

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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6-11-02

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 30, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER ^{PS}

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION TOTALING \$114,373 TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE ON WOMEN'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a contract renewal for grant funding from the Virginia Department of Social Services, in the amount of \$114,373 for the Office on Women's Domestic Violence Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) submit the contract renewal to the Virginia Department of Social Services for funding in the amount of \$114,373;
- (2) approve the continued funding for the existing grant-funded, full-time Social Worker I position (1.00 FTE) and approve the continued funding for the existing grant-funded full-time Outreach/Prevention Specialist position (1.00 FTE). It should be noted that there are no monies available in the City budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended. These grant-funded positions would terminate upon the expiration of the grant and the individuals who fill these positions would be notified of this condition of employment; and
- (3) execute all documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: In FY 1993, the Office on Women requested funding from the Virginia Department of Social Services to conduct outreach and prevention activities for Spanish-speaking residents to address the problem of domestic violence in the City's Hispanic community. The City was awarded a grant of \$12,500 to hire a part-time (15 hours per week) Outreach Prevention Specialist to work with the Office on Women's Domestic Violence Program. In FY 1994, the grant was increased and the City received \$35,229 to continue these services; the existing part-time position was expanded to a full-time position. In FY 1995, the funding was reduced to \$29,223 which resulted in the reduction of the Outreach Prevention Specialist to a part-time (.75 FTE) position with the balance of the funds used for the administrative costs of the program (office supplies, printing, photocopying). The FY 1995

contract was continued in FY 1996 with an increase of 9 percent to \$32,010. The additional funds provided for a social worker/child specialist for six hours per week. In FY 1997, the grant was increased to \$55,000, which resulted in the Outreach Prevention Specialist position increasing to full-time, and the social worker/child specialist position increased to 10 hours per week.

In FY 1998, the grant funding increased substantially to \$85,501 to continue funding for the full-time Outreach Prevention Specialist and provide funding for a full-time Social Worker specifically for children's services. In FY 1999, grant funding increased to \$102,601 and that contract was continued in FY 2000 with an increase of 5% to \$107,423. In FY 2001 and 2002, the grant award was \$108,927. For FY 2003, contracts have been renewed and the award has increased to \$114,373.

DISCUSSION: As a result of ten year's continuous funding, the Office on Women has been able to provide on-going domestic violence program services targeted to the City's Hispanic residents. These services have included individual and group counseling to Hispanic victims of domestic violence and assistance through the court/legal systems in obtaining protective orders, prosecuting abusers and pursuing child custody. Through this program, the Office on Women has established a presence in the City's Spanish speaking communities which enables staff to coordinate services with existing Hispanic organizations. In FY 2001, 18% of the total hotline calls for crisis intervention and counseling were from Hispanic women. Twenty-five per cent of the shelter residents and 20% of outreach clients (non-residential) were Hispanic. Court accompaniment was provided to 176 Hispanic women; and educational presentations on domestic violence in Spanish were provided to more than 400 individuals in the community.

Additionally, the Domestic Violence Program's Outreach Prevention Specialist has assisted in providing all Office on Women services to the Hispanic community, translated all brochures and educational materials into Spanish and recruited and trained Spanish speaking volunteers who are on call 24 hours a day to serve as interpreters for the domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

Currently, this grant also provides funding for a full-time Social Worker I position to provide intervention and prevention services to children exposed to domestic violence in their homes. The impact of family violence produces serious and long-lasting effects on children. Domestic violence has severe psychological effects on children even when the children themselves are not being physically abused. Children who witness the abuse of their mother often feel fear, confusion, and helplessness. They learn that anger equals violence and violence is normal behavior. Children who come to the battered women's shelter with their mothers often exhibit low self-esteem, poor impulse control, a short attention span, and an inability to control anger.

In FY 2001, the Office on Women's Domestic Violence Program provided 737 individual counseling sessions to 133 children in the battered women's shelter and in the community; and, 48 group counseling sessions with 355 children attending.

The City's grant application requests funds to continue the current full-time Outreach Prevention Specialist position and the current full-time Social Worker I position in the amount of \$114,373 for salary and benefits. Additionally, the request includes \$9,522 in administrative costs associated with the program. The administrative costs include printing, photocopying, operating supplies, mileage for staff providing counseling in the community, and the cost of renting two pagers.

FISCAL IMPACT: To apply for this grant of \$114,373 the City must provide a match of \$28,593 in either in-kind services or a cash match. The City's match will be in the form of in-kind services to be provided by volunteer hours.

The Virginia Department of Social Services will provide a grant of \$114,373 for services to victims of domestic violence and their families for a total budget of \$142,966 (including the in-kind match of \$28,593).

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

ATTACHMENTS: None. The grant application may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal business hours.

STAFF:

Lisa Oviatt, Director, Office on Women
Claire Dunn, Coordinator, Domestic Violence Program
Paul Doku, Budget Analyst, OMB
Gene Swearingen, Director, OMB