



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 09, 2010

Council Session

Item G9

#2010-67 - Approving Application and Memorandum of Understanding for Safe Havens: Office on Violence Against Women Grant

Staff Contact: Joni Kuzma

Council Agenda Memo

From: Joni Kuzma, Community Development

Council Meeting: March 9, 2010

Subject: Approving application and Memorandum of Understanding for Safe Havens: Office on Violence Against Women Grant

Item #'s: G-9

Presenter(s): Joni Kuzma, Community Development Administrator

Background

The Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, offers grant funding for Safe Havens Supervised Visitation and Exchange Programs that enable communities to provide supervised visitation and safe exchange of children, by and between parents, for families with a history of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, or stalking

The City of Grand Island received Safe Haven Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program Grants from the U.S. Department of Justice in 2003, 2005, and 2006 for visitation and exchange services through the Heartland Family Visitation Center. The grant requires that eligible applicants must fall into one of three categories: Units of Local Government, Indian Tribe, or Faith-Based or Community Organizations. The grant further requires that the eligible entity enter into a collaborative agreement with state and local courts and a non-profit, non-governmental entity in the local community that provides local shelters and programs for domestic violence and sexual assault victims (i.e. The Crisis Center, Inc.)

In December 2009, the Crisis Center, Inc. took over services from the Visitation Center and is asking the City to apply for another grant to fund visitation and exchange services through their agency. A Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Grand Island, the Crisis Center, and the courts is required for submission of the grant application.

Discussion

A three-year grant is available to the City for 2010 - 2013 funding for supervised visits and safe exchanges. The amount of grant funding will decrease annually for three years. A signed Memorandum of Understanding between the City, the Crisis Center, Inc and the Hall County court is required for the grant application. This Memorandum will not be binding if the grant is not received.

The City will act as fiscal agent and pass-through for grant funds. Community Development will provide grant management, review invoices and submit claims for payment. Invoices will be paid to the Crisis Center on a reimbursement basis and the City will request reimbursement from the Office on Violence Against Women.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the Mayor to sign related documents
2. Refer the issue to a committee.
3. Postpone the issue to a later date.

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the Mayor to sign related documents.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the Mayor to sign related documents.

RESOLUTION 2010-67

WHEREAS, the Office on Violence Against Women offers grant funding for Safe Havens Supervised Visitation and Exchange Programs that enable communities to provide supervised visitation and safe exchange of children, by and between parents, for families with a history of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, or stalking; and

WHEREAS, grant funding for such program is available to local governments that propose to enter into a collaborative working relationship with state and local courts and a nonprofit, nongovernmental entity in the local community that provides local shelters and programs for domestic violence and sexual assault victims; and

WHEREAS, grant funding received to date allowed the Heartland Family Visitation Center to provide safe exchanges and monitored visits for families with a history of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, or stalking between May 2006 and November 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Crisis Center, Inc. assumed visitation and exchange services in December 2009 and need additional funding to provide these services; and

WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Understanding between the City, the Crisis Center, Inc., and the Hall County Court is required to set out the responsibilities of each party to support visitation and safe exchange programming and meet grant goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Memorandum of Understanding will only be binding if the grant is approved and the City elects to enter into a contract with the Department of Justice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that:

1. The City of Grand Island is hereby authorized to submit a grant application and related documentation to request funding from the Office of Justice Programs through the OJP Grants Management System for the Safe Havens Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program, Office on Violence Against Women.
2. The Memorandum of Understanding between the parties identified above is hereby approved for the use of Safe Havens grant funds to implement and operate a supervised visitation and safe exchange center as outlined in the document.
3. That the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute the grant application and the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the City of Grand Island.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, March 9, 2010.

Margaret Hornady, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk