

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 21, 2012

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER *RM*

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION GRANT

ISSUE: Consideration of a grant application submitted in response to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Request for Proposal (RFP) #CDC-RFA-DP11-1103PPHF11 to the Public Prevention Health Fund: Community Transformation Grant.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the submission of the grant application (due July 31); and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.

BACKGROUND: On May 31, 2012, HHS released a RFP for two-year grants to fund communities with populations of less than 500,000 to increase opportunities for people to make healthful choices and improve health. The Community Transformation Grants (CTG) are part of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 to provide funding for municipalities “to implement a variety of programs, policies, and, as appropriate, infrastructure improvements to promote healthy lifestyles.” The average award is estimated to be in the range of \$2.5 million for two years, commensurate with intervention population size, the scale, comprehensiveness and complexity of the interventions to be implemented, and the number of CTG outcomes to be addressed.

DISCUSSION: The CTG grant provides an ideal opportunity to build on work that the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA), the Alexandria Health Department (AHD), the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria and other community partners have been doing to promote healthy lifestyles for the last several years. The partners propose collaborating across departments and community organizations to address three priority areas in the CTG Program: (1) tobacco-free living; (2) active living and healthy eating; and (3) healthy and safe physical environments.

The CTG RFP represents a strategic opportunity to secure additional funding for the City of Alexandria to make an important investment in its obesity prevention and respiratory health

efforts. With Council's approval, RPCA, in collaboration with the AHD, will apply for up to \$2 million in funding for over two years. If the application is successful, the funding will be used to hire several additional support staff to implement initiatives designed to address the three priority CTG areas; the balance of the funding will be used toward operational and infrastructure expenses. It is understood that City funding will not be available to maintain any positions at the end of the two-year grant cycle.

FISCAL IMPACT: If awarded, the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA) will receive up to \$2 million over two years and will serve as the fiscal agent for all funds received. AHD and the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria will support RPCA in implementing the grant. Grant funding is on a reimbursable basis and requires no City matching funds. It is understood that City funding will not be available to maintain any positions at the end of the two-year grant cycle.

STAFF:

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