

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JASON CARTER, PROGRAM MANAGER
SERENA LIENAU, PROGRAM ANALYST
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SUBJECT: MEASURE O CYCLE VIII CHOICE GRANT PROGRAM
EXTENSION

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Office of Community Engagement that the Council, by resolution: 1) extend the term for Cycle VIII of the CHOICE grant program from September 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 to allow time for completion of the new Santa Rosa Violence Prevention Partnership's Strategic Plan for the period of 2017-2022 and approve the corresponding increase in funding, and 2) authorize the City Manager or designee to approve and execute the amendments with CHOICE Cycle VIII funded agencies, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Measure O Community Helping Our Indispensable Children Excel (CHOICE) Grant Program, administered by the Office of Community Engagement's the Violence Prevention Partnership (The Partnership), provides grant funding to community organizations to deliver youth and parenting programs that focus on gang and anti-violence education, prevention and intervention, community safety, and a comprehensive array of social services in high need neighborhoods as identified in the Community Safety Scorecard. The extensions are recommended to allow The Partnership to complete its strategic planning process before opening the next Cycle of the CHOICE Grant Program to assure that the grant requirements align with the objectives of the new strategic plan. Staff is seeking approval to extend the term of the current CHOICE Grants from September 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. The efforts of The Partnership and CHOICE Grant Program fulfill City Council's goal of improving partnerships between neighborhoods, community organizations and the City to support and promote thriving diverse neighborhoods.

BACKGROUND

Measure O provides funding for crucial youth development programs and other activities designed to address the community's youth and gang violence prevention and intervention needs, including funding of The Partnership which administers the CHOICE grant program. The Partnership is a collaborative effort involving over 50 organizations, including government, local community-based organizations, schools, the faith community, businesses, and law enforcement.

Every two years, staff conducts a comprehensive community needs assessment to determine the funding priorities for the CHOICE Grant Program. On May 22, 2015 the City of Santa Rosa released the CHOICE Cycle VIII Request For Qualifications (RFQ) to identify school districts and community-based organizations qualified to provide youth and gang violence prevention and intervention services in three funding priority areas.

1. Life Skills/Cognitive Development
2. Family-Based Services
3. Outreach, Mediation, and Intervention

The City received 18 RFQ applications from 14 agencies. The RFQ included the criteria against which proposals were evaluated. A complete copy of the RFQ can be found at www.srcity.org/thepartnership. City Council approved funding for 10 programs represented by nine agencies; staff entered into Agreements with eight agencies and nine programs for a total of \$615,965. The ninth agency withdrew due its dissolution, resulting in a revised total of \$603,908 in funding for Cycle VIII which is scheduled to be completed on August 31, 2017.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

On August 18, 2015, per Resolution #28680, City Council approved the Grant Review Team's funding recommendations for Cycle VIII CHOICE Grant Program funding for fiscal years 2015-17.

ANALYSIS

1. In December 2016, The Partnership undertook a new strategic planning process for 2017-2022 after completing two successful strategic plans from 2008-2012 and 2012-2016. This process has included a comprehensive community needs assessment to determine key strategies aimed at achieving performance-based outcomes. To direct funding resources towards the objectives included in the new strategic plan, staff has postponed the release of the Cycle IX CHOICE Grant Program RFQ until the new strategic plan is adopted by The Partnership's Policy Team.

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2. The RFQ is tentatively scheduled to be released in September 2017 and is contingent upon the adoption of the strategic plan by the Policy Team and acceptance by City Council. Funding for the Cycle IX CHOICE Grant Program is scheduled to begin January 1, 2018 and conclude December 31, 2019, with subsequent Cycles continuing every two calendar years thereafter.
3. The Cycle VIII CHOICE Grant Program is currently scheduled to end August 31, 2017. Staff has had preliminary discussions with each Cycle VIII funded agency to determine amended scopes of work and funding to extend services through December 31, 2017 (See Attachment 1 for proposed funding for the contract extensions).
4. The CHOICE Grant Program is funded by Measure O (\$551,500) and General Fund (\$193,076) for a total of \$744,576 for FY 17-18. Proposed funding for the extension of Cycle VIII through December 31, 2017 totals \$201,450.
5. If funding for the extended term is denied, there will be a break in critical services for youth and families until the Cycle IX CHOICE Grant Program begins January 1, 2018.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this action does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund or Measure O.

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 Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On April 27, 2017, staff briefed the Measure O Citizen's Oversight Committee about this recommended strategy aimed at aligning the Cycle IX CHOICE Grant Program with the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan.

NOTIFICATION

Staff notified The Partnership's Policy and Operational Teams, and included a notice of the postponement on The Partnership's website (www.srcity.org/ThePartnership).

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution
- Exhibit A – Cycle VIII Funding Extensions
- Exhibit B – Funding Agreement Amendment Template

CONTACT

Serena Lienau
Program Analyst
707-543-3457
slienau@srcity.org