



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-2812, **Agenda Item #:** 5.

8/26/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of agreements for the provision of violence prevention programs in underserved communities with a term beginning September 15, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022 with the following providers: Young Women's Christian Association of Greater Austin for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$300,000; Council on At-Risk Youth for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$400,000; and Mexic-Arte Museum for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$155,344.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$855,344 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget. Funding for the remaining months of the term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute agreements with three programs for the Office of Violence Prevention in targeted locations throughout Austin. These programs were identified as highly scored applicants as part of the 2021 Community Youth Development (CYD) solicitation, which seeks to provide youth services in eligible service areas, such as 78744, to promote Positive Youth Development by funding local programs to increase protective factors. The CYD solicitation is considered prevention not intervention, which is a higher level of service delivery.

Young Women's Christian Association of Greater Austin (YWCA) will provide prevention based behavioral health services to lower at risk youth that build skills necessary for youth to increase protective factors and reduce likelihood of engaging in violent behavior, utilizing evidence-based curriculum, conflict resolution, de-escalation, and counseling. YWCA will accept referrals from the middle and high school areas in the community. The age of participants ranges between 11 to 21, targeting students who are engaging in high-risk activities, such as truancy, delinquency, and any other behaviors for which school officials deem early intervention/prevention is necessary. As part of the services provided, YWCA will coordinate weekly, curriculum-based educational groups during school hours that work toward increasing youth resiliency, expanding knowledge about personal and cultural consequences, and increasing feelings of empowerment and community connectedness. If higher clinical needs are identified, youth will be referred to counseling, de-escalation, and conflict resolution services.

YWCA is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization focused on improving the lives of families through racial justice and civil rights advocacy, as well as through needs-driven programming, which promotes the health and safety of families and youth and their economic empowerment and enhancement.

Mexic-Arte Museum will provide ScreenIt!, an outreach program, as well as additional art projects, to address the needs of underserved youth and offer Preventative Early Intervention (also referred to as PEI) through arts instruction to students and teachers in targeted locations throughout Austin. Mexic-Arte Museum's ScreenIt! outreach program provides an intensive workshop series hosted at schools or community centers where students learn basic printmaking vocabulary and the printmaking process through a curriculum formed around Mexic-Arte Museum's Permanent Collection. Their ScreenIt! classes are held throughout communities that have historically been identified by various demographic studies as high-risk areas for juvenile crime. These classes, led by professional artists from the community, offer constructive and engaging activities for young people in an area where many youths are vulnerable to gang violence and recruitment.

Mexic-Arte Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization and provides programming to enrich communities through education programs, exhibitions, and the collection, preservation, and interpretation of Mexican, Latinx, and Latin American art and culture for visitors of all ages. Mexic-Arte Museum is also participating in a Social Cohesion Project, which seeks to encourage social cohesion between Latinx and African Diaspora communities. Mexic-Arte Museum is dedicated to the production of high-quality educational programs, both in person and virtually, to expand and advance the standard of art education and broaden the public's knowledge of Latinx art and culture.

Council on At-Risk Youth (CARY) will provide evidence-based Youth Violence Prevention Curriculum that provides life skills training, anger management training, one-on-one counseling, and group counseling. CARY's program seeks to empower at risk youth with the skills needed to avoid crime and violence by addressing critical issues resulting in preventing youth violence and delinquent behavior. The goal of the program is to teach social cognitive skills to youth involved in the disciplinary system and divert them from the school-to-prison pipeline by addressing a critical need for cultural competence and positive decision-making skills. The Office of Violence Prevention seeks to provide services in targeted locations throughout Austin with this agreement.

CARY is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization that employs holistic interventions to meet the needs of at-risk youth utilizing individual therapy, parent empowerment, service learning, collaboration with school administrative staff, counselors, teachers and other youth services agencies, and the PeaceRox Program. These interventions are designed to reduce the likelihood of youth entering the school-to-prison pipeline based on serious disciplinary referrals, including drug use, gang involvement, and violence.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.