

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Dennis J. Campa, Director, Department of Community Initiatives

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

COPIES: Frances A. Gonzalez, Assistant to the City Manager; City Attorney's Office; Finance Department; Office of Management and Budget; Municipal Courts; San Antonio Police Department; File

SUBJECT: **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A CONTINUATION GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION FOR THE JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY INCENTIVE BLOCK GRANT**

DATE: December 12, 2002

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance authorizes the submission of a continuation grant application by the City of San Antonio's Department of Community Initiatives to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division for the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) in the amount of \$413,493.00 for twelve months. JAIBG funds will be used to support the Striving Together to Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows (START) and Neighborhood Conferencing Committees (NCC) Programs from August 1, 2003 to July 31, 2004.

Staff recommends the approval of this ordinance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The current Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant of \$450,134.00 is allocated for August 1, 2002 to July 31, 2003 and supports Striving Together to Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows (START), Neighborhood Conferencing Committees (NCC) and Teen Court Programs. The decrease in funding expected next year from JAIBG will not allow for the current implementation level of START and NCC along with the Teen Court Program. This continuation grant of \$413,493.00 will continue the START and NCC programs for the period of August 1, 2003 through July 31, 2004. Current JAIBG funding will allow for the continuation of the Teen Court Program through July 31, 2003. Alternate funding will be sought for the Teen Court Program beyond that date.

The START program is a long-term, intensive case management program developed by the National Center on Addition and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University. START is currently operational in four schools in the South San Antonio and Edgewood Independent School Districts. The program targets the 60 students identified by the school personnel as being the most likely to drop out of school, to involve themselves in substance abuse, and/or to become involved with the juvenile justice system. The focus of this program is to deliver services to youth and the family using a holistic approach to meet immediate as well as long-term needs.

START is a unique collaboration of the Department of Community Initiatives, San Antonio Police Department, South San Antonio ISD, Edgewood ISD, South San Antonio ISD Police Department, Communities-in-Schools and other social service agencies. It is characterized by four features: it is targeted, comprehensive, coordinated and locally designed and driven. The collaboration meets regularly in the form of case conferences and administrative meetings to address the needs of the participants, the community and the program. The START model has eight elements that participants receive: case management, family services, tutoring/educational activities, after-school/summer activities, mentoring, community policing, juvenile justice intervention, and incentives.

The NCC program is a modified community justice program that utilizes neighborhood volunteers to contract with first-time juvenile offenders and their families for appropriate consequences. During grant cycle 2001-2002, the NCC Program served 221 youth between the ages of 10-13 referred by the Municipal Court with Class C misdemeanor offenses. Working with the Municipal Courts of San Antonio, a committee made up of volunteers from the community initiates a relationship with the juvenile offender and establishes rehabilitative goals using the principles of the Balanced and Restorative Justice model. After interviewing the clients and their families, the committee contracts with the youth for specific consequences for his/her behavior. Counseling staff maintain regular contact with the youth and the family to monitor progress on the contract, make referrals appropriate to the contract that is established and serve as a liaison and advocate to other community agencies to which the youth/family are referred.

POLICY ANALYSIS

This ordinance continues current City policy to make a concerted effort to intervene in the lives of juveniles by offering alternative programs of rehabilitation and restitution in order to prevent delinquent behavior.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

The \$413,493.00 continuation grant from the JAIBG will allow the City to continue supporting the START and NCC programs. The City will continue to provide two Caseworker II positions for the START program as the City match for this continuation grant. The JAIBG currently supports 12 positions in the START, Neighborhood Conferencing Committee and Teen Court Programs – three Program Coordinators, two Caseworker II's, five Program Counselors, and two Case Aides.

With the continuation grant, 10 positions will be supported – two Program Coordinators, two Caseworker II's, five Program Counselors and one Case Aide. Alternate funding will be sought for the Teen Court and the positions required to support this program – one Program Coordinator and one Case Aide – beyond July 31, 2003. A ten-percent certified cash match of \$45,944.00 is required for this grant. These funds have been identified within the Department of Community Initiatives' general fund budget (see chart).

Budget Summary

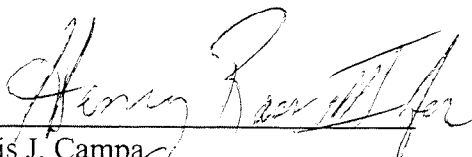
	<u>08/01/02 – 07/31/03</u>	<u>08/01/03 – 07/31/04</u>
JAIBG	\$450,134.00	\$413,493.00
Certified Cash Match	<u>\$50,015.00</u>	<u>\$45,944.00</u>
Total Budget	\$500,149.00	\$459,437.00


COORDINATION

The Department of Community Initiatives has coordinated with the Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition, Municipal Courts, San Antonio Police Department, City Attorney's Office, Finance Department, and Office of Management and Budget, Edgewood and South San Antonio Independent School Districts, Commission for Children and Families and the Youth Commission.

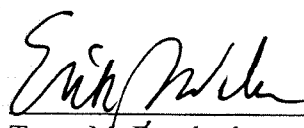
SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS

Provisions of the Ethics Ordinance do not apply.


 Dennis J. Campa
 Department Director


 Frances A. Gonzalez
 Assistant to the City Manager

Approved:


 Terry M. Brechtel
 City Manager