

Slim pickings in city revenue-sharing money 2/23/83

SANTA CRUZ — Times are getting tougher and there are less local community program funds coming from the federal government.

That's the message that community groups and their supporters were getting Tuesday evening as they made their appeals to the City Council in the first run of revenue-sharing hearings.

The city allowed about \$280,000 in this fiscal year's programming and will have to make some adjustments to compensate for \$215,000 loss in next year's revenue-sharing funds.

There will be approximately \$600,000 in revenue-sharing money for fiscal 1983-84, but in the past the council has used more than that amount for other city department functions.

The council heard appeals from the

Asbestos Victims of America, senior programs, day-care centers, child neglect, legal aid and from the Latina women in the Beach Flats area.

A Beach Flat resident asked the council "to think of the people in Beach Flats" when revenue sharing is done.

She told of the self help work that is being done among the Hispanic women in the Beach Flats area and said that other programs can do no good "when the woman is sick in bed and can't get to them."

Jim Vermeulen, founder of Asbestos Victims of America, asked for funds to put a home analysis program to work.

He said that 676,000 U.S. citizens will have lung cancer from asbestos by the turn of the century and that a home check to determine if asbestos products were used

was needed in Santa Cruz because of its many older homes.

Vermeulen complimented the city on being the first in the nation to restrict use of asbestos products on city jobs when other material can be found.

Jane Weed reminded the council of the Westside Health Center — funded by the city to get its start — and said that it is further developing its outreach program into the Beach Flats area.

Members of the city-county Arts Council urged city funds for their work, saying that private donations had reached \$124,000 and that the art community's gross county product had topped the \$1 million mark.

On a motion by Councilman Michael Rotkin, the council unanimously directed city staff to review existing programs and report back in June when individual program hearings are held.