

**To: Wayne Bowers, City Manager**

**From: Mary Broske, Grants Coordinator**

**Copy: Carl Harness, Assistant City Manager**

**Date: January 9, 2002**

**Subject: ECivis Grant Locator Service**

Summary of Unique Features

- Product is available on-line
- Product is searchable
- Product contains materially all current grants (Federal, State of Florida, and Foundation)
- Product is Real Time (and sometimes provides information in advance of public release)
- Product Contains Original Research

Recommendation

- The eCivis Grant Locator Service should be acquired and considered in the same manner as is the Federal Lobbyist and services as a commonly owned resource.
- It should be viewed as the same type of service to the City Commission, and the departments, for the benefit of the citizens by increasing the City's capacity to search out and acquire grants from federal, state and foundation sources.
- The City's Community partners would also benefit through this increase in grant location capacity.
- Administratively, it would be a Contract for Service residing under the Assistant City Manager.

Background:

Departmental opinions of the eCivis Grant Locator Service

Departments that tried out the service favor acquiring it for the City.

- The Police and Fire Chiefs report that they and their staff support acquiring it, see many advantages, and noted that it provides the only on-line source of foundation and State of Florida grants.
- The Operations Departments (Cultural Affairs, Recreation and Parks, Facilities Management, Codes, Affirmative Action) were polled at an Operations Staff Meeting, and strongly support the acquisition. I reviewed eCivis on behalf of all departments, including these, and provided these departments with samples as demonstration of its usefulness.
- Community Development responded through Jim Hencin that it would be quite helpful to the City to have it.

### Benefits

- This is ever so much better (more efficient and more comprehensive) than anything we now have for grants information.
- It includes Federal, State of Florida, and Foundation grants.
- It provides electronically at one location all one needs to apply.
- It includes individually tailored Alerts (even daily) to each user.
- We can get a year's worth of grant sources for a particular need at one click - thus can plan and strategize.
- Even one "hit" would more than pay for a year's subscription.
- During the trial period, we found several appropriate grants of which we were unaware.
- Expanding the team of grant researchers to include 8 persons across departments should exponentially expand our capacity to locate and secure grant funding.
- Grant Programs offered by other states but not Florida, addressing unmet needs of our departments could be placed on the City's Legislative Statement as requests to our state delegation.

### Experience during the trial period

- The eCivis activity report: Of the 225 grants reviewed, I reviewed 75%, GFR (4 users) was second with 15%, and GPD (3 users) was third with 8%. The remainder of 2% was CDBG (1 user). During this trial period, 16 trial accounts were available, and we sent out repeat notifications and had discussions with other potential users.