



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES **DATE:** FEBRUARY 12, 2024
FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY **WARDS:** ALL
SUBJECT: RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE SOCIAL WORK INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
CALLED THE LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR COLLABORATIVE ADMINISTERED BY
THE PATH OF LIFE MINISTRIES

ISSUES:

Receive an update on the Social Work Internship Program called the Love your Neighbor Collaborative (LYNC) administered by the Path of Life Ministries.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive and discuss the Social Work Internship Program called the Love your Neighbor Collaborative (LYNC) administered by the Path of Life Ministries.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act to facilitate the recovery from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) established the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, which provides a combined \$350 billion in assistance to eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to assist in the economic and health recovery by providing resources to address impacts resulting from the crisis.

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.

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:

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

Currently, LYNC is on-site 4 days a week at the Riverside Main library location and 2 days a week at the Arlington 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 thus far. 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: 5
Current number of active interns: 2

Main Library:

Riverside Main Library Current Caseload: 13 individuals
Discharged into housing: 3
LYNC provided a total of 188 services at the Riverside Main Library.

Out of the 187 services:

Housing Status
169 identified as homeless
140 identified experiencing homelessness for 12 months or longer
16 identified experiencing homelessness for 3-12 months
2 identified experiencing homelessness for 1-3 months
10 identified experiencing homelessness for 1 month or less
10 identified as at-risk of becoming homeless
9 reported not homeless

Sex

155 Male
28 Female
4 did not identify

Services Received:

4 substance abuse treatment referrals
9 employment referrals
8 legal services referrals
25 mental health referrals
28 emergency shelter referrals
13 successfully obtained shelter bed
15 referrals to Path of Life Outreach teams

Arlington Library:

Arlington Library Current Caseload: 2
LYNC provided a total of 12 services at the Riverside Arlington Library.

Out of the 12 services:

Housing status

10 identified as homeless

7 identified experiencing homelessness for 12 months or longer

1 identified experiencing homelessness for 1-3 months

1 identified experiencing homelessness for 1 month or less

3 identified as at-risk of becoming homeless

Sex:

8 Male

4 Female

Services received:

3 shelter referrals

3 referrals to Path of Life Outreach teams

1 legal services referral

1 APS referral

2 employment referrals

Library and Path of Life staff are exploring funding opportunities for continuation and potential expansion of the LYNC program after the initial funding expires in June 2024.

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.

Prepared by: Erin Christmas, Library Director