I would recommend option one.
But that's only me.
And I'm not a quorum.

 **Jim Snell** 1:02:01
Yeah.
Yeah, well, yeah.
And again, since I mean ideally there would be more than two members of the committee here anyway, so it's.

 **Eileen** 1:02:10
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 1:02:14
It's a little bit.
The committee is a little bit behind the 8 ball to begin with, with only two two members participating.
So I think I think the executive committee would certainly understand that you know there there's only only two Members were able to participate and you all just didn't feel comfortable making the decision.
And instead recommended that we provide more detail to the Executive committee.
For them to discuss on Friday, for them to make the decision or I mean, they could also say we still don't feel like we have enough information, we need to delay this and and take it up some other time.

 **Eileen** 1:02:54
Mm hmm.

 **Patricia Powell** 1:02:58
I like that, though 'cause. At least then if they have the application that gives them that opportunity to know more information and make a more informed decision whether or not they choose or they say that they are fully informed or not, they just have more data to go.
Off of and. So that's the thing.
I just don't feel like I have enough data. Part of me is kind of OK with it, but part of me is not in that way because then it's like that lingering.

 **Jim Snell** 1:03:20
Sure.

 **Patricia Powell** 1:03:26
Well, what if there was something in the application that I that I?
Would have been like, oh wait, no.
This is what I'm believing or I don't know stuff like that.

 **Jim Snell** 1:03:38
At Lizzie has her.

 **Eileen** 1:03:40
Yeah, well.

 **Jim Snell** 1:03:42
Oh, and I just. Yeah. Sorry. Lizzie has her hand up. Yeah.

 **Elizabeth Lemieux** 1:03:47
Yes, hi. You can let me know if it's not really my place to say this, but one thing that I'm thinking about.
So, like the applications, we can certainly provide them to you and give.
And we want to think about that. For the AmeriCorps application, if that's something that you need coming up.
But.
But one thing that I found during my reviews is right like.
Just having the application will not put in front of you the grant requirements and the score sheets.
So you're not necessarily, you know, there can be a really well written application that doesn't hit upon a number of the things that we asked for.
So while while having all that information could be helpful, and I understand if you want it, I could see it also being difficult because like just in my review, you know, sometimes you read a great application but they just didn't answer the question.
And that's that's unfortunate, but it's more adequately reflected by the score than by reading the application.
Because, you know, you'd say it's a great application if if it had all the components.
So that's that's just another.
Aspect.

 **Eileen** 1:05:09
Yeah, I I understand what you're saying, Lizzie.
I've read, you know, I've been reading these applications for several years and and I found that, you know, there is some that seems like, wow, this is a really great idea.
This is gonna be a really great program, but the the the questions are not are not answered.
Or the analysis hasn't been done to make it work.
So I I agree with what you're saying and I have all I have always felt that.
I've respected the the the scores that reviewers have given and.
And and you know, and felt like, well, three. You know, if these three people plus the staff have looked at these applications and they think that this is, you know, an 89 point application I you know I I respect that on their part.
So.

 **Patricia Powell** 1:06:16
So to give you some understanding for me, like I have no idea what the organization's outputs and outcomes are.
I have no idea what they're doing for that or anything, and so that's what I'm saying.
Well, I get what you guys are saying in terms of the application aspect.
I'm not looking for necessarily how they're answering stuff in a way.
I'm just looking for this is what the organization is doing and so I may be looking for other things that you guys are paying.
Attention to I may be looking for other details.
So that's what I'm saying for me.
Is that what it comes down to? Is like you can give me.
Whatever scores but to me, scores don't. It's like math.
It doesn't tell me anything in terms of.
It's like statistics.
I don't.
Either way, it's just.
For me in particular, it's just not enough information.

 **Jim Snell** 1:07:16
Yeah. Well, I and I think that's OK. And again, especially since there are only two members of the committee.
That were able to make the call today anyway.

 **Patricia Powell** 1:07:25
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 1:07:26
It's.
You know, I I think it makes more sense to have a a larger number of people.

 **Patricia Powell** 1:07:36
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 1:07:36
Make make make the the call on it. So I you know, I'm perfectly happy to send the stuff to the executive committee with explanation that.
There were only two two members on the call and and you all didn't feel comfortable making that decision, so.
You recommended that we send the application materials along with this the sheet.
To the Executive committee for them to discuss.
When they meet on Friday, I I think that's totally fine.

 **Eileen** 1:08:10
Mm hmm.

 **Patricia Powell** 1:08:12
Mm.

 **Eileen** 1:08:14
OK.
Let's go with that.

 **Jim Snell** 1:08:16
Yeah. OK. OK.
Well, we'll do that then.
Thank you both so much for your time and your input.
It's, you know, we're we're always trying to refine our processes and make things better.
So I think the the the suggestion to include applications is a good one. We can start doing that on a regular basis and you know the people who wanna look at it can and the people who don't don't have to.

 **Eileen** 1:08:31
Yeah.
Yeah.

 **Jim Snell** 1:08:42
But it is it is.
I think it's a good suggestion.

 **Patricia Powell** 1:08:46
I think a big part of it to give you an idea is you think about, OK.
This is gonna be interesting. Or like, you know, you think about how, like, two people can see an accident happen. And each of those people has a different perspective of the accident. And so you can have multiple people looking at the same data, and you're gonna have various.
Views of that data. And so it's what the more information you can provide.
Whether it'll be useful for somebody or versus somebody else.
It can help make a better decision in the long term, because then people can feel also like this person is understanding that this data doesn't help me. But this does, and so it's more of also about inclusion for me for this to where it's like I don't necess.
See information the same way as other people do.
And so that's what I'm kind of. Hopefully I've gotten that across.

 **Jim Snell** 1:09:42
Yeah, yeah, yeah.
I mean it's, you know, if we can provide.
More data for folks that they want to be able to make decisions and we could.
I mean we we're certainly happy to do that.
OK.
Well, yeah. Thank you both.

 **Eileen** 1:09:59
OK.

 **Jim Snell** 1:10:03
So, Eileen, I'll I'll send this out to I I think what what I might do is because we were kind of discussing.
The revising that option one, I think what I might do is have three options.
One that would be the original option one.

 **Eileen** 1:10:18
Hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 1:10:21
Two would be the original option two and then the third one would be the hybrid one.

 **Eileen** 1:10:27
OK.
That sounds good.

 **Jim Snell** 1:10:30
Just so that they can kind of have a look at those three options.

 **Eileen** 1:10:34
Yeah.

 **Jim Snell** 1:10:37
OK, great.

 **Eileen** 1:10:37
OK, sounds good.

 **Jim Snell** 1:10:40
All right.
Well, thanks everybody.

 **Eileen** 1:10:41
Thank you.
See Friday morning, then.

 **Jim Snell** 1:10:43
Right, see you then.

 **Elizabeth Lemieux** 1:10:44
Hmm.

 **Eileen** 1:10:45
OK. Bye bye.

 **Elizabeth Lemieux** 1:10:46
Bye.

 **Jim Snell** 1:10:46
Bye bye.

 **Patricia Powell** 1:10:47
Hi.

 **Jim Snell** 1:10:48
Hey, Lizzie. Oops. She got off OK.

 **Elizabeth Lemieux** stopped transcription