



12.4

PARKS AND RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT  
SACRAMENTO START

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

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February 11, 2004

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: Request to Accept an AmeriCorps Grant to Enhance 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 accept an AmeriCorps grant for an annual amount of \$169,992 and to operate a three-year AmeriCorps program; and
2. Establish an operating grant in the START fund and appropriate funds.

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

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:** February 24, 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). An annual grant in the amount of \$169,992 has been awarded for a three-year period, which will be used in the Sacramento START program in the Recreation Division of the Parks and Recreation Department. It is recommended that Council authorize acceptance of the grant and establish an operating grant.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:** None.

**BACKGROUND:**

Sacramento START (Students Today Achieving Results for Tomorrow) is a public/private collaborative providing after-school literacy and enrichment programs to more than 6,000 enrolled elementary school children in the most disadvantaged areas of the City and County. Part of the mission of START is to build the capacity of elementary school children to succeed academically and socially, while reconnecting families and neighborhoods with their schools.

Sacramento START was launched in 1996. Today, START is widely recognized as one of the most outstanding after-school programs in the country. Diversified public and private funding of over \$6 million supports more than 6,000 enrolled children and nearly 400 employees. In Fiscal Year 2004, START is operating at 43 elementary schools with an average daily attendance of approximately 4,500. The City of Sacramento provides management and administrative support.

In 2002, START received a \$25,000 planning grant from the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV), the state agency that coordinates the federal AmeriCorps program. This grant allowed START staff to assess community needs, develop relationships with partner organizations and design a model program that would utilize AmeriCorps members.

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. Under the planning grant, the partners have developed a concept 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 the START elementary school program.

With Council authorization and GO SERV encouragement, START applied for a large AmeriCorps grant in 2002. Since that time, federal funding has been reduced, and a grant award smaller than applied for has been approved, in the amount of \$169,992 per year renewable for two additional years. The new grant provides for 53 part-time members, each of whom is required to serve 675 hours. Of the total, 49 would form enrichment teams to rotate throughout the 43 START sites, and four would serve as volunteer recruiters to engage the community in supporting after-school programs in their neighborhoods.

If authorized by Council, the program will begin in June 2004 and operate first during the busy summer season. AmeriCorps members will serve as enrichment leaders in a variety of subject areas. These include dance, chess, drama, Character Counts, art, Project Wild, service learning, science, intramurals, and civic education. Collectively, the AmeriCorps members will add nearly 30,000 hours of volunteer time per year to the City's programs, as each of the 53 members must contribute 540 of their hours to direct service, with the remaining 135 hours typically devoted to training. The four members who will be responsible for volunteer recruitment are expected to add at least 500 new volunteers to the Parks and Recreation programs.

It is expected that additional funds will be allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation in the next few months for an additional AmeriCorps program that would be used to supplement Parks and Recreation program services. Should that additional award be made, staff will return to Council for authorization to

accept the award.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The AmeriCorps grant award is for a total of \$169,992 per year for a three-year period, for a total grant award of \$509,976. This amount will support 23 part-time members. The additional 30 members will be supported from existing funds already budgeted within START that were to have paid for independent contractors to deliver enrichment programs. In addition, START will contribute in-kind management and administrative support and the supplies and services needed to operate the program.

Under federal and state law, AmeriCorps members are not considered to be employees. 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. Staff is investigating the use of a payroll service to provide the members with their regular stipends. Staff is working 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 program 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.

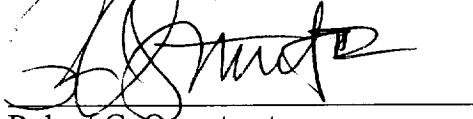
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Respectfully submitted,

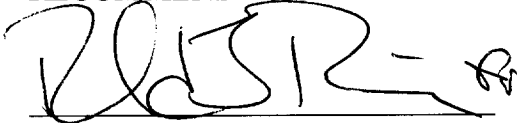


Robert G. Overstreet

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 ACCEPTANCE 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 in elementary schools 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 accept an AmeriCorps grant for an annual amount of \$169,992 and to operate a three-year AmeriCorps program.
2. An operating grant is established in the Sacramento START Fund (245) as follows:

Revenue:	245-OGR-G472-3513	Federal Grants	\$509,976
Expense:	245-OGR-G472-4258	Professional Services	\$509,976

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_