


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 1, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO IMPLEMENT PROJECT CONNECT AS PART OF THE ALEXANDRIA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

ISSUE: City Council authorization to accept \$15,000 in funding from the Virginia Department of Health for the Domestic Violence Program to pilot shelter-based health services from January 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Accept the funding in the amount of \$15,000; and,
- (2) Execute all documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: *Project Connect: A Coordinated Public Health Initiative to Prevent Violence against Women* is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is a ground-breaking violence-prevention program designed to improve the health and safety of women and children. Virginia is one of nine states chosen to participate. The Alexandria Domestic Violence Program was contacted by the Virginia Department of Health and asked to participate as the urban pilot site. The Haven shelter program in the Northern Neck has been selected as the rural pilot site.

DISCUSSION: A Project Connect Coordinator will be hired as a contract employee, 20 hours per week, from January 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011 to work on the goals and objectives of the project. Desired outcomes include:

- Improving shelter residents' access to health care services;
- Developing policies and protocols for identifying and improving health care for residents, to include incorporating evidence-informed health screening questions into intake forms;
- Establishing a plan for cross-training and collaboration between shelter staff and health care providers/institutions;
- Compiling and developing health care resources for staff and clients;
- Developing a plan for sustainability; and
- Documenting activities and outcomes for replication in other communities.

FISCAL IMPACT: The award amount is \$15,000 for salary and benefits (Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes only) for a 20 hour per week Project Connect Coordinator (\$12,610) and operating costs (\$2,390) such as regional travel, operating and office supplies. There is no match requirement and no additional City funds have been committed to continue the program.

STAFF:

Debra Collins, Assistant City Manager for Community and Human Services

Mike Gilmore, Director, Department of Community and Human Services

Deborah Warren, Deputy Director, Center for Children and Families, DCHS

Claire Dunn, Coordinator, Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Programs, DCHS

Kendel Taylor, Financial Management Coordinator, OMB