

Contracts with agencies for services under the Minneapolis Strategic Outreach Initiative (RCA-2021-00468)

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ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT

Health Department

To Committee(s)

#	Committee Name	Meeting Date
1	Public Health & Safety Committee	Apr 22, 2021

LEAD Josh Schaffer

PRESENTED Sasha Cotton

STAFF:

BY:

Action Item(s)

#	File Type	Subcategory	Item Description
1	Action	Contract/Agreement	Authorizing contracts with Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization, Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, Metro Youth Diversion Center, Restoration Inc., Urban Youth Conservation, and We Push for Peace, for up to a total of \$2.3 million, for services under the Minneapolis Strategic Outreach Initiative in 2021.

Previous Actions

2021-00077 - Request for Proposals for violence interruption services

Ward / Neighborhood / Address

#	Ward	Neighborhood	Address
1.	All Wards		

Background Analysis

In July 2020, one-time funding was allocated to the Office of Violence Prevention to operationalize a violence prevention model that included building teams of violence interrupters and outreach workers to 1) identify and mediate potentially violent conflicts and 2) provide additional follow up to ensure that conflicts do not reignite.

The process of full-scale design, development, and implementation of such a strategy can typically be expected to take more than a year. However, recognizing the pressing need for a visible, positive, and peaceful effort in communities, a pilot of the Minneapolis Strategic Outreach Initiative was launched in September 2020 to respond to urgent concerns around violence. The pilot, supported by one-time funding accessible through December 31, 2020, was implemented knowing that it would be limited in scope, reach, and duration and intended as a first step toward potential longer-term, broader implementation in future years.

The Minneapolis Strategic Outreach Initiative is a coordinated effort to prevent and reduce violence in the city. The initiative complements the Office of Violence Prevention's existing continuum of community-oriented violence prevention, intervention, and response. It relies upon the wisdom, expertise, and influence of local communities and is designed to serve Minneapolis with the city's unique communities and neighborhoods in mind. At the same time, it draws inspiration from evidence-based models of this kind of work. One notable example of such an evidence-based model is Cure Violence, which has been implemented in more than 50 sites throughout more than 25 cities in the US and Canada (<https://cvg.org/impact/>). This type of violence intervention model is often cited as one of the core pillars of evidence-informed violence interruption work, along two other strategies that the Office of Violence Prevention already employs: hospital-based violence intervention (the Next Step program locally) and Group Violence Intervention/Ceasefire/Group Violence Reduction (the Project LIFE/GVI strategy locally) (https://citiesunited.org/pdf/Cities_United_and_NICJR_Four_Proven_Ways_June_2017.pdf). The 2021 budget included funding that called for the Office of Violence Prevention to continue toward longer-term, broader implementation of the model.

To accomplish that, in February 2021 the Office of Violence Prevention undertook a competitive solicitation process and issued a Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP was used to identify agencies qualified to contract with or employ and oversee teams of street-based Outreach Workers/Violence Interrupters that will be part of the coordinated, citywide violence prevention approach that includes peacemaking, violence interruption, and community engagement and support known as the Minneapolis Strategic Outreach Initiative.

Through the competitive RFP process, six agencies were identified with whom the Office of Violence Prevention plans to pursue contracts. Collectively, the work of these six agencies will comprise a network of providers for a coordinated, citywide approach. It is anticipated that each agency will focus their services in specific parts of the city as follows:

Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization – contract amount will be up to \$350,000 for services in parts of South Minneapolis

Corcoran Neighborhood Organization – contract amount will be up to \$700,000 for services in 1) parts of South Minneapolis and 2) downtown

Metro Youth Diversion Center – contract amount will be up to \$350,000 in and around Cedar Riverside

Restoration Incorporated – contract amount will be up to \$275,000 for services in parts of North Minneapolis

Urban Youth Conservation - contract amount will be up to \$275,000 for services in parts of North Minneapolis

We Push for Peace – contract amount will be up to \$275,000 for services in parts of North Minneapolis

The total amount for contracts for the six agencies is expected to be up to \$2,225,000 for contracts through December 31, 2021.

FISCAL NOTE

- Contracts with agencies for services under the Minneapolis Strategic Outreach Initiative - Fiscal Note