

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** MAY 19, 2010

**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

**SUBJECT:** GRANT APPLICATION FOR TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION FUNDING TIER 1 TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES' OFFICE OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH FOR THE ALEXANDRIA CAMPAIGN ON ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY

**ISSUE:** Consideration of a five year grant application in response to the Funding Announcement: Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Replicating Evidence Based Programs (Tier 1), to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Adolescent Health, in the amount of \$421,678.26 (annually) for the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP).

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Approve the submission of a five year grant application to the Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) for funding in the amount of \$421,678.26 (annually) that would result in the funding of three positions to coordinate and execute the Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Replication of Evidence-based Programs (Tier 1) grant;
- (2) Approve the hiring of one Coordinator Community Services Program II and two Community Education Specialists for ACAP. These grant-funded positions would terminate upon the expiration of the grant. The individuals who fill these positions will be notified of this condition of employment at the time they are hired. They will be required to sign an agreement of understanding with regard to this condition. **It should be noted that there are no funds available in the City budget to continue these activities once the grant funds expire;** and
- (3) Authorize the City Manager to execute all documents that may be required prior to the grant application due date of June 1, 2010.

## **BACKGROUND:**

- These new grant funds are made available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Adolescent Health to support medically accurate and age appropriate programs that reduce teenage pregnancy. Under this announcement, a total of \$75,000,000 is available nationally on a competitive basis for the purpose of replicating evidence-based programs that have been proven through rigorous evaluation to reduce teen pregnancy, behavioral risks underlying teen pregnancy, or other associated risk factors. OAH encourages organizations whose collaborative efforts have previously show success in teen pregnancy prevention initiatives to apply. The Funding Opportunity Announcement is for a five year funding period – FY11 through FY15.
- ACAP is a collaboration between City agencies, community based organizations and interested residents who have together, since 1996, reduced the teen pregnancy rate by 31%. Members include the Alexandria Health Department, Alexandria City Public Schools, Alexandria Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs, Alexandria Department of Human Services, Alexandria Community Services Board, Community Lodgings, Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry, National Coalition of STD Directors, Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan DC, The Campagna Center, Healthy Families Alexandria, K.I. Services, Save our Sons and Daughters Inc, Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria, Alexandria Court Services Unit, INOVA Alexandria, Northern Virginia Urban League, and Stop Child Abuse Now.
- ACAP has consulted with all other City agencies that work with Alexandria youth and has acquired their full support and assistance in applying for this grant as well as their ongoing alliance if the grant is awarded to ACAP.

## **DISCUSSION:**

- Alexandria has the third highest rate of pregnancy in girls ages 10-19 in the 8<sup>th</sup> Planning District and one of the highest in the State of Virginia. Although the City has made significant progress in reducing teen pregnancy, there is still much work to be done. Teen pregnancy can derail the futures of our youth, and teen mothers are more likely to drop out of school, remain unmarried, and live in poverty. Research studies have found that children of teen mothers are more likely to be born at low birth weight, live in poverty, live in single-parent households and enter the child welfare system. The daughters of teen mothers are more likely to be teen mothers themselves. The sons of teen mothers are more likely to be incarcerated.
- This grant application falls in line with both the City Council Strategic Plan (Goal 4) and the ACPS School Board Strategic Plan (Goal 1 and 2).
- Since 1993, the Alexandria Health Department (AHD) has received grant funds from the Virginia Department of Health to provide teen pregnancy prevention programming. In this coming fiscal year, the Alexandria Health Department's Teen Pregnancy Prevention funding will be reduced by 50%, from \$130,000 to \$65,000. This will result in no AHD after-school

evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs in the City. If awarded the OAH grant, ACAP would be able to provide programming that would exceed current levels.

- This grant would provide evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programming to Alexandria youth aged 10-19. One Coordinator/Community Services Program II and two Community Education Specialists will facilitate approximately 10-15 different clubs, serving approximately 200-300 youth in a variety of settings to include but not limited to after-school programs at schools, recreation centers, apartment buildings and non-profit organizations.
- Staff associated with this grant would be housed in the new department comprised of the Department of Human Services, Mental Health/Mental Retardation/Substance Abuse, and the Office on Women. Vacant offices have been identified and staff will be located at one of three locations - 2525 Mt. Vernon Ave, 421 King St Suite 400, or 720 N. St. Asaph Street. A significant portion of their time will be spent in the community facilitating groups and conducting outreach.
- ACAP has selected the Teen Outreach Program (TOP) from the list of approved evidence based programs provided by OAH. TOP is a youth development program that engages teens in curriculum guided discussion and community service throughout the school year. Rigorous evaluations of TOP have shown great outcomes: 52% reduction in suspension, 60% reduction in course failure, 53% reduction in teen pregnancy rates, and 60% reduction in school dropout rates.
- As part of the OAH grant, ACAP will also partner with Northern Virginia Aids Ministry (NOVAM) and Capital Youth Empowerment Program, Inc (CYEP) to provide teen pregnancy prevention programming to African America girls ages 14-18 and males, respectively. NOVAM is presently using one of the OAH approved teen pregnancy prevention curricula, SiHLE, and CYEP will be using the Teen Outreach Program (TOP). This would allow NOVAM and CYEP to reach approximately 100 to 200 additional Alexandria youth, bringing the total number of youth served to 300-500.
- Other partners who have agreed to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) include the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Alexandria City Public Schools, Homes for America (Brent Place), and Community Lodgings.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The FY2011 budget for this grant is \$421,678.26 with no matching funds required. The funding consists of the following:

- City Personnel - \$229,357.26
- City Non-Personnel - \$107,420
  - TOP membership (required for replication)
  - Travel (local)
  - Youth Incentives
  - Community Service project expenses
  - Supplies – laptops, cell phones, office supplies
  - Printing and copying
  - Translation services

- Postal
- Recruiting materials
- Special events (i.e. graduation of TOP members)
- NOVAM - \$22,501
- CYEP - \$62,400

The City is responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant. These costs include financial and reporting oversight provided by the administering agency, the Office of Management and Budget and the Finance Department.

There will be no fiscal impact to the City's General Fund as a result of this grant being awarded. 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 positions would terminate upon the expiration of the grant and the individuals who fill the positions would be notified of this condition of employment. Future increases in personnel costs during the 5 year duration of the grant would have to be absorbed within the grant itself to avoid any impact on other General Fund programs and activities.

**GRANT PERIOD:** October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2015.

**ATTACHMENTS:** none

**STAFF:**

Debra Collins, Assistant City Manager  
 Lisa Baker, Director, Office on Women  
 Bruce Johnson, Director, OMB  
 Ryan Touhill, Budget Analyst, OMB  
 James Spengler, Director, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
 Cathy David, Deputy Superintendent, ACPS

**NON-CITY STAFF:**

Carol Jameson, CEO, NOVAM  
 Erik King, President and CEO, CYEP  
 Bonnie Baxley, Executive Director, Community Lodgings  
 Doug Smith, Chief Asset Manager, Homes for America

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**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Adolescent Health (OAH)**

GRANT TITLE	GRANT PURPOSE	GRANT PROJECT	STAFFING	FUNDS REQUESTED	BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS
<b>Tier 1:</b> Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Replicating Evidence-Based Programs	These grants are made available for the purpose of replicating evidence-based programs that have been proven through rigorous evaluation to reduce teen pregnancy, behavioral risks underlying teen pregnancy, or other associated risks.	Implementation of two community-based, multi-session teen pregnancy prevention programs: the Teen Outreach Program and SiHLE, at multiple locations across the City focusing on 12-18 year-old youth.	1 Coordinator/Community Services Program II  2 Health and Community Education Specialist  Total FTE-3	\$ 421,678.26 annually for five years.	<u>City Personnel</u> - \$229,357.26  <u>City Non-Personnel</u> - \$107,420 ~TOP membership (required for replication) ~Travel (local) ~Youth incentives ~Community service project expenses ~Supplies – laptops, cell phones, office supplies ~National conference and training ~Printing and copying ~Translation services ~Postal ~Recruiting materials ~Special events (i.e. graduation of TOP members)  <u>Partners</u> - NOVAM - \$22,501 CYEP - \$62,400

GRANT TITLE	GRANT PURPOSE	GRANT PROJECT	STAFFING	FUNDS REQUESTED	BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS
<p><b>Tier 2 :</b>            Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Research and Demonstration Programs</p>	<p>These grants are made available to implement and test <i>new and innovative</i> youth pregnancy prevention strategies which are medically accurate and age appropriate for priority populations that are high risk, vulnerable and/or culturally underrepresented and have the highest teen pregnancy rate.</p>	<p>Implementation of a social norms marketing campaign targeted at 18-19 females and Latina youth. Conduct focus groups and surveys with target population to inform the social norms campaign. Independent evaluation will be conducted to assess effectiveness.</p>	<p>1 Coordinator/Community Services Program II             1 Health and Community Education Specialist             1 Bilingual Public Health Nurse             Total FTE-3</p>	<p>\$514,872.43 annually for five years.</p>	<p><u>City Personnel</u> - \$249,752.43   <u>City Non-Personnel</u> - \$85,120            ~Supplies – laptops, cell phones, office supplies            ~Promotional Items            ~Media/Advertising            ~Printing and Mailing            ~Travel (local)            ~National Conference and Training            ~Translation services   <u>Independent Evaluator</u> (required by grant) – \$100,000   <u>Graphic Designer</u> - \$30,000   <u>Research Group</u> (focus groups) - \$50,000</p>

**Additional important information:**

ACAP identified 2 programs from a list of 28 evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs that would be most ideal for Alexandria. The selection was based on program evaluation results, appropriate geographic setting, population most impacted, implementation setting (i.e. community based, in school, clinic), and curricula and training readily available (required by grant).

The Teen Outreach Program was chosen because of the following:

- Effective at reducing teen pregnancy and other risky behaviors (substance abuse, violence)
- Demonstrated a reduction in school suspensions and course failure rates and has observed a reduction in school dropout rates (aligns with City and school strategic goals)
- Effective in urban setting with Latino, Caucasian, and African American males and females ages 12-17 years old
- Can be conducted in-school, after-school or at community based organizations
- Youth development model with service learning component
- Curriculum and training available
- Chosen by the Alexandria Health Department to be implemented in 2009-2010 school year but funding was decreased making it impossible.

SiHLE - Sisters Informing Healing Living and Empowering Program – was chosen because of the following:

- Evaluation results: adolescents participating in the intervention were significantly less likely to report having a pregnancy and significantly more likely to report consistent condom use
- Proven effective in urban, low-income settings with African American females ages 14-18
- Approximately 40% of Alexandria's school-age youth are African American
- In 2008, the teen pregnancy rate in African American females ages 10-19 was 62.4/1000 compared to an overall rate of 43.2/1000. African American females remain at high risk of contracting HIV, STIs (sexually transmitted infection) and becoming pregnant. Within Virginia, African American females are 21% more likely to contract HIV than white females.
- Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry is certified to conduct SiHLE and has experience implementing in Alexandria at recreation centers and places of worship.

For Tier 1 funding, there were four ranges put forth by the OAH:

- Range A: \$400,000 to \$600,000 per year
- Range B: \$600,00 to \$1,000,000 per year
- Range C: \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 per year
- Range D: \$1,500,000 to \$4,000,000 per year

For tier 2 funding, there were two ranges of funding put forth by the OAH:

- Range A: \$400,000 to \$600,000 per year
- Range B: \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 per year