

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 18, 2026

Honorable Members of the Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee: Zarin Gracey  
TO (Chair), Laura Cadena (Vice Chair), Adam Bazaldua, Paul Ridley, Bill Roth, Chad West,  
Gay Willis

SUBJECT **May 27, 2026, City Council Agenda Item #26-427A; Award Subrecipient  
agreement to Lone Star Justice Alliance to administer the Youth Safety –  
Violence Interrupters Program**

The purpose of this memo is to provide information of upcoming City Council agenda item #26-427A for May 27, 2026, to authorize a one-year subrecipient agreement with Lone Star Justice Alliance to implement the Youth Safety – Violence Interrupters Program (YSP). The agreement amount would be \$300,000 per year, with a one-year renewal option. Financing will come from the FY 2025-2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

## Background

Upon City Council approval, the Office of Housing and Community Empowerment (OHCE) will contract with Lone Star Justice Alliance (LSJA) to provide as many similar services as the previous contracts through their coordinated continuum of care.

Lone Star Justice Alliance's prevention-oriented youth safety strategy ([final BW LSJA Dallas-Youth-Safety-Collaborative.pdf](#)) is grounded in lived experience and measurable outcomes. The implementation-ready framework enables Dallas to shift from reactive responses to coordinated, prevention centered action. Under this model, youth and young adults will access programmatic support through several front-end engagement and referral entry points, including Community Violence Interrupters and credible messengers on the ground, who are identifying and engaging youth at highest risk.

Beginning in Month 1 and continuing through Month 12, LSJA will simultaneously lead ecosystem design activities to strengthen and formalize a continuum of care for youth ages 12–24, with an intentional focus on building a durable bridge between school disruption (attendance, discipline, disengagement) and community-based violence interruption/stabilization supports. As part of the NOFA, LSJA would work with multiple sub-awardees with expertise in the different service areas. This workstream includes an environmental scan, partner alignment and agreements, data-sharing planning, shared training, warm-handoff protocols, and continuous quality-improvement cycles. This process focuses on establishing shared operating structures (referrals, agreements, shared language, training, and data continuity) so youth can be routed to the right level of support as early as possible, especially when school disruption indicates rising risk.

Engagement will prioritize and provide the following services to:

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- Youth and Young adults ages 18–24
- Youth ages 12–17 experiencing early indicators of risk
- Youth with current or prior justice system involvement
- Youth disconnected from school, employment, or training
- Youth residing in City-identified high-risk geographies, with an initial focus on South Dallas, particularly in zip codes of 75215, 75216, and 75217 Targeted outreach in City identified high-risk areas informed by dashboard data and YSP analysis

Through this contract, LSJA will work with multiple sub-awardees to provide the following services:

- Proactively connect youth and young adults to community-based support
- Reentry case management for justice-impacted youth and young adults
- Mental health services
- Employer/career training
- Education assistance
- Financial literacy
- Life skills and social emotional learning
- Out-of-school time programming

OHCE staff will work with LSJA to align performance tracking with the YSP's shared metrics and reporting framework.

### **Prior Action and Review Before City Council**

Historically, Violence Intervention programming was identified as an area for investment under the Mayor's Task Force on Safe Communities and the City Manager's R.E.A.L. Change plan. This Youth Safety – Violence Interrupters Program contract continues this investment for the City. The following list includes all prior briefings and contracts authorized by the City Council:

- **February 5, 2021:** Violence Interrupter Program Update given to Public Safety Committee
- **April 12, 2021:** Violence Interruption Program contract recommendations made to Public Safety Committee
- **April 28, 2021:** Contract authorization with Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. by City Council
- **November 8, 2021:** Violence Intervention Program Update given to Public Safety Committee
- **June 15, 2022:** Crime Reduction Strategies Update given to City Council Briefing
- **August 24, 2022:** Council authorization of receiving National League of Cities Grant by City Council
- **February 13, 2023:** Community Violence Intervention Program Expansion presented to Public Safety Committee

- **June 28, 2023:** Contract authorization with Youth Guidance (Three-year contract totaling: \$1,200,000) approved by City Council
- **January 24, 2024:** Contract authorization with Urban Specialists Inc. (two-year contract totaling \$800,000) approved by City Council
- **August 6, 2025:** Authorization of FY26 Consolidated Plan Annual Plan, inclusive of funding for Youth Safety – Violence Interrupters Program by City Council

**Procurement Process**

OHCE issued a Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Youth Safety – Violence Interrupters Program. Consistent with this process, proposals were reviewed and scored by an evaluation team based on the criteria established in the solicitation, including price and other relevant evaluation factors. Lone Star Justice Alliance was the vendor with the highest score as the subrecipient to deliver the Youth Safety – Violence Interrupters Program.

The table below lists vendors that responded to the NOFA and their scores:

\*Denotes successful proposer

<b>Proposers</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Score</b>
*Lone Star Justice Alliance	P.O. Box 40951 Austin, TX 78704	95.75
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Dallas	4816 Worth Dallas, TX 75246-1154	89.50
Redemption Bridge	1506 W Pioneer Pkwy Ste 120 Arlington, TX 76013-6200	89.25
Youth Guidance Dallas	2550 Pacific Ave. Suite 871, Dallas, TX 75226	80.50
Texas Initiative Programs	11325 Pegasus Street, W210, Dallas, TX 75238	77.25
Deep Ellum Foundation	2528 Elm Street Suite A Dallas, TX 75226	70.25
Learn With Train LLC	2519 Carpenter Ave Dallas, TX 75215	62
Back to Eden Fellow Program	4346 Richmeadow Houston, TX 77048	46
Creating My Own Empire	1136 Kingbird Ln Alvarado, TX 76009-3292	35

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact myself or Thor Erickson, Director, Office of Housing and Community Empowerment at 214-670-3632 or [Thor.Erickson@dallas.gov](mailto:Thor.Erickson@dallas.gov).

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Service First, Now!



M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira  
Assistant City Manager

c: Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, City Manager  
Bertram Vandenberg, City Attorney (I)  
Mamatha Sparks, City Auditor (I)  
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Baron Eliason, Inspector General (I)  
Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety

Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager  
Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager  
Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager  
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer  
Ahmad Goree, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
John Johnson, Chief of Real Estate  
Directors and Assistant Directors