

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 8, 2023

TO Honorable Chair and Members of the Workforce, Education and Equity Committee

SUBJECT **Upcoming Office of Community Care and Office of Procurement Services Agenda Item Related to ARPA-Funded Community Mental Health, ARPA-Funded Family Violence Prevention and Intervention, ARPA-Funded Making Food Accessible and ARPA-Funded Positive Youth Development – May 2023**

During May 2023, the following Office of Procurement Services items will be considered by City Council:

ARPA-Funded - Community Mental Health

File ID: 23-750: Authorize the City Manager to execute, for mental health support programs to eligible residents of the City of Dallas, (1) a one-year contract with a one-year renewal option with Harmony Community Development Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 per year; (2) a one-year interlocal agreement with a one-year renewal option with Dallas County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center dba Metrocare Services in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 per year; (3) a one-year contract with a one-year renewal option with Big Thought in a total amount not to exceed \$120,000 per year; and (4) a one-year contract with a one-year renewal option with Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$55,000; for a total of three service contracts and one interlocal agreement in a total amount not to exceed \$2,750,000 - Financing: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (\$2,750,000) (subject to annual appropriations)

ARPA-Funded – Family Violence Prevention and Intervention

File ID: 23-402: Authorize the City Manager to execute, for family violence intervention programs to eligible residents of the City of Dallas, a one-year subrecipient contract with a one-year renewal option in a total amount not to exceed \$1,200,000, with Jewish Family Service dba Jewish Family Service, the most advantageous proposer of four - Total not to exceed \$1,200,000 - Financing: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (subject to annual appropriations)

ARPA-Funded – Making Food Accessible

File ID: TBA: Note: The agenda item is still being finalized. The item will authorize a one-year service contract in the amount of \$1,150,000, with a one year renewal option in the amount of \$1,150,000 with Services of Hope & Financial Hope CCS, a one-year service contract in the amount of \$600,000, with a one year renewal option in the amount of

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\$600,000 with Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc, and a one-year service contract in the amount of \$150,000, with a one year renewal option in the amount of \$150,000 with Dallas Leadership Foundation, for the administration of food distribution and delivery programs

ARPA-Funded – Positive Youth Development

File ID: 23-535: Authorize the City Manager to execute, for positive youth development services, including built-in academic support, to eligible residents of the City of Dallas, three one-year subrecipient contracts with one-year renewal options with: (1) The K16 Ready Society, Inc. dba Texas Initiative Programs, Inc. in the amount of \$450,000 per year; (2) Big Thought in the amount of \$225,000 per year; and (3) After-School All-Stars in the amount of \$155,000 per year, the most advantageous proposers of seven, for a total amount not to exceed of \$1,660,000 - Total not to exceed \$1,660,000 - Financing: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (subject to annual appropriations)

Background

Each of these projects is supported by American Rescue Plan Act – State and Federal Fiscal Recovery Funds, which includes a requirement that services be delivered to highly impacted populations and with equity in mind. ARPA established that funds can be used to deliver services in Qualifying Census Tracts (QCTs) and/or to deliver services to low- and moderate-income individuals. These projects will primarily target QCTs, particularly outreach or education services in which it is not possible to target only to low- and moderate-income populations. Services may be delivered in other locations, but all clients served must be low- and moderate-income and should generally target those in the lower income categories. For ARPA, low-income is defined as having a household income at or below 185% of Federal Poverty Guidelines, per the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), or at or below 40% of Area Median Income as defined by HUD. Moderate-income is defined as having a household income at or below 300% of Federal Poverty Guidelines, per the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or at or below 65% of Area Median Income as defined by HUD.

Beyond targeting QCTs, programs can also meet the requirements to target populations that are highly or disproportionately impacted by the pandemic with service delivery in locations that are accessible or within communities in which poverty is concentrated, in communities heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, in communities in which there are concentrations of populations identified in the Drivers of Poverty report, and/or historically underserved communities.

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Additionally, programs may target populations identified by the Treasury as among those eligible to be considered disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. This includes low- and moderate-income households and communities, households residing in QCTs, and households that qualify for certain federal benefits, including:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast (SBP) programs
- Medicare Part D Low-income Subsidies
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Head Start and/or Early Head Start
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Section 8 Vouchers
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Pell Grants

ARPA-Funded - Community Mental Health

These agreements will provide for the administration of city-wide mental health support programs to residents of Dallas as mental health needs in the city have been impacted and/or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This support includes direct services such as individual and group counseling, educational programming, awareness campaigns, program outreach, and lay person trainings. Harmony Community Development Corporation, Dallas County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center, and Big Thought were selected as subrecipients for these services. Additionally, the Senior Source was selected to administer a portion of this program that will specifically support mental health services and counseling for older adults and isolated seniors in the city of Dallas. Target populations include low- and moderate-income residents and/or Dallas residents living Qualified Census Tracts. The Office of Community Care has sought nonprofit organizations through an open application process.

The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn have negatively impacted the mental health of local communities and has created new and exacerbated existing barriers to accessing care and support. Studies have found that 45% of adults in the United States have reported that their mental health has been negatively impacted from stress caused by the COVID-19 virus and pandemic. Research shows that social isolation and loneliness are linked to poor mental health. Additionally, for the many Dallas residents who have lost their jobs, job loss can be associated with anxiety, depression, distress and low self-esteem. Among the most impacted and highest risk include seniors, households with children and adolescents, and individuals who have lost their jobs or are otherwise income insecure.

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ARPA-Funded – Making Food Accessible

This agreement will provide for the administration of city-wide food distribution and delivery programs to residents of Dallas that have been impacted and/or had their needs exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs will enable access to food for target populations through contactless grocery pickup, distribution programs, and home delivery for vulnerable populations. Target populations include low- and moderate-income residents and/or Dallas residents living Qualified Census Tracts. The Office of Community Care has sought nonprofit organizations through an open application process. Services of Hope CCS was selected to provide food distribution and delivery programs, while Catholic Charities Dallas, Inc. and Dallas Leadership Foundation will each provide food distribution services.

Approximately 20% of Dallas County faces food insecurity and nearly 38% of the population in the city of Dallas live in a food desert. The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn have exacerbated these disparities, creating increased demand for local food pantry distribution sites among Dallas residents impacted financially by and during the pandemic. Many residents of Dallas are experiencing or have experienced job loss, reduced or lost pay, added expenses and other issues making it difficult to afford healthy and nutritious foods. Additionally, individuals who may be diagnosed with COVID-19 or quarantined due to exposure, may find themselves too sick or otherwise unable to travel purchase food.

ARPA-Funded – Family Violence Prevention and Intervention

This agreement will provide family violence intervention services, including counseling, legal assistance, therapy and crisis counseling for adults and children rooted in empowerment for survivors to begin the process towards improving short and long-term stability and self-sufficiency. Jewish Family Services was selected as subrecipient for these services.

Family violence refers to threatening or other violent behaviors within families and households that may be physical, sexual, psychological, or economic, and includes child abuse and intimate partner violence. Various international studies and reports in 2020 found that family violence during a pandemic is associated with a range of factors including economic stress, disaster-related instability, increased exposure to exploitative relationships, and reduced options for support. Due to the social isolation measures implemented across the globe to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, people living in volatile situations of family violence were restricted to their homes, which could exacerbate personal and collective vulnerabilities while limiting accessible and familiar

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support options. Reports of domestic abuse and family violence increased around the world since social isolation and quarantine measures came into force.

ARPA-Funded – Positive Youth Development

These agreements will support youth development programs targeting either youth and teens or school-aged children. Youth and teen programming will have embedded positive development and pro-social engagement that facilitates connections for youth with their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups and families and that focuses on connecting youth with opportunities, fostering positive relationships and supporting youth in building on their leadership strengths. School-aged children programming will be holistic and focused on the individual youth, while also helping youth who may have fallen behind to catch up and/or reduce achievement gaps. The K16 Ready Society, Inc. dba Texas Initiative Programs, Inc, Big Thought, and After-School All-Stars were selected as subrecipients for this work.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on youth in multiple environments. The pandemic has also been associated with risk factors for adolescent substance use, such as boredom, isolations, stress, grief and trauma. The Adolescent Behaviors and Experiences Survey conducted in 2021 looked at youth behaviors during the pandemic, finding that overall daily life was disrupted, racism is a public health issue for adolescents, and adolescents are experience a crisis of public health (ABES 2022). Beyond impacting the behaviors and mental health of youth in America (HHS, 2021), the pandemic has had a substantial impact on the daily lives of youth and how students learn. A 2021 analysis of the impacts of COVID-19 on student assessment scores conducted by the Texas Education Agency showed that scores decreased. STAAR results showed a decrease in academic performance, particularly in math, that erased years of gains. Economically disadvantaged students were more highly impacted, seeing higher rates of learning loss in both reading and math at nearly three times the rate of non-economically disadvantaged students. Overall, the analysis cited an effect size equivalent to an estimated 6 months of learning loss on average, and closer to 9 months for economically disadvantaged youth (Impacts of COVID-19 and Accountability Updates for 2022 and Beyond, TEA, 2021).

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Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact myself or Jessica Galleshaw, Director of Office of Community Care, at 214-670-5113 or Jessica.Galleshaw@dallas.gov.



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