

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 12/13/22

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 22-1068

LOG NAME: 35FY23 COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMS - PROGRAM GRANTS FIRST ROUND

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Execution of Contracts with Big Thought, Christ's Haven for Children, Rivertree Academy, SafeHaven of Tarrant County, and Unbound North Texas From the Crime Control Prevention District Community Based Programs Fund in the Total Program Amount of Up to \$1,500,000.00 to Operate Crime Prevention Programming that Benefits Fort Worth Residents

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the execution of contracts with Big Thought, Christ's Haven for Children, Rivertree Academy, SafeHaven of Tarrant County, and Unbound North Texas from the Crime Control Prevention District Community Based Programs Fund in the total program amount of up to \$1,500,000.00 to operate crime prevention programming that benefits Fort Worth residents.

DISCUSSION:

Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) Community Based Programs provide funding to agencies that are recommended by a selection panel and then approved by the CCPD Board of Directors (Board). This panel consisted of staff and community representatives who evaluated the proposals to ensure minimum qualifications were met and that the proposed projects met one or more of the goals of the Board.

On November 29, 2022, the Board reviewed and approved the recommendation to fund five crime prevention programs. The following programs' awards total up to \$1,500,000.00 and are funded by the CCPD Community Based Fund (25100). The five programs will have a contract term of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025 with no renewals.

Funding will be allocated as follows to each agency in Fiscal Year 2023 on a reimbursement basis:

Big Thought (\$300,000.00) - Implementing the program "Preventing Juvenile Incarceration Through Creative Solutions" to serve the adjudicated youth of Fort Worth. This seven-week program occurs at Texas Wesleyan University and is taught by professional artist mentors using each participant's track to teach workforce and college preparedness skills. The curriculum combines social and emotional learning skills and the fundamentals of the artistic process to establish an immersive experience. At the end of the program, the youth produce their own performing arts production or visual arts exhibition. This results in positive gains in social-emotional skills like engagement, cooperation, empathy, self-regulation, and goal attainment. The program will serve youth in Council Districts 5 and 8.

Christ's Haven for Children (\$300,000.00) - Funding will expand the Family Resource Center to serve at-risk youth and families in Fort Worth. The Family Resource Center provides parent/caregiver education trainings, weekly food boxes, counseling services, and "Foster Family Care Packages" containing food, toiletries, and clothing items. This program will serve participants in Council District 7.

Rivertree Academy (\$300,000.00) - This is an expansion to the Behavior Management Program to serve Fort Worth students, grades Pre-K to fifth. The Behavior Management Program uses a framework of interventions and supports to address students' behavioral and academic challenges. The MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) framework involves evaluating and placing each student in one of three tiers that correlate with the academic and behavioral hurdles the child is experiencing. Mentoring, behavior management plans, one-on-one counseling, chapel services, tutoring, and restorative practice sessions are a few of the services offered to help to serve students both academically and behaviorally. This program will serve participants in Council District 3.

SafeHaven of Tarrant County (\$300,000.00) - Implementation of the SafeHorizons Mentoring Program. Youth in home environments with domestic violence are at increased risk of modeling those same behaviors as they grow older. The SafeHorizons Program focuses on youth ages 5 – 17 who come to the shelter with their families and provides them with support and mentoring services to work past this trauma. The program will serve participants from all Council Districts.

Unbound North Texas (formerly Unbound Fort Worth) (\$300,000.00) - This is an expansion to programming through the use of the Outcomes for Survivors of Human Trafficking (OHTS) tool. Unbound North Texas provides 24/7 resources and trauma services to survivors of human trafficking to aid them in their restorative journey. Advocates work closely with clients through motivational interviewing techniques to educate them on the signs of trafficking and develop safety plans to avoid revictimization or criminal activity. The program will serve participants from all Council Districts.

Funding is budgeted in the CCPD Community Based Programs Department's CCPD Community Based Fund for the purpose of funding the CCPD Community Based Program FY23 project, as appropriated.

This M&C will serve ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are available in the current capital budget, as previously appropriated, in the CCPD Community Based Fund for the CCPD Community Based Prgm FY23 project to support the approval of the above recommendation and execution of the contract. Prior to any expenditure being incurred, the Police Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

Submitted for City Manager's Office by: Fernando Costa 6122

Originating Business Unit Head: Neil Noakes 4212

Additional Information Contact: Elizabeth Garza 5571
Sarah Shannon 4254