

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE OFFICE ON WOMEN TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES HEALTHY MARRIAGE AND STABLE FAMILIES INITIATIVE

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application submission by the Office on Women in the amount of \$22,300 to the Virginia Department of Social Services Healthy Marriage and Stable Families initiative.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the submission of the grant application to the Department of Social Services (DSS) for funding in the amount of \$22,300 that would result in funding for a part-time position for the Office on Women;
- (2) Approve the acquisition of one part-time Outreach and Prevention Specialist for the Office on Women. This grant-funded position would terminate upon the expiration of the grant and the individual who fills this position would be notified of this condition of employment at the time that they are hired, and would sign an agreement of understanding with regard to this condition; and
- (3) Authorize the City Manager to execute all documents that may be required.

The grant application is due on October 16, 2006, so staff submitted the grant application contingent upon City Council approval at its next Council meeting on October 24, 2005.

BACKGROUND: These grant funds are made available through the Department of Social Services and are allocated for projects designed to promote healthy marriages and stable families, including working with youth to educate young people on healthy relationships. This proposal is for a one-year funding period with the possibility of more funds becoming available in the future years. Ten to twenty awards will be made between \$10,000 and \$22,500.

This grant application requests funding for one part-time Outreach and Prevention Specialist to educate the youth in Alexandria on how to develop and maintain healthy, violence-free relationships.

DISCUSSION: Intimate partner violence remains a pervasive and severely under-reported crime in the United States. Research shows that intimate partner violence is cyclical, meaning that abuse in the family may continue in future generations. Abusive behavior is learned and therefore can be prevented. In order to engender healthy and violence free relationships among the youth and the entire community in Alexandria, it is essential that thoughtful, well-researched, age-appropriate education be offered.

FISCAL IMPACT: The budget for this one-year grant is \$22,300 with no matching funds required. Since the City does contribute to this project, the matching funds are listed in the amount of \$22,145. If awarded, the grant period will be a one-year period from November 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007.

The City is responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant, including financial and reporting oversight provided by the administering agency, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Finance Department. It should be noted that there are no monies available in the City budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended. The grant-funded position would terminate upon the expiration of the grant and the individual who fills the position would be notified of this condition of employment.

STAFF:

Lisa Baker, Director, Office on Women
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