

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 1, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE AVON FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN FOR THE OFFICE ON WOMEN'S SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

ISSUE: City Council authorization to apply for grant funds from the Avon Foundation for Women for the Office on Women's Sexual and Domestic Violence Advocacy Programs, working in partnership with the Center for Alexandria's Children.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Authorize the submission of the grant application to the Avon Foundation for Women in a request for the funding of one staff position (.75 FTE) to coordinate the Empowerment Self-Sufficiency Program and deliver services; and
- (2) Execute all documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The Avon Foundation for Women is offering funding for staff positions in Family Justice Centers or other similar co-located, multi-agency service delivery models that are serving victims of domestic violence and their children. The Office on Women and the Center for Alexandria's Children are partnering to apply for a part-time Social Worker I position who, as part of the existing multi-disciplinary team, will provide targeted services as put forth by the Avon Empowerment Self-Sufficiency Program. This person will serve as the Avon Empowerment Self-Sufficiency Coordinator who will work directly with domestic violence survivors to identify safety strategies, improve access to resources and improve core competencies.

DISCUSSION: The Center for Alexandria's Children facilitates a comprehensive, culturally competent, multidisciplinary team response to allegations of child abuse and neglect in a dedicated, child-friendly setting. Frequently, the non-offending parent may also be the victim of intimate partner violence. Domestic violence victims may be less likely to leave and stay away from abusers if they have limited hope of achieving economic stability on their own.

Additionally, this lack of economic stability may increase the likelihood of a return to the abuser, which can result in the children being placed in foster care or lead to homelessness for the entire family. The Office on Women's Sexual and Domestic Violence Program staff participate in the multi-disciplinary team response in cases where Child Protective Services is involved, providing advocacy, support and counseling services to child victims of sexual and physical assault and to their non-offending family members.

The Avon Empowerment Self-Sufficiency Coordinator will work directly with the non-offending parent when identified as a domestic violence victim to improve core competencies and increase self-sufficiency. Additional resources provided will include:

- Resource information for assistance to obtain alternative affordable housing;
- Scholarship applications assistance;
- English as a Second Language classes where necessary;
- High school equivalency classes/vocational training classes;
- Managed referrals to job training, education and employment agencies; and
- Business clothing advice.

The Coordinator will engage City agencies and private non-profit organizations such as JobLink, Dress for Success and Computer Core to assist with providing services for these clients. Measurable outcomes include successes as a result of the program implementation that include changes in attitude, skills or behavior, and number of job placements; and, qualitative and quantitative feedback from survivors about measurable life change through participation in the program.

GRANT PERIOD: October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011. The application is due April 16, 2010.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total application request is for \$50,000 for salary and benefits for a 30 hour per week Social Worker I position (\$48,000) and operating costs (\$2,000) such as regional travel, office supplies and rent contribution to the Center for Alexandria's Children.

The City is responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant. There is no match requirement. It is understood that the City of Alexandria is not able to commit any future funds to this position once the grant funds have been expended and therefore cannot guarantee the retention of any employees hired through this grant.

STAFF:

Debra Collins, Assistant City Manager for Community and Human Services

Lisa Baker, Director, Office on Women

Claire Dunn, Coordinator, Domestic Violence Program

Ryan Touhill, Budget Analyst, OMB

NON-CITY STAFF:

Giselle L. Pelaez, Executive Director, The Center for Alexandria's Children