

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM:  BRUCE JOHNSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: A RENEWAL GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR HEALTHY YOUTH TO CONTINUE A TOBACCO PREVENTION PROGRAM

ISSUE: Consideration of a renewal grant application to the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) to continue evidence-based prevention programming in preschools, training and consultation for parents and teachers; and mental health support to at-risk children ages 3 - 5.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

1. Approve the submission of a grant application to the VFHY, in the amount of \$60,000 each year for three years for a total of \$180,000, due October 21, 2011; and
2. Authorize the Acting City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation (VTSF) was created in 1999, by the General Assembly, and is a division of the VFHY. The VTSF's function is to distribute funds from the VTSF for the purpose of restricting the use of tobacco products by minors, and to support youth tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

Since FY 2005, the Alexandria Community Services Board (CSB) has received four consecutive grants from the VTSF to provide evidence-based prevention programming in preschools, training and consultation to parents and teachers, and mental health support to at-risk children aged 3 - 5. The funding made it possible to hire a part-time Therapist (0.5 FTE) on the Preschool Prevention Team (PPT) and implement *Al's Pals*, a science-based program designed to increase social skills and decrease problem behavior.

In FY 2012, PPT expects that a minimum of 500 children will complete the *Al's Pals* program in 40 classrooms. Grant objectives for increasing social skills and decreasing problem behaviors have been exceeded every year, and the PPT has consistently managed all grant responsibilities with diligence, efficiency and effectiveness.

DISCUSSION: The proposal requires the implementation of a science-based prevention program listed on the VFHY Compendium of Tobacco Use Programs for Youth. The PPT prevention staff will continue to implement *Al's Pals* in preschool classrooms that serve the highest ratio of at-risk children, including Alexandria Head Start (AHS). One half-time Therapist (0.5 FTE) will continue supporting the PPT to monitor implementation, facilitate groups, provide education and behavioral consultation to parents and teachers, and provide supportive early intervention services as needed.

FISCAL IMPACT: The contract will be for \$60,000 annually for a total of \$180,000 over a three-year period. The funding is to be used by June 30, 2015. No City match is required.

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