

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: GRANT RENEWAL SUBMISSION TO THE VIRGINIA TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE TOBACCO PREVENTION PROGRAMMING IN PRESCHOOLS

ISSUE: Alexandria Community Services Board (CSB) application for grant renewal funds from the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation (VTSF) to continue existing tobacco prevention programming in Alexandria preschools through the CSB Preschool Prevention Team.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize:

- (1) the submission of the grant renewal application to VTSF, in the amount of \$70,565, to continue services to 275 children aged 3-5 years, to include providing parenting workshops, monitoring the implementation of *Al's Pals*, a science-based prevention program delivered by 20 trained preschool teachers, and providing consultation to parents and teachers regarding child behavior problems; and
- (2) the continuation of a full-time bilingual Therapist II (1.0 FTE) in the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse.

BACKGROUND: The VTSF was created in 1999 by the General Assembly to distribute monies from the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Fund for the purpose of restricting the use of tobacco products by minors. Renewal grants may be awarded to local organizations and agencies who received grants last year to provide tobacco use prevention programs for children. In FY 2005, the CSB received a grant from VTSF in the amount of \$70,565, which was used to build capacity by adding a bilingual Therapist II (1.0 FTE) to the Preschool Prevention Team to provide evidence-based prevention programming in preschools, training and consultation to parents and teachers, and mental health promotion activities to children aged 3-5. Currently, the CSB's Preschool Prevention Team is implementing *Al's Pals* in 23 classrooms reaching 275 children. *Al's Pals* is a nationally recognized, resiliency-based early childhood prevention program, designed to reduce future substance abuse by developing personal, social and emotional skills in children.

VTSF renewal awards will be for level funding from year one for a twelve-month period. The proposal cannot exceed \$70,565.

DISCUSSION: This grant, if awarded, will support 1.0 bilingual Therapist II (1.0 FTE) to continue to implement *Al's Pals*, provide training and consultation to teachers and parents, and provide mental health support to children aged 3-5 years. The grant application is competitive and is due on March 29, 2005.

The services that would be provided through this grant are consistent with City Council's Strategic Plan, and with City Council's Youth Policy, which emphasizes prevention and activities that are supportive of families. In addition, the recently completed Community Health Assessment identified tobacco use as a major health risk in Alexandria.

FISCAL IMPACT: The grant proposal is for \$70,565, which is the maximum allowed through this renewal process. The required match for this proposal is 10% in-kind, which is identified in MH/MR/SA's operating budget using budgeted salary and fringe benefit costs for existing prevention and program management staff. It should be noted that there are no monies in the City budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended. At the end of the grant period, the position will be eliminated.

ATTACHMENT: None

STAFF:

Michael Gilmore, Ph.D., Director, MH/MR/SA
Deborah Warren, Director of Prevention & Training, MH/MR/SA
Sandy Murphy, Budget Analyst, OMB