


City of Alexandria, Virginia
MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 4, 2009
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 
SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT APPLICATION TO THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

ISSUE: Authorization of grant application to the Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) to enhance sexual and domestic violence services for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning/queer, and intersex community (LGBTQI).

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the grant application to the Family and Children's Trust Fund in the amount of \$10,000; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.

BACKGROUND: Office on Women staff first learned about this funding on Wednesday, January 21 and the application was due on Tuesday, February 3. The application was submitted by the deadline and is contingent upon Council approval at its Tuesday, February 10 legislative meeting.

In calendar years 2007 and 2008, the Office on Women was awarded a grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services to enhance existing programs to become more sensitive to the particular needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender population so that victims from this community will receive informed and respectful treatment and feel more comfortable in reaching out for services. Accomplishments include:

- Development of an eight member Advisory Board comprised of City agencies and residents which met bimonthly to direct and provide guidance to staff.
- OOW brochures, mission statements and website were revised. New materials have been distributed City-wide at health and community fairs and civic association meetings. A podcast was taped and is available through the website.
- Volunteer manuals for the sexual assault and domestic violence programs were revised. Eighty new volunteers have been trained with new material.

- The Expect Respect curriculum used in the City's Schools to teach youth about healthy relationships was revised and has been presented to 200 youth to date.
- Training to more than 1,000 allied professionals was completed.
- The "Greg Louganis" community event was attended by 250 community members and a silent auction raised over \$4,000 to support the work of the project.

DISCUSSION: The grant from DCJS ended on December 31, 2008. However, there has been a request for added staff training for the Alexandria Police Department, Sheriff's Office, Community Services Board, Fire Department and City Schools.

Data from sexual and domestic violence surveys suggest that women and men who identify as LGBTQI suffer sexual and domestic violence proportionally as much as the heterosexual population. Same-sex partners face unique forms of emotional abuse by partners who can use the social marginalization and invisibility of gays and lesbians to increase the victim's isolation.

The Alexandria Office on Women's sexual and domestic violence programs are seeking funds to continue the work of the existing part-time Health and Community Education Specialist (HCS) for one year to complete the training of allied professionals which will enhance services to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning/Queer, Intersex (LGBTQI) community in the City of Alexandria.

The Alexandria Office on Women has submitted this grant application to the Family and Children's Trust Fund to meet the deadline of February 3, 2009, pending City Council authorization on February 10.

FISCAL IMPACT: Receipt of up to \$10,000 for a period of one year. No City match is required. The program will end when the funds are expended and no additional City funds will be needed to continue the program.

STAFF:

Lisa Baker, Director, Office on Women

Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager

Claire Dunn, Crisis Intervention and Advocacy Services Coordinator, Office on Women

Erika Kleiner Callaway, LGBTQ Project Coordinator, Office on Women