
City of Grand Forks
Staff Report
Finance/Development Committee August 11
City Council December August 18, 2014

Agenda Item: Safer Tomorrows Grant Project – Additional Funding

Submitted by: Pete Haga, Mayor's Office

Staff Recommended Action: For Information Only at this Time

Committee Recommended Action:

Motion by Weber, Second by Mock, to approve submitting application at this time. Motion Carried.

Council Action:

BACKGROUND:

The city is a proud core partner of a local effort called Safer Tomorrows (www.safertomorrows.com), which is funded through a Department of Justice grant called Defending Childhood with the purpose: **To end or mitigate childhood exposure to violence.**

The latest round of funding is set to expire at the end of 2014 but the Safer Tomorrows collaboration has been invited to apply for extended funding for the years of 2015 and 2016.

Up to approximately \$612,000 may be made available to the project and coalition.

The application was just made available on August 6 and is due on August 12 so the turnaround time is quite short. Fortunately, however, the nature of the project scope will be consistent with the current project with respect to city involvement:

- There are no funds required as a match.
- The city's role in administering the grant, providing accounting oversight and providing project governance are being compensated through grant administrative dollars (projected at \$10,000/yr for two years for a total of \$20,000.)
- The city's in-kind contribution is providing supervision for the community awareness portion of the grant, website support, and assistance from the Mayor's Office and 311/Public Information Center in the execution of community awareness efforts consistent with the city's commitment to youth and safety. Approximately \$20,000 will also be allocated to fund the card costs of the community awareness activities.

APPROVED & ACCEPTED
by City Council

8/18/14

Maureen Storstad
Maureen Storstad
City Auditor

With grants of this size and nature, it has been our practice to ensure the City Council review for any concerns, questions and understanding of possible implications.

Typically, City Council input and concurrence is sought prior to application but due to the short timeline, the application is not yet complete (at the time of this report), and a pre-application review is not possible.

However, consistent with the extension of funding in 2013, if city's application is selected for funding, there will be an opportunity to review the award and the project conditions prior to official acceptance. (The City Council approved a similar approach in June, 2013 and the actual grant conditions in October 2013.)

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- Funding is available to continue the county-wide Safer Tomorrows project (www.safertomorrows.com) for one more year.
- The original grant was received in 2011 and extended once already in 2013.
- The city does not provide any direct funding, is compensated for accounting and oversight, and provides in-kind assistance through supervision and assistance to the community awareness effort.
- This application to the Department of Justice is due August 12, 2014.
- If the city's application is successful, the award documents and conditions will be reviewed by City Attorney and City Council prior to acceptance.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- Safer Tomorrows project, one page description



safer tomorrows

OUR KIDS. OUR COMMUNITY. OUR FUTURE.

Safer Tomorrows is one of four projects in the nation to be awarded a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Defending Childhood Initiative to address child exposure to all forms of violence in Grand Forks County. More than 40 organizations, public and private, urban and rural, secular and faith based, are collaborating to make children's lives safer. The project focuses on the three key areas below. To find out more, contact our website at www.safertomorrow.com or Julie C. at the Community Violence Intervention Center at 746-0405.

ENDING CHILDHOOD EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE

Bullying • Dating Violence • Sexual Assault • Stalking • Exposure to Domestic Violence • Child Maltreatment

PREVENTION

Raise awareness among all citizens

of violence, develop social norms promoting healthy relationships, and offer services that encourage healing

Educate every child in K-12 schools in county

and children ages 3-5 in Head Start and childcare programs about how to prevent violence and engage in positive and healthy relationships

Coach boys into men

by teaching boys in sports programs that violence never equals strength

Expand home visiting

that prevents child maltreatment to rural and other areas

INTERVENTION

Enhance specialized therapy for children

impacted by sexual assault, dating violence, bullying, violence at home, and other abuse to help them overcome the trauma

Expand restorative justice at schools

to reduce bullying and repair the harm caused by hurtful behavior

Improve responses

of professionals by initiating cross-agency screening and referrals, interdisciplinary and rural coalitions to coordinate services, training on best practices, an interpreter resource list and other efforts

DATA

Increase our understanding

of the ways local children are impacted by exposure to violence by establishing a system to collect and analyze data on all forms of childhood exposure to violence

Enhance and evaluate our response

by using data to inform our efforts to improve our systemic response to child victims, and to increase awareness of local violence

**DEFENDING
CHILDHOOD**
PROTECT HEAL THRIVE

This project was supported by Grant No. 2011-MU-MU-K004 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the DOJ.

www.safertomorrow.com