

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 the 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.

BACKGROUND:

On January 10, 2023, the City Council approved the American Rescue Plan Act Subrecipient Agreement with Path of Life Ministries for \$200,000 of the American Rescue Plan Act funds for the Social Work Internship Program called Love your Neighbor Collaborative at eight (8) Riverside Public Library locations, and authorized the City Manager, or designee, to execute the American Rescue Plan Act Subrecipient Agreement with Path of Life Ministries, including making minor and non-substantial changes and contract extensions subject to availability of funding.

The Riverside Public Library serves many customers who are experiencing homelessness or other mental health challenges. Following best practices established throughout the United States including with the San Francisco Public Library, the Riverside Public Library identified the need for social workers to assist library customers experiencing homelessness and other mental health challenges in multiple library locations. To do this, the Library partnered 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.

Path of Life Ministries will ultimately place social work interns at eight (8) 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 (8) 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 needs of the community, interns will be scheduled at the Arlington, SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside, La Sierra, Main, and Marcy Library locations.

DISCUSSION:

On June 2023 the Love your Neighbor Collaborative (LYNC) launched the on-site phase of its program at the Main Library. On October 2, 2023, LYNC was expanded to the Arlington Library.

On February 13, 2024, the Board of Library Trustees received an update. LYNC is on-site Wednesday – Friday weekly the Riverside Main library location, Tuesday and Thursday weekly at the Arlington library and Tuesday and Wednesday weekly at the Specialist Jesus S. Duran Eastside library. LYNC serves individuals who organically frequent the library and receive services in response to either seeing flyers throughout the library that advertise the program, are referred by library staff, or encounter LYNC social workers due to crisis intervention assistance.

The following is a snapshot of outcomes the LYNC program has achieved from July to December 2024. It is important to note that these were the services documented due to individual's willingness to provide information for screening tools. These outcomes do not include other diversion services provided due to lack of willingness to further engage with LYNC social workers and provide identifying information.

Interns:

Number of LYNC interns to date: 9

Current number of active interns: 3

Main Library:

Riverside Main Library Current Caseload: 14 individuals

Discharged into housing: 2

LYNC provided a total of 222 services at the Riverside Main Library

Out of the 222 services:

Housing Status

71 identified as homeless

26 identified experiencing homelessness for 12 months or longer

15 identified experiencing homelessness for 3-12 months

5 identified experiencing homelessness for 1-3 months

6 identified experiencing homelessness for 1 month or less

19 identified as at-risk of becoming homeless

35 reported not homeless

Sex

58 Male

48 Female

Services Received:

1 substance abuse treatment referrals

4 employment referrals

5 legal services referrals

10 mental health referrals

12 emergency shelter referrals

3 successfully obtained shelter bed

16 referrals to Path of Life Outreach teams

Arlington Library:

Arlington Library Current Caseload: 7

LYNC provided a total of 223 services at the Riverside Arlington Library.

Out of the 223 services:

Housing status

25 identified as homeless

12 identified experiencing homelessness for 12 months or longer

5 identified experiencing homelessness for 1-3 months

2 identified experiencing homelessness for 1 month or less

6 identified as at-risk of becoming homeless

30 reported not homeless

Sex:

32 Male

34 Female

Services received:

0 substance abuse treatment referrals

1 employment referrals

3 legal services referrals

6 mental health referrals

2 emergency shelter referrals

1 successfully obtained shelter bed

12 referrals to Path of Life Outreach teams

SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library:

SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library Current Case Load: 9

LYNC provided a total of 112 services at the SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library.

Out of the 112 services:

Housing Status

43 identified as homeless

22 identified experiencing homelessness for 12 months or longer

10 identified experiencing homelessness for 3-12 months

1 identified experiencing homelessness for 1-3 months

6 identified experiencing homelessness for 1 month or less

4 identified as at-risk of becoming homeless

9 reported not homeless

Sex:

Male: 24

Female: 25

Services received:

1 substance abuse treatment referrals

9 employment referrals

6 legal services referrals

7 mental health referrals

5 emergency shelter referrals

1 successfully obtained shelter bed

10 referrals to Path of Life Outreach teams

The first amendment to an American Rescue Plan Act Subrecipient agreement was entered on August 13, 2024, to extend the term an additional twenty (20) months, effective July 1, 2024, through February 28, 2026, in the amount of \$241,340 for total compensation amount of \$441,340.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This item contributes to **Strategic Priority No. 1 Arts, Culture & Recreation** and **Goal No. 1.1** - Strengthen Riverside's portfolio of arts, culture, recreation, senior and lifelong learning programs and amenities through expanded community partnerships, shared use opportunities and fund development.

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

1. **Community Trust** – This program focuses on resources and services for inclusive community engagement.
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 and future needs ensuring the City's capacity to persevere, adapt, and grow.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact with this report.

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Attachment: Path of Life Ministries LYNC Statistics