



Recommendation for Action

File #: 18-3484, **Agenda Item #:** 13.

2/21/2019

Posting Language

Approve a resolution authorizing the acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$575,063 from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division to implement the Austin Police Department project entitled First Responder Mental Health Resiliency Program.

Lead Department

Austin Police Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$575,063 is available from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program for the project period of January 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020. A City match of \$143,766 is required and will be met by accounting for the salaries of existing City-funded sworn and civilian personnel assigned to training and wellness.

For More Information:

Troy Gay, Chief of Staff, Austin Police Department 512-974-5030.

Additional Backup Information:

This action will provide the resolution required by the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) to complete the award process related to \$575,063 in grant funding for this new program. The project period is January 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020. A City match of \$143,766 is required and will be met by accounting for the salaries of existing City-funded sworn and civilian personnel assigned to training and wellness.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding will allow the City to enhance existing peer support services and provide new services that will improve the well-being of officers, first responders and their families. Funding will allow the City to hire an additional licensed clinical social worker and a staff psychiatrist, as well as a project coordinator. The successful implementation of this project will directly impact a projected 29% of first responders over the duration of the 2-year project period.

The new personnel will be dedicated 100% to pre- and post-incident management activities for the target group. Direct service hours, focused on trauma-informed care, will include crisis intervention, counseling, personal advocacy, and information and referrals to help victims and survivors recover more quickly and completely from the effects of direct and indirect trauma. When in-house services will not meet the needs of the victim, grant-funded personnel will identify alternatives and provide assistance during transition periods. With prevalent challenges, such as drug and alcohol abuse, project staff will seek assistance from local service providers. The coordinator will assist peer support, counselors, and clinicians by providing administrative support and by scheduling individual and group appointments and training sessions. The coordinator will initiate parent support groups to address the myriad of challenges faced by mothers and fathers within the law enforcement community and will maintain a database of local and regional assets and service providers.

The grantor requires a resolution approved by Council that includes items one through four below.

1. Authorization by your governing body for the submission of the application to CJD that clearly identifies the

name of the project for which funding is requested;

2. A commitment to provide all applicable matching funds;

3. A designation of the name and/or title of an authorized official who is given the authority to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate a grant (Note: If a name is provided, you must update CJD should the official change during the grant period.); and

4. A written assurance that, in the event of loss or misuse of grant funds, the governing body will return all funds to CJD.