



Legislation Text

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eCivis Grant Locator Service (B)

Staff has been reviewing and trying out eCivis, a unique on-line grant locator service, and has identified it as having considerable potential to increase the City's capacity to search out and acquire grants from federal, state and foundation sources. Several local governments in Florida currently subscribe to eCivis; including the City of Boynton Beach, Broward County, the City of Cape Coral, Bay County, the City of Miami, and Sarasota County. The City would be served by eCivis' East Coast Operations, located in Washington, D.C.

The service is available on-line through the internet and is searchable; providing at one location all that is needed to apply, including application packets, federal forms, grant application guidance files, previously funded applications, agency contacts, and other relevant information. The product is real-time, sometimes providing information in advance of public release; and contains original research. It also has a Management Tool, permitting organized grant location and acquisition effort across all departments. The Management Tool identifies the specific usage by each authorized user, providing the capacity for centralized oversight and coordination in the grant planning and application process. By including past grants, as well as current and anticipated grants, the grants acquisition process can be proactive.

During the trial period, staff found several appropriate grants of which we were unaware, including several for City/Community partnership projects such as the Reichert House and its programs. 225 grants were reviewed by staff, which included representatives from Gainesville Fire Rescue, Gainesville Police Department, and the Community Development Block Grant Manager. In addition, a very broad detailed review was conducted by the City's Grants Coordinator, who managed the overall City-wide trial period. The Community Development Block Grant Manager reviewed the remainder of the grants. The departments that tried out the service favor acquiring it for the City. The Police and Fire Chiefs report that they and their staff enthusiastically support acquiring it, and note that it provides the only on-line live source of foundation and Florida grants. Community Development reported that it would be quite helpful for the City to have eCivis.

eCivis has offered the City a one-year subscription price of \$8,500.00 (discounted from the regular price of \$10,000). The City would have up to eight authorized users for this price.

Funds for the first year would have to come from the City Commission Contingency.

The City Commission: 1) receive a report from staff; 2) appropriate funds from the Commission Contingency for acquiring eCivis Grants Locator Service; and 3) authorize the City Manager to execute the eCivis Grants Locator Subscription Agreement.