



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-2516, **Agenda Item #:** 33.

8/27/2020

Posting Language

Approve a resolution authorizing the application for and acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$259,804 from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, to implement the Austin Police Department project entitled First Responder Mental Health Program.

Lead Department

Austin Police Department

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$259,804 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 October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021. A City match of \$64,951 is required.

Prior Council Action:

February 21, 2019 - City Council approved Resolution No. 20190221-013 on consent on Mayor Pro Tem Garza's motion, Council Member Tovo's second, with an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

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

Additional Backup Information:

This action will provide the required resolution needed by the Criminal Justice Division to complete the award process related to \$259,804 in grant funding for this new program. The project period is October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021. A City funding match of \$64,951 is required and will be met by accounting for the salaries of an existing City-funded sergeant assigned to training and wellness.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding will allow the City to continue services that will improve the well-being of officers, first responders and their families. Funding will allow the City to:

- continue the salary of a VOCA-funded licensed professional counselor
- extend existing contracts with several professional clinicians
- extend existing contract of the program's Principal Investigator

The counselor and clinicians will continue to provide direct service hours focused on trauma-informed care, which will include crisis intervention, counseling, personal advocacy, and referrals to help victims and survivors. The Principal Investigator will assist counselors and clinicians by scheduling appointments and training sessions, completing the intake process, and connecting victims with clinicians and counselors. In addition, the Principal Investigator will work with key personnel to address any conflicts and will provide consultation services to City staff, particularly the Wellness Division Peer Support staff.

The grantor requires a resolution approved by Council that includes the following criteria.

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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.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety.