

City of Fort Worth, Texas

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 03/26/24M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0238

LOG NAME: 19FY24 SOCIAL PROGRAMS IN FORT WORTH

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize the Execution of Contracts with My Health My Resources of Tarrant County, Recovery Resource Council, Safe Haven of Tarrant County, and The Women's Center of Tarrant County in the Aggregate Amount of \$199,500.00 to Provide Social Service Programs for the Benefit of the Entire Fort Worth Community for Fiscal Year 2024, Find that the Contracts Serve A Public Purpose, and that Adequate Controls are in Place

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the execution of contracts with My Health My Resources of Tarrant County, Recovery Resource Council, Safe Haven of Tarrant County, and The Women's Center of Tarrant County in the aggregate amount of \$199,500.00 to provide social service programs that met the City's criteria for serving a public purpose to benefit the Fort Worth community for Fiscal Year 2024, find that the contracts serve a public purpose, and that adequate controls are in place.

DISCUSSION:

During the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget process, the City Council approved financial support for the United Way of Tarrant County (United Way) in the amount of \$199,500.00, which is currently budgeted in the Neighborhood Services Department (NSD) General Fund Budget in order to fund various agencies and social service programs throughout the City. From Fiscal Year 2010 through Fiscal Year 2023, the City contracted with United Way to administer and distribute these funds to agencies that provide social service programs that meet the City's established criteria. The City made a single payment to the United Way and the United Way had discretion to select the particular agencies and funding amounts subject to the criteria listed below designed to ensure that the funds were used for a public benefit in the Fort Worth community. In exchange for the funds, United Way chose agencies based on these criteria and delivered quarterly reports detailing how the funds were expended by United Way and the chosen agencies.

Following the adoption of the FY24 budget, the leadership teams of United Way and Neighborhood Services met and agreed to return program oversight and contract administration to the City of Fort Worth, specifically NSD. It was determined that current administrative capacity in both organizations warranted this transition. In addition, the allocation of funds to support social service programs is in alignment with the current NSD processes to allocate federal grant funds to public service agencies. Future plans include incorporating the allocation of these funds into the Public Service Agencies Request for Proposals application cycle, including requiring monthly reporting, compliance monitoring, and expanding the eligible applicants for the program funds.

The following criteria ensure that the chosen agencies serve a public purpose through investing money, expertise, and other resources to improve lives and communities in benefit of the entire Fort Worth community:

- Agencies must have a valid current designation of tax-exempt status under 26 USC 501 from the United States Internal Revenue Service;
- Agencies must have a mission statement and service plan that aligns with public safety;
- Agencies must not engage in inherently religious activities, such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytizing, as a part of the program or services funded by City dollars. Inherently religious activities must be offered separately, in time or location, from the programs, activities, or services supported by City funds;
- Agencies must submit documentation attesting to and demonstrating the entity's capacity to deliver specified services; and
- Agencies must demonstrate via site visits that the nature and performance of the proposed service meets the above-listed criteria.

These contracts will require these funds be used for programming within the City. This allows the City to continue to provide financial assistance to non-profit agencies that offer critical social services for the benefit of the entire Fort Worth community. These programs will provide the public with a clear benefit by providing mentorship and training to children to help ensure they remain in school and by ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of Fort Worth citizens, specifically those who are experiencing or survivors of traumatic events, such as domestic violence and sexual assault. Staff will ensure that proper controls are in place, including reporting requirements and auditing rights. The contract period will be for a one-year term, from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

Funding is budgeted in the Other Contractual Services account within the General Fund for the N S United Way Contract Department.

The following chart provides projections for services to be provided by four (4) selected agencies:

AGENCY	AWARD	PROJECTIONS
My Health My Resources (MHMR) of Tarrant County - Tarrant County Youth Recovery Campus	\$38,250.00	100 teen clients in supportive outpatient services
		600 teens with Ground Zero services, including support groups in alternative schools and

Recovery Resource Council	\$37,500.00	prevention services in juvenile detention, teen court and other locations; 70% of students report a reduction Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) use and violence or improved decision making, perception of harm related substance use
Safe Haven of Tarrant County	\$67,500.00	1,300 women and child victims of domestic violence; 10,000 calls on the 24-hour crisis hotline; 2,000 hours of volunteer service
The Women's Center of Tarrant County	\$56,250.00	2,000 rape crisis hotline calls; Counseling for 400 survivors of rape at rape exam sites; Counseling for 175 significant others at rape exam site; Clinical counseling for 700; Child sexual abuse prevention training for 20,000 children; Adult sexual abuse prevention training for 1,500 persons; Training and technical assistance for 1,000 criminal justice professionals
TOTAL	\$199,500.00	

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendation, funds are available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, in the General Fund. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Neighborhood Services Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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