



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Board of Library Trustees

**TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES** **DATE: JANUARY 9, 2023**

**FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY** **WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT UPDATE WITH PATH OF LIFE MINISTRIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS TO CONDUCT A NEEDS ASSESSMENT AT EIGHT RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY LOCATIONS**

## **ISSUE:**

Receive an update on the Subrecipient Agreement with Path of Life Ministries in the amount of \$200,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds to conduct needs assessment at eight Riverside Public Library locations.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Library Trustees receive an update the American Rescue Plan Act Subrecipient Agreement with Path of Life Ministries in the amount of \$200,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds to conduct a needs assessment at eight Riverside Public Library locations to conduct.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) established the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to provide resources to support communities that are struggling with the impacts of COVID-19. These funds may be used to respond to pandemic response needs including mitigation and prevention, support to communities and populations most impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, and fill revenue shortfalls. The US Department of the Treasury first released Interim Final Rule providing eligibility guidance as well as regularly updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). The Interim Final Rule provided initial guidance and served to help communities develop proposals for funding.

On November 9, 2021, the City Council approved the ARPA funding Expenditure Category Plan for the first allocation in the amount of \$36,767,594 following the Interim Final Rule guidelines, which included an allocation of \$450,000 for Public Health - Mental Health Support to create a Mental Health Resource Hub that provides services, counseling, programs in various languages at no cost or reduced cost to residents facing mental health issues. City partnership between internal departments and local nonprofits. This resource hub can be used by community at large and have focus areas that target highest needs populations, i.e., families, youth, homeless population, etc. Potential partners may include health providers and related nonprofit

organizations. Including mental health programs at the Library. The Final Rule was issued on January 6, 2022, and became effective on April 1, 2022. The City received its first ARPA allocation of \$36,767,594 in June 2021 and is required to submit quarterly Project and Expenditure Reports and annual Recovery Plan Performance Reports.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Riverside Public Library serves many customers who are experiencing homelessness or other mental health challenges. In Fiscal Year 2021/2022 the Library had 309 incidents. Following best practices established throughout the United States including with the San Francisco Public Library, the Riverside Public Library has identified the need for social workers to assist customers experiencing homelessness and other mental health challenges in multiple library locations. To do this, the Library would like to partner with Path of Life Ministries to utilize their Social Work Internship Program, known as the Love Your Neighbor Collaborative (LYNC) that serves homeless individuals and families by utilizing undergraduate and graduate level social work students to connect them to crucial resources aimed at increasing their ability to become independent.

To bring the LYNC program to the Riverside Public Library, Path of Life Ministries will place social work interns at eight library sites on a rotating basis, supervised by social work specialists. The interns will engage displaced individuals and refer them to agency partners to receive assistance for their mental, physical, behavioral, and spiritual needs. They will also engage in a needs assessment process alongside their supervisors and professors.

Interns' schedules, based on their academic calendars, will be determined based on the library sites' hours of operation. Interns will interface with displaced individuals at eight libraries throughout Riverside to connect displaced individuals with various resources to improve their quality of life and to receive information about possible long-term housing options. The interns will be placed and supervised at the libraries for two years to work on meeting displaced individuals' crucial needs.

Based on the number and type of incidents, interns will be scheduled at the Arlington, SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside, La Sierra, Main, and Marcy Library locations.

The cost to operate the program for a two-year period is \$200,000. To ensure funding is spent in the most impactful way, staff is conducting ongoing evaluation of projects for reporting purposes. The interns will be tracking clients' age, race, ethnicity, income, household makeup and referrals made to partnering agencies. They will also be using the needs assessments to identify workshops and additional resources that can benefit the community. Based on the information gathered, staff will also determine if there are any underserved and/or disproportionately impacted population(s) that need to be prioritized for programs. In addition to ongoing assessments, funding is spent to start programs in phases and allows programs to be structured for continued benefits moving forward.

The evaluation of the Social Work Internship Program will include a review of the program's performance outcomes measurements for shelter, obtain or retain housing, earnings/employment, and physical and mental health status.

Staff have submitted a report for City Council consideration for the January 10, 2023, regularly scheduled meeting to approve the American Rescue Plan Act Subrecipient Agreement with Path

of Life Ministries for \$200,000 and authorize the City Manager to execute the Subrecipient Agreement with Path of Life Ministries.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

The ARPA Expenditure Plan is interwoven throughout the entire 2025 Envision Riverside Strategic Plan and Goals.

The item aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – Riverside is committed to providing a transparent process and gather community input to support how funds will be used. To assist with these efforts, the City has developed an ARPA webpage that includes program information, a public survey and dedicated ARPA email address.
2. **Equity** – Riverside is supportive of the ongoing evaluation of potential programs and projects that ensure a response to disproportionately impacted groups and the exacerbation of health inequities along racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – This item ensures fiscal responsibility of ARPA funds by identifying a need or negative impact and identifying how the project/program addresses the identified need.
4. **Innovation** – Riverside is committed to responding to the community's changing needs and preparing for the future through developing ARPA funded projects/programs that build on collaborative partnerships.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – This item ensures sustainability through ongoing evaluation of projects and programs to allow adaptation to meet the current Covid-19 public health emergency and future needs ensuring the City's capacity to persevere, adapt, and grow.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact with this update.

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