

CITY OF OAKLAND
AGENDA REPORT

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Department of Human Services
DATE: January 23, 2007

RE: A Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator To Execute An Agreement Between The City Of Oakland And Volunteers Of America, Bay Area, Inc. For An Amount Not To Exceed \$81,869 To Provide Project Choice Model Case Management In Accordance With The Violence Prevention And Public Safety Act Of 2004 For The Period Of January 1, 2007 To June 30, 2007 With Two One-Year Options To Renew For Amounts Not To Exceed \$163,738 Per Year

SUMMARY

The Department of Human Services seeks City Council approval to enter into a grant agreement with Volunteers of America, Bay Area, Inc. for \$81,869 for the final six months of Fiscal Year 2006-07, with two one-year options to renew for \$163,738 per year pending satisfactory performance, to provide Project Choice case management services to young adult offenders under 30 years old who are returning to Oakland from San Quentin State Prison.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this resolution will authorize a grant agreement with Volunteers of America, Bay Area, Inc., which shall be funded by restricted funds collected in FY 2006-07 for violence prevention programs as authorized by the voter-approved Measure Y, enacted as the Violence Prevention and Public Safety Act (VPPSA) of 2004. The funds will be allocated from Public Safety Act / 2004 Measure Y Fund (2251), HHS Administration organization (78111), DHS Project Choice Measure Y Project (G261265). The Act authorizes a term of tax imposition effective January 1, 2005 that shall continue in effect for ten (10) years. The terms of this agreement shall be for six months with an option to renew for two additional 12-month periods, in an amount not to exceed \$163,738 per year, pending City Council approval. A renewal of this grant agreement, or an extension, if any, would be funded by tax proceeds raised by the Ordinance in subsequent years. This grant agreement will not impact the General Fund.

BACKGROUND

On June 7, 2005, City Council approved specific program recommendations for Measure Y: VPPSA funded violence prevention programs. The recommendations included allocating funds

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to existing violence prevention programs and allocating funds to community based organizations or public agencies through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process. City Council approved the specific organizations to be funded in each program strategy on May 2, 2006 and funding began on July 1, 2006. Two of these organizations – The Mentoring Center and Allen Temple Housing and Development Corporation – received annual grants of \$163,738 each to provide Project Choice reentry services. The Mentoring Center works with young men in, and coming home from, the Department of Juvenile Justice (formerly California Youth Authority) facilities in Stockton, Ca. Allen Temple works with adult parolees through the Oakland Parole office and PAC (Police and Corrections) team meetings.

Centerforce, Inc. was the grantee approved by City Council to provide Project Choice reentry services to young men paroling from San Quentin State Prison; however, that organization later declined their award. Because of the importance of providing pre-release services to young men transitioning back to Oakland, and because of the City of Oakland's ongoing relationship providing services specifically at San Quentin for the past three years, another grantee – Volunteers of America, Bay Area – was selected through an RFP process to take Centerforce's place.

KEY ISSUES

Request for Proposal Process

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was released on October 19, 2006 calling for proposals from community based organizations to replace Centerforce, Inc. as the Project Choice case management provider for young men returning to Oakland from San Quentin State Prison.

Project Choice is the City of Oakland's collaborative program offering hope, support and accountability to young offenders returning to the Oakland community. Project Choice is guided and overseen by a Reentry Advisory Committee (RAC) with membership including: a formerly incarcerated community member; a City Councilmember; Oakland Mayor's Office; Oakland Police Department; Alameda County Behavioral Health Care; California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Parole; San Quentin State Prison; Northern California Youth Correctional Facility; Oakland Workforce Investment Board; and the City's Department of Human Services.

The Project Choice model is highly comprehensive, with low caseloads (15-20:1) for coach/case managers, frequent contact with participants (daily at times), family contact and support, pre-release planning, and careful coordination of community services including substance abuse treatment, education and housing. A key element is coordination with assigned parole agents, which will be brokered by the RAC and City staff. The strongest required component of Project Choice is the relationship between the participants and their "coach" who differs from a standard case manager in the following ways:

- Coaches share either the experience of past incarceration or are otherwise connected to the communities from which participants are drawn;
- Coaches meet frequently with participants to develop a level of relationship intensity with participants that is more like a mentor;
- Coaches are available via mobile phone 24 hours a day in case of emergency;
- Coaches get to know the families and loved ones of participants and involve them in planning and service provision;
- Coaches meet clients at the gate upon their release from custody and provide a ride home;
- Coaches do not simply refer participants to services and wait for them to take the next step, instead helping them follow through to get what they need to succeed;
- Best practice suggests that staff and mentors for parolees be themselves formerly incarcerated individuals and/or from the same communities as the parolees.

Required service activities include pre-release and post-release support groups/workshops and case management. Participants must be recruited and enrolled at least 60 days (and no more than 1 year) prior to release from San Quentin.

Proposal Review Process

Six complete applications from a variety of Oakland based organizations were submitted to the City of Oakland, Department of Human Services by the deadline of 5:00 pm on November 13, 2006.

The Measure Y review panel consisted of 4 reviewers. Reviewers included experts in the field of reentry services, including representatives of San Quentin State Prison, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Correctional Education, and Safe Passages, as well as a formerly incarcerated individual. For each proposal, reviewers allocated a score of up to 100 points, based on scoring rubrics that emphasized: a) agency history and capacity, b) program design (and fit with Project Choice model), c) ability to recruit and work with young adult parolees, d) quality of partnerships with other service providers and CDCR, f) leveraging, and g) budgeting and cost-appropriateness. Overall, the review panel felt that the proposals were strong, and regretted that only one proposal could be funded. After requesting additional information from the top two agencies, the review panel selected Volunteers of America, Bay Area, Inc.

About the Grantee

Volunteers of America, Bay Area, Inc. (VOABA) was founded in 1896, and has been a local provider of social service programs for the past 110 years. Among VOABA's programs for parolees are the crew-based sheltered employment program currently funded through Measure Y, as well as two residential programs. VOABA's Elsie Dunn Center and West House are residential community based reentry programs for nonviolent offenders released from prison. The programs are designed to give parolees the knowledge and skills needed to reintegrate into mainstream society, making positive contributions and avoid repeating offenses. Both facilities

have a total of 120 beds and serve over 500 men annually. Over 80% of the participants have housing and employment before they are released.

VOABA also has previous experience working inside San Quentin State Prison, running the Transition Case Management Program for HIV positive offenders. Through a sub grantee agreement, VOABA will add the experience of Dr. Garry Mendez, a reentry consultant to the National Institute of Corrections and founder of The National Trust for the Development of African-American Males, which currently provides cognitive restructuring groups inside San Quentin. Dr. Mendez and the Trust have developed an excellent reputation with both inmates and correctional officers inside San Quentin. Under this grant agreement, VOABA will enroll 40 San Quentin inmates in Project Choice intensive case management by June 30, 2007. Each of these clients will have access to VOABA employment programs, substance abuse treatment, and residential opportunities – as well as continued case management and support groups – upon their release.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: Providing reentry programs for Oakland young adults will increase their economic stability by linking them to organizations that can provide them with job training and job placement.

Environmental: No environmental impacts are expected at this time.

Social Equity: Project Choice assists (literally) disenfranchised young adults in Oakland in achieving a greater degree of social equity. Reentry programs increase the likelihood that young adults avoid arrest and incarceration.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZENS ACCESS

All programs funded by Measure Y will be accessible to persons with disabilities.

RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE

Staff requests that the City Council adopt the resolution to authorize the grant agreement outlined in this report, for Volunteers of America, Bay Area, Inc. to receive \$81,869 for the last six months of fiscal year 06-07. This agency has a proven track record demonstrating its ability to deliver tangible outcomes that will reduce recidivism in the City of Oakland.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

That City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Administrator to execute an agreement between the City of Oakland and Volunteers of America, Bay Area, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$81,869 to provide Project Choice Model Case Management in accordance with the Violence Prevention And Public Safety Act Of 2004 for the period of January 1, 2007 to June 30, 2007 with two one-year options to renew for amounts not to exceed \$163,738 per year pending satisfactory performance.

Respectfully submitted,



ANDREA YOUNGDAHL

Director, Department of Human Services

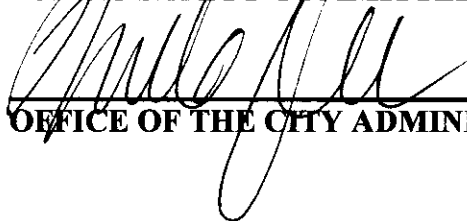
Reviewed by:

Sara Bedford, Manager
Policy and Planning Unit

Prepared by:

Anne Marks, Violence Prevention Planner
Policy and Planning Unit

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:**



OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Item: _____
Public Safety Committee
January 23, 2007

Margaret Arizola
City Attorney

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

2007 JAN 11 PM 12:12

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF OAKLAND AND VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA, INC. FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$81,869 TO PROVIDE PROJECT CHOICE MODEL CASE MANAGEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC SAFETY ACT OF 2004 FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2007 WITH TWO ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO RENEW FOR AMOUNTS NOT TO EXCEED \$163,738 PER YEAR

WHEREAS, City of Oakland voters passed Measure Y, the Violence Prevention and Public Safety Act of 2004, in November 2004, approving a series of taxes to support violence prevention objectives; and

WHEREAS, Measure Y resources are available and violence prevention programs were approved by City Council on June 7, 2005; and

WHEREAS, among these programs, the City Council approved funding for the Project Choice Model intensive case management program for parolees; and

WHEREAS, through a competitive Request for Proposals process Volunteers of America, Bay Area, Inc. was the most qualified and competent entity to implement said program; and

WHEREAS, the funding for these contracts is allocated to Public Safety Act of 2004 Measure Y Fund (2251), DHS Administration Unit Organization (78111), Project Choice Model Project (G261265); and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to enter into an agreement with Volunteers of America, Bay Area, Inc. for \$81,869 to implement this Measure Y program, with two one-year options to renew for amounts not to exceed \$163,738 per year, contingent upon successful performance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that this contract will not result in the loss of employment or salary by any person having permanent status in the civil service; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Administrator is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Volunteers of America, Bay Area, Inc. for \$81,869, with two one-year options to renew for amounts not to exceed \$163,738 per year, contingent upon successful performance, for the purpose of providing Project Choice Model intensive case management for reentering offenders funded by the Violence Prevention and Public Safety Act of 2004 for the period of January 1, 2007 to June 30, 2007; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Administrator is hereby authorized to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, modifications, payment requests and related actions which may be necessary in accordance with its basic purpose; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That said agreements shall be approved as to form and legality by the Office of the City Attorney and placed on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20_____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, and PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST: _____
LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California