



3.29

PARKS AND RECREATION
DEPARTMENT
SACRAMENTO START

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

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November 29, 2004

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Request to Amend an AmeriCorps Grant to Enhance Parks and Recreation Service Delivery

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council, by resolution:

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute all agreements and documents with the State of California and the United States Government necessary to amend an AmeriCorps grant for the second and third years of a three-year AmeriCorps program by increasing the total grant award by \$223,962 to \$733,938; and
2. Amend the expenditure and revenue budgets in grant G472 in the START Fund 245 by \$223,962 and appropriate the additional funds.

CONTACT PERSON: Ralph Pettingell, Recreation and Human Services Manager, 277-6173

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: December 14, 2004

SUMMARY:

On December 10, 2002, the City Council authorized the City Manager to apply for an AmeriCorps grant for the Sacramento START program (Resolution 2002-823). On February 24, 2004, City Council authorized acceptance of a three-year grant to fund 53 AmeriCorps members (Resolution 2004-129). At this time it is recommended that Council authorize an amendment of the AmeriCorps grant to fund 107 additional AmeriCorps members for the second and third years and increase the operating grant by \$223,962.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION: None.

BACKGROUND:

Known as the domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps provides Americans with full- and part-time opportunities to perform intensive community service. AmeriCorps participants, known as members, work in locally-designed programs using a combination of local and federal funds. A concept has been developed to incorporate AmeriCorps members into the Recreation Division's programs, with the goal of enhancing the after-school enrichment programs and of recruiting and training volunteers to work in those programs.

Original Grant

With Council authorization, Sacramento START applied for a large AmeriCorps grant in 2002. Shortly after that, federal funding was reduced, and a grant award smaller than applied for was approved, in the amount of \$169,992 per year for three years. In June 2004, 53 part-time members were enrolled, each of whom is required to serve 675 hours. These members began working in the Sacramento START after-school program. They have been trained as enrichment and/or recreation specialists, allowing START's employees to focus on academics with the elementary school students.

Currently there are 44 AmeriCorps members providing enrichment or recreation activities at 42 START sites. They are delivering dance, drama, journalism, art, music, science, youth leadership and fitness programs. Approximately 6,000 children reap the benefit of additional daily positive role models and enhanced opportunities for skill-building and access to a broad array of new activities. Five AmeriCorps members act as volunteer recruiters, and they have recruited 200 community members and have established partnerships with faith-based, youth, senior and corporate organizations. In October, 1,677 volunteer hours were recorded for tutoring and enrichment activities as a result of the AmeriCorps program.

In addition to working at START sites, the AmeriCorps members have provided more than 1,500 hours of community service at such activities as National Night Out, Lights On Afterschool, Natomas Community Festival, National Make a Difference Day, and George Sim Community Center Halloween Festival.

Amended Grant

If authorized by Council, an expanded AmeriCorps program would begin in January 2005. This enhancement would allow for 107 additional part-time AmeriCorps members for the second and third years of the three-year grant, some of whom may have served their first 675 hours during the first year. These members would continue to support the 42 START sites with enrichment and recreation programming. They would take the lead in service learning projects, youth leadership, community service projects, planning for family nights, community outreach and partnerships, volunteer recruitment and site fund-raising, as well as chess, karate, dance, drama, art, music, nutrition, journalism and recreation programs. Members also would work on volunteer efforts to support other department programs and on community gardens.

As currently structured, the AmeriCorps members in START will be assigned to one site for their entire length of service. This will allow them to work more closely with the City employees at the

site and to build a stronger relationship with the children. At START sites they will be counted as one of the adults needed to meet the required ratio of one adult for every twenty children.

One AmeriCorps member will not be working at a START site but will be coordinating all of the volunteer recruitment and management activities. This member will handle the application process, ensure that background checks are completed, coordinate placements and track hours. This member also will reach out to the corporate, faith-based and senior organizations to recruit groups of volunteers who might be willing to adopt one or more sites for a longer period of time or to work on other department programs.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The original AmeriCorps grant award was for \$169,992 per year for a three-year period, for a total grant award of \$509,976. Additional funds in the amount of \$111,981 per year for the second and third years have been made available to support the increased number of AmeriCorps members.

In the second and third years the AmeriCorps members will be supported by grant funds and from existing funds already budgeted within START. In addition, START will contribute in-kind management and administrative support and the supplies and services needed to operate the program.

AmeriCorps members are not considered to be employees under federal and state law. Members are provided a living allowance, which is paid as a stipend rather than as wages, similar to a stipend that a graduate student would be paid from a university. As contemplated in the February 24, 2004, report to Council, staff is using an outside payroll service to provide the members with their regular stipends. Staff worked with the City Attorney's Office, Human Resources, the Finance Department and Labor Relations to ensure that the methods used to operate the AmeriCorps program meet all applicable requirements, regulations and policies.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no environmental considerations associated with this report.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

The Recreation Division's program supports a number of goals in the City's strategic plan, including:

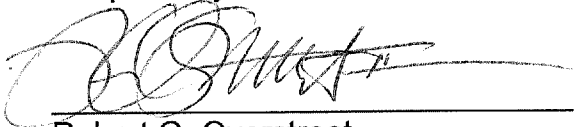
- Establish and Strengthen Community and Regional Partnerships to Enhance the Quality of Life (Principle – The City will pro-actively seek out partnerships with community organizations and other agencies to build, operate, program and maintain community facilities)
- Preserve and Expand the Arts and Culture, Open Space, Urban Forest, Parks, and Recreation Opportunities (Principle – The City should support broader access to regional properties, facilities and services through specialized programs and partnerships)

- Enhance Educational Opportunities for the Entire Community (Principles – The City should provide resources to improve and expand accessibility to facilities and programs for community learning; Partnerships with multiple local institutions should be continuously expanded to leverage resources; Pursue opportunities to educate the public and promote civic engagement; and support students and provide resources (e.g., libraries, START, Archives) to them so they have the best chance to be successful)

ESBD CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no ESBD considerations associated with this report.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert G. Overstreet
Director
Department of Parks and Recreation

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:



ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

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RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT OF A GRANT AWARD FOR AN AMERICORPS PROGRAM IN THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Sacramento desires to continue, improve and expand its after-school programs throughout the City and at County locations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:

1. The City Manager is authorized to execute all agreements and documents with the State of California and the United States Government necessary to amend an AmeriCorps grant for the second and third years of a three-year AmeriCorps program by increasing the total grant award by \$223,962 to \$733,938.
2. Amend the expenditure and revenue budgets in grant G472 in the START Fund 245 by \$223,962 and appropriate the additional funds as follows:

Revenue:	245-OGR-G472-3513	Federal Grants	\$509,976 - original
			<u>223,962</u> - increase
			\$733,938 - amended
Expense:	245-OGR-G472-4258	Professional Services	\$509,976 - original
			<u>223,962</u> - increase
			\$733,938 - amended

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____