

**CITY OF OAKLAND**  
**AGENDA REPORT**

2010 NOV -4 PM 1:10

TO: Office of the City Administrator  
ATTN: Dan Lindheim  
FROM: Department of Human Services  
DATE: November 16, 2010

**RE: Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Accept And Appropriate A Grant In An Amount Not To Exceed \$290,649 From Alameda County Probation Department To Provide Reentry Coordination Through The Department Of Human Services (\$112,149) And To Provide The Project Choice Program To Oakland Residents In Santa Rita Jail And To Execute A Grant Agreement With Volunteers Of America Bay Area In An Estimated Amount Of \$178,500 To Provide Said Project Choice Reentry Services From October 1, 2010 Through September 30, 2011**

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**SUMMARY**

A multi-agency collaboration - City of Oakland's Department of Human Services (DHS), Associated Community Action Program (ACAP), and Alameda County Probation Department (lead agency) - applied for and received the Second Chance Act Adult Reentry Grant from the Department of Justice to support the reentry of young men and women into Oakland and other parts of Alameda County from Santa Rita Jail. The Alameda County Probation Department (ACPD) is the lead agency for a one year \$750,000 Second Chance Act Adult Reentry Grant that intensifies the reentry planning and support services at Santa Rita Jail and strengthens the overall planning and coordination of reentry services throughout the County. The grant earmarks \$290,649 to DHS for reentry program coordination and provides intensive reentry services to Oakland residents in Santa Rita Jail through Project Choice. DHS recommends that Volunteers of America Bay Area (VOABA), the City's current Project Choice provider for adults, be awarded a sub-grant to provide reentry services in Santa Rita Jail.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Approval of this resolution will authorize the City Administrator to accept and appropriate \$290,649 from Department of Justice Second Chance Act funds. The funds will be appropriated in the Department of Human Services Fund (2128), DHS Administration Organization (78111), and a project to be determined.

There is no negative impact to the City's finances or on the General Purpose Fund. These funds are fully cost covering. DHS will utilize current staff; no new staffing is required to manage these resources.

**BACKGROUND**

Oakland has for over eight (8) years supported Project Choice, an intensive case management reentry strategy. This program offers hope, support, services and accountability to young offenders returning to the Oakland community. The program provides pre-release services and intensive individual and

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group counseling to youth and young adult (16-35) prisoners returning to Oakland in order to reduce recidivism. Project Choice also provides reentry planning including employment, housing and other support services. Under this program pre- and post release case management services have been provided to hundreds of parolees returning to Oakland since 2002. This work is currently being done inside San Quentin State Prison by Volunteers of America Bay Area (VOABA) and inside Department of Juvenile Justice facilities in Stockton. Project Choice is currently funded by Measure Y. This grant allows for the expansion of the Project Choice program to the probation population inside Santa Rita Jail.

The Alameda County Probation Department (ACPD) is the lead agency for the \$750,000 Second Chance Act Adult Reentry Grant and will handle grant reporting, fiscal management, and subcontracting. ACPD will also receive funds for a Deputy Probation Officer at Santa Rita dedicated to the Second Chance Act Adult Reentry Grant. The Second Chance grant funds will provide for an assessment based continuum of care to a total of 100 high risk inmates in Santa Rita Jail – 60 Oakland residents, 40 residents of other parts of County including Hayward and unincorporated Ashland/Cherryland. Program participants are sentenced to at least 4 months of incarceration and are returning to Oakland.

Under this grant DHS is awarded \$290,649 to provide services to 60 Santa Rita Jail inmates returning to Oakland. These funds support a community based agency to provide case managers to work pre- and post release with the 60 Project Choice participants. In addition, the grant agreement includes mental health assessments for all participants and the use of flexible funds for emergency needs. The grant also supports a DHS Reentry Services Manager who will oversee daily operations of Project Choice for the City, supervise staff and subcontractors, and be a liaison among the partners.

The Associated Community Action Program of Alameda County (ACAP) has been working in Santa Rita providing intensive case management services to probationers since 2007. ACAP will provide intensive case management services to 40 Santa Rita Jail inmates who are Alameda County residents and are returning to the Hayward and unincorporated Ashland/Cherryland areas. The grant allocates funding for an ACAP Reentry Services Manager. This position will oversee day to day operations, supervise staff, facilitate case management at Santa Rita, teach inmate classes, facilitate groups, assist with pre-release planning, and coordinate with Inmate Services, Probation, DHS, and subcontractors. An ACAP Project Manager position one (1) .75% FTE will also be funded. This position will be responsible for day to day project management, coordination with partners and community stakeholders; liaising with other agencies, the business community, and evaluators.

## **KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

The Second Chance grant is only for one year, with no certainty of subsequent funding. As a result, it is important for the implementation of services to take place as quickly and effectively as possible. Due to these unique circumstances, DHS is recommending that the Project Choice services for adults in Santa Rita Jail be awarded to the City's current adult Project Choice provider, Volunteers of America Bay Area.

VOABA has been a successful provider of Project Choice services in San Quentin State Prison for over 5 years. They have successfully met all their benchmarks in those years and the Measure Y independent evaluation shows their client outcomes to be outstanding -- demonstrating reduced recidivism and violations. Most importantly, VOABA has extensive experience with the Project Choice model, has staff that is trained in the program, and as such will be able to "hit the ground running."

The grant terms for Second Chance are October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011. Even with this recommendation, program services will likely not begin until January 1, 2011. If DHS ran a Request for Proposal process, the start of services would be delayed much further. VOABA has already successfully competed in a competitive Measure Y RFP process in 2008 for the Project Choice program and was awarded a grant to provide these services in San Quentin for three years. As such VOABA is a fully vetted organization.

VOABA would provide approximately three (3) case managers to provide wrap around Project Choice support, reentry planning, and program services to 60 Oakland residents in Santa Rita jail. All work would be done in collaboration with ACAP's reentry program.

The Reentry Services Manager in DHS that will also be funded by this grant is an existing position that supports the reentry employment and Project Choice grant agreements under Measure Y and will be responsible for implementation of the Santa Rita project. This position also represents the City at many collaborative tables and builds the partnerships necessary to make the program services optimally effective. However, this DHS position was never funded by Measure Y due to a lack of sufficient administrative funds and has always been supported by various grant funds.

## **EVALUATION OF PAST PERFORMANCE**

Project Choice has successfully developed and sustained a collaboration of key public and non-profit institutions and provides direct services to young adults who are returning to Oakland from incarceration. Project Choice was evaluated in 2006 by an outside evaluator for efficacy and for future replication. The evaluation provided empirical evidence that Project Choice lowered recidivism rates. The rate for Project Choice participants was significantly lower than the statewide recidivism rate. Adult Project Choice participant's recidivism rate stood at 52% in comparison to the statewide rate of 69%. The juvenile recidivism rate was 41% in comparison to the statewide rate of 75%. Since 2006, Project Choice has been an integral, successful component of the Measure Y reentry strategy. The 2009-10 outside evaluation continues to support Project Choice work. Overall, program participants reported a decreased involvement in the criminal justice system, increased confidence in their ability to stay out of trouble, and their compliance with probation or parole terms was much improved. Juveniles were less likely to violate parole and if they did there were fewer violent violations. For all individuals on parole served by Measure Y programs, including Project Choice, before program enrollment adults had higher violation rates than average and after program services showed fewer rates of violation than average clearly demonstrating program effectiveness.

## SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

**Economic:** Providing case management for Oakland young adults will increase their stability and employability 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:** Reentry programs assist disenfranchised young adults in Oakland in achieving economic independence and thus a greater degree of social equity. Reentry programs increase the likelihood that young adults avoid arrest and incarceration.

## DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

All activities sponsored by this grant will be fully accessible.

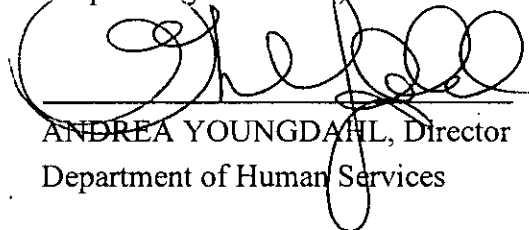
## RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Administrator to accept and appropriate a grant in an amount not to exceed \$290,649 from Alameda County Probation Department to the Department Of Human Services to Provide Reentry Program Coordination and Project Choice Services to Oakland Residents in Santa Rita Jail and to execute a Grant Agreement with Volunteers of America Bay Area in an estimated amount of \$178,500 to provide said Project Choice Services from October 1, 2010 Through September 30, 2011.

## ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

That the City Council approves a resolution authorizing the City Administrator to accept and appropriate a grant in an amount not to exceed \$290,649 from Alameda County Probation Department to the Department Of Human Services to Provide Reentry Program Coordination and Project Choice Services to Oakland Residents in Santa Rita Jail and to execute a Grant Agreement with Volunteers of America Bay Area in an estimated amount of \$178,500 to provide said Project Choice Services from October 1, 2010 Through September 30, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,



ANDREA YOUNGDAHL, Director  
Department of Human Services

Reviewed by: Sara Bedford, Manager  
Policy and Planning

Prepared by: Dan Simmons, Reentry Program Manager

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:



Office of the City Administrator

Item: \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Safety Committee  
November 16, 2010

FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

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Approved as to Form and Legality

*M. Meadows*  
Oakland City Attorney's Office

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

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**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE A GRANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$290,649 FROM ALAMEDA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE REENTRY COORDINATION THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (\$112,149) AND TO PROVIDE THE PROJECT CHOICE PROGRAM TO OAKLAND RESIDENTS IN SANTA RITA JAIL AND TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA BAY AREA IN AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$178,500 TO PROVIDE SAID PROJECT CHOICE REENTRY SERVICES FROM OCTOBER 1, 2010 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2011**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland has demonstrated a commitment to reentry services as a vital part of a violence prevention strategy; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2002 the City of Oakland has supported Project Choice as a successful pre- and post release intensive case management reentry strategy; and

**WHEREAS**, a Department of Justice, Second Chance Act Adult Reentry grant of \$750,000 was awarded to the Alameda County Probation Department in partnership with the City of Oakland's Department of Human Services and Alameda Community Action Partnership Program to expand reentry services in Santa Rita Jail; and

**WHEREAS**, the awarded grant provides funding to the City of Oakland Department of Human Services (DHS) in the amount of \$290,649 to support reentry services coordination through DHS staff and to provide Project Choice services to Oakland residents in Santa Rita Jail; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland desires to support its current reentry projects management and coordination as designated in this grant with \$112,149; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland wishes to provide a grant to a community based agency to provide Project Choice services in Santa Rita Jail to 60 Oakland residents returning to the Oakland community; and

**WHEREAS**, this grant is for one year, October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011, and thereby requires Project Choice services to start as soon as possible; and

**WHEREAS**, Volunteers of America Bay Area has been a successful provider of adult Project Choice services in San Quentin State Prison for over 5 years and is a grantee in good standing, demonstrating successful outcomes through an independent evaluation; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland wishes to enter into an agreement with Volunteers of America of the Bay Area due to their unique expertise and extensive expertise in the program model; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED**: That the City Administrator accept and appropriate a grant in an amount not to exceed \$290,649 for the period of October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011 for the implementation of Project Choices services in Santa Rita Jail in partnership with Alameda County Probation Department; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**: That the funding for this contract will be appropriated to the Department of Human Services, Fund (2128), DHS Administration Organization (78111), and a project to be determined; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**: That the City Administrator enter into and execute a grant agreement with Volunteers of America Bay Area in an amount not to exceed \$178,500 to provide Project Choice in Santa Rita Jail from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**: That the City Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to accept and appropriate any additional funding related to this grant that may become available without returning to council; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**: That said agreement 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, \_\_\_\_\_, 2010

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

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

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
LaTonda Simmons  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
of the City of Oakland, California