

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

CONSENT AGENDA
ITEM NO. 45A,B

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 City Manager; San Antonio Police Department, City Attorney's Office, Finance Department, Office of Management and Budget; File

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF TWO GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION FOR THE JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANT AND THE SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS GRANT

DATE: December 18, 2003

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. This ordinance authorizes the submission of a continuation grant application by the Department of Community Initiatives to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) in the amount of \$345,848 for the Striving Together to Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows (START) and Neighborhood Conferencing Committees (NCC) Programs from August 1, 2004 to July 31, 2005.
- B. This ordinance authorizes the submission of a grant application by the Department of Community Initiatives to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division for the Safe & Drug Free Schools Grant in the amount of \$197,209 to support the Striving Together to Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows (START) Program in three additional San Antonio Independent School District schools from September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005.

Staff recommends the approval of these ordinances.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

DCI intends to apply for two grants from the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division. The JABG award, formerly JAIBG, for \$345,848 will support the continuation of both the Striving Together to Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows (START) and the Neighborhood Conferencing Committees (NCC) Programs. The current Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant of \$413,493 was awarded for the period August 1, 2003 to July 31, 2004. The Safe & Drug Free Schools Program will support the START Program by funding expansion to three new schools in SAISD. Both grants, if awarded, will support administrative and personnel costs for their respective programs.

Developed by the National Center on Addition and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University, START is a long-term, intensive case management program. The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence selected the CASASTART Program as a promising program. The Department of Education and the Expert Panel on Safe, Disciplined, and Drug-Free Schools identified CASASTART as an exemplary program and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Substance Abuse Prevention designated CASASTART as one of its

“effective programs.” Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has listed it as a model program and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has listed it among its model programs as a “proven program.” Additionally, it has been endorsed by the *Surgeon General’s Youth Violence Report*.

START is a unique collaboration between DCI, the San Antonio Police Department, South San Antonio ISD, Edgewood ISD, South San Antonio ISD Police Department, Communities-in-Schools and other social service agencies. START is currently operational in four schools in the South San Antonio ISD and Edgewood ISD. The program targets 60 students identified by 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 their families using a holistic approach to meet immediate as well as long-term needs.

The expansion of the START program to the Eastside of San Antonio and into SAISD would extend the reach of this program significantly. The three targeted schools were selected based on the recommendations of the Commission on Children and Families and after consultation with the San Antonio Independent School District. The three additional schools are: Washington and Tynan Elementary Schools and Wheatley Middle School, the feeder middle school. DCI proposes to serve an additional 45 youth at these three schools. Demographics of the selected schools are included in Attachment A.

The Neighborhood Conferencing Committees program is a modified community justice program that utilizes neighborhood volunteers to contract with first-time juvenile offenders and their families for appropriate consequences. The contract is an agreement developed by the youth offender and their parents/guardians and NCC counselors and volunteers, which outlines those actions the youth commits to complete in order to address any problems which may have contributed to them being involved in the misdemeanor and/or to atone for their actions. During grant cycle 2002-2003, the NCC Program served 353 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, the 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.

POLICY ANALYSIS

These ordinances continue current City policy of providing prevention and early intervention services to our young people in order to prevent delinquent behavior. These ordinances also continue existing City policy of leveraging grant funds to provide valuable services to our community. These actions promote youth development, help youth build assets through comprehensive programming, and enable youth to become better citizens.

FISCAL IMPACT

Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JABG)

The \$345,848 continuation grant from JABG will allow the City to continue supporting the START and NCC programs. The reduction from \$413,493 to \$345,848 in funding will require a decrease in personnel supported by the grant. The City will continue to provide two (2) Caseworker II positions for the START program as the City match for this continuation grant. The JAIBG currently supports ten positions in the START and NCC Programs: two (2) Program Coordinators, two (2) Caseworker II’s, five (5) Program Counselors, and one Case Aide. One vacant Program Counselor position will be eliminated, bringing the number of grant funded positions to nine. A

10% certified cash match of \$38,428 is required for this grant, making the total project budget \$384,276. These matching funds have been identified within the Department of Community Initiatives' General Fund budget.

Safe & Drug Free Schools Grant

This ordinance has no General Fund impact and does not require a cash match from the General Fund. It does leverage resources already in use from the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant to expand the START program funded in that grant by sharing supervisory and administrative staff.

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, Office of Management and Budget, Edgewood and South San Antonio Independent School Districts, Commission for Children and Families, Greater San Antonio Crime Prevention Commission and the Youth Commission.

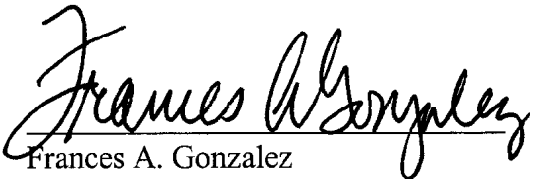
SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS

Provisions of the Ethics Ordinance do not apply.

- A listing of campus demographics for San Antonio Independent School District Schools selected for the START Program are included as Attachment A.



Dennis J. Campa, Director
Department of Community Initiatives



Frances A. Gonzalez
Assistant City Manager

Approved:



for Terry M. Brechtel
City Manager

Attachment A

Campus Demographics
San Antonio Independent School District Schools selected for the START Program

SCHOOL	% At-Risk	% Economically Disadvantaged
Washington Elementary	60 %	92%
Tynan Elementary	21%	93%
Wheatley Middle School	69%	91%