

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JASON CARTER, VIOLENCE PREVENTION MANAGER
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT
SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A 2021 EARLY RELATIONAL
HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO FIRST 5 OF
SONOMA COUNTY AND COMMITTING ANY NECESSARY
MATCHING FUNDS

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Community Engagement Office, that the Council, by resolution, authorize 1) the submission of the Early Relational Health Grant proposal to First 5 of Sonoma County in the amount of \$708,810 for the award period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025, to support the Violence Prevention Partnership's Guiding People Successfully Program; 2) the City Manager or his designee to file any necessary applications, execute any contracts and/or related documents subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney; and 3) local match under the grant agreement in the form of in-kind contributions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff requests authorization to submit a grant application to First 5 of Sonoma County (First 5) 2021 Early Relational Health Grant Program. The Santa Rosa Violence Prevention Partnership (The Partnership) seeks to continue the Guiding People Successfully (GPS) Referral Component by connecting high-risk young parents of children ages 0 – 3 years old with wraparound services.

The Early Relational Health Program directly fulfills Council Goal Six, provide for community safety, valued City services and open government. First 5 Sonoma County's Early Relational Health funding will serve to intentionally expand the existing GPS target populations and services to include pregnant and/or parenting participants with children ages 0-3, who possess two or more risk factors, such as, but not limited to: residing in high-need areas, low-income, justice-involved, pregnant and/or parenting minors. This grant will fund The Partnership's Wraparound Coordinator, evaluation services, as well as an emergency sponsorship program to support clients financially impacted by COVID-19.

BACKGROUND

The Partnership's Guiding People Successfully (GPS) Referral Program is a multi-disciplinary effort that coordinates trauma-informed wraparound services, utilizing evidence-based practices such as Wraparound Case Management, Motivational Interviewing, Help Me Grow and System Navigation, to strengthen families and address disparities in accessing resources. The Wraparound Coordinator conducts a coordinated intake of referrals and routes them to the Multi-Disciplinary Assessment & Referral Team (MDART) for in-depth case management and enrollment of participants in in-kind services that are tracked through Apricot's data sharing software.

Early Relational Health is a strategic initiative adopted by the First 5 Commission in October 2020 as part of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan was created to develop goals, guide priorities and fiscal planning for fiscal years 2021-2025. Strategic Goal One, Early Relational Health, highlights the value of healthy early childhood experiences and, "...interactions between infants and their caregivers in approximately the first 1000 days, from pregnancy through age two. These interactions and experiences build the foundation for health, learning, and social well-being. The concept builds on interdisciplinary research and practices from early childhood development, social-emotional development, infant health, parent-infant observations, neurodevelopment, interpersonal neurobiology, resilience, and trauma.

Total funding for the 2021 Early Relational Health strategic initiative is \$3,500,000 over the course of the grant term, July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025. These funds will, "...leverage declining Proposition 10, the California Children and Families Act, funding to the maximum degree possible by partnering with other public agencies" and associated providers to provide sustainable funding for maternal and child health and mental health services.

As part of the Request for Proposals (RFP) process these funds must deliver services in underserved areas to young parents of children 0-3 years old to increase equity and healthy early childhood experiences. First 5 Sonoma County's Early Relational Health funding will serve to intentionally expand the existing GPS target populations and services to include pregnant and/or parenting participants with children ages 0-3, who possess two or more risk factors, such as, but not limited to: residing in high-need areas, low-income, justice-involved, pregnant and/or parenting minors.

Grant award recipients are required to submit quarterly progress reports to First 5, a critical element in First 5's monitoring and oversight process. Grantees who are unable to demonstrate that they are making sufficient progress toward project goals and objectives and that funds are being spent in accordance with the Grant Agreement could be subject to the withholding of funds. In addition to quarterly progress reports, projects selected for funding will be required to submit to First 5 an evaluation plan demonstrating intended outcomes.

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As discussed in more detail below, should the City be successful with its application, The Partnership is considering a contracting with Upstream Investments, a current evaluator of the CHOICE Grant Program, to meet all evaluation and reporting requirements.

ANALYSIS

The Santa Rosa Violence Prevention Partnership of the Community Development & Engagement Portfolio seeks authorization to submit a grant proposal in response to the First 5 2021 Early Relational Health Request for Proposals, for \$708,810 for the period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025 to continue the Guiding People Successfully (GPS) Referral Component.

Through previous Board of State and Community Corrections funding, The Partnership's GPS Referral Component introduced an integrated Positive Youth Justice (PYJ) developmental framework and three additional evidence-based programs (e.g. *Tackling Tough Skills*™ provided by Social Advocates for Youth, *Motivational Interviewing* provided by the City of Santa Rosa, and *El Puente* provided by Lifeworks of Sonoma County). The Partnership also instituted wraparound service delivery, case management, work readiness, and a Multi-Disciplinary Assessment & Referral Team (MDART).

GPS is in its fifth year and is established as a successful program with five main components; a referral-based system that intakes from an at-risk target population; bilingual coordinated intake conducted by Wraparound Coordinator to check for risk and resiliency factors and provide System Navigation and a warm line access to resources; evidence based practices including Wraparound Case Management, Motivational Interviewing, and System Navigation to reduce barriers and increase access to resources; In-Kind services and Wraparound Case Management provided by a multi-disciplinary team of over 12 providers; data collection and evaluation in Partnership with Sonoma County Upstream Investments and the data sharing software Apricot.

The Guiding People Successfully (GPS) program proposes to receive at least 120 referrals that meet the outlined target population over the course of four years. 100% or 120 referrals will receive System Navigation Support and warm-line access to resources. Over 85% or 105 participants will receive Wraparound Case Management and free in-kind services provided by CHOICE funded and MDART partners. GPS participants will receive at least 4,000 in-kind services over the course of four years. 100% of pregnant/parenting participants with children ages 0-3 will be eligible to apply for a one-time COVID-19 Emergency Grant Sponsorship of up to \$250 to help address the burden of the pandemic and increase equity for those most in need.

As part of the First 5 Early Relational Health Grant Program requirements, the City plans to consider partnering with the Sonoma County Department of Health Services Upstream Investments (Upstream Investments) over the course of the four-year term of the grant. Upstream Investments is currently providing evaluation and reporting services

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for the CHOICE Cycle X Grant Program. Staff anticipates a budget of approximately \$175,000 for such an agreement. If the City proceeds with such a contract, an agreement with Upstream Investments may require a waiver of competitive bid requirements and likely Council approval as well.

The First 5 2021 Early Relational Health Grant Program requires that applicants provide a 10 percent match, totaling \$708,810 over a four-year total, which may be met through cash or in-kind contributions, consisting of the following proposed sources of matching funds:

- Existing (2004) Measure O-funded staff time from The Partnership to assist the contracted evaluator with evaluation, reporting, processing payments and participating in multi-disciplinary meetings.
- Measure O CHOICE Cycle X Funded Agencies participating and collaborating with the referral network of the proposed GPS Referral Component.

The Partnership is seeking First 5 funding to strategically align the two initiatives in order to have the greatest impact on the most lives in the County's biggest city and beyond by moving the needle for Early Relational Health indicators and upstream violence prevention by creating strong families and safe and healthy youth and children.

FISCAL IMPACT

Council approval does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund or (2004) Measure O sales tax.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution

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CONTACT

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