


City of Alexandria, Virginia

2-26-08

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT APPLICATION TO AMERICA'S PROMISE
100 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUTH TO IMPLEMENT PREVENTION
INITIATIVES FOR YOUTH

ISSUE: City Council authorization of a grant application to America's Promise 100 Best Communities for Young People in the amount of \$45,000 to implement prevention initiatives for youth. The deadline for the grant application is February 27, 2008.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the grant application in the amount of \$45,000 for funding to implement prevention initiatives for youth using the America's Promise - The Alliance for Youth program model.
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: America's Promise - The Alliance for Youth made a total of \$300,000 available to the localities that submitted applications for the 100 Best Communities for Young People. The purpose of the grant is to assist the localities in delivering more of the Five Promises (*Caring Adults; Safe Places; A Healthy Start; Effective Education; and Opportunities to Help Others*) to more young people in 2008. Only communities that submitted a 100 Best application in Fall 2007 were eligible to apply for grants. The City of Alexandria's selection as one of the 2008 100 Best Communities for Young People made the City eligible to apply for funding through this grant.

DISCUSSION: The Alexandria Department of Human Services, Office of Youth Services proposes to implement the Alexandria Promise Plus Program. The program components include: (1) implementing an enhanced and expanded mentoring initiative that builds upon the current Mentoring Partnership Program; and (2) providing community service projects aimed at middle school age youth.

The application requests funds from America's Promise to subcontract with a Mentoring Partnership member agency, who would hire a part-time coordinator to recruit and train mentors for the member agencies and develop an intense mentoring program for at-risk youth, linking them to needed programs and services. Gang Coordinator Mike Mackey oversees the City's overall mentoring effort. Additionally, funds would be used to provide training stipends to high school youth to implement community service projects with middle school age youth. The application, which is due February 27, 2008, addresses two of the focus areas ideas identified by America's Promise grant application. The grant application was developed after seeking input from the Youth Policy Commission and City and Schools Staff Group to identify the proposed grant priorities.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact to the City's General Fund. The total grant budget is \$45,000, which covers the full cost to implement the proposed projects. There are no monies available in the City budget to continue this program once the grant funds are expended.

STAFF:

Debra R. Collins, Assistant City Manager for Community and Human Services

Bruce Johnson, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Ronald Frazier, Director of Youth Services, DHS