



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Jane Light

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** November 7, 2011

Approved

Date

11/15/11

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** 5, 7 and 8  
**SNI AREA:** East Valley/680,  
K.O.N.A., Tully-Senter

**SUBJECT: COLLABORATION WITH THE YWCA SILICON VALLEY ON A  
GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION**

## RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to:

1. Collaborate with the YWCA Silicon Valley, which is submitting a \$5,900,000 grant application to the California Department of Education for the *21<sup>st</sup> Century High School After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens Grant Program*; and
2. Accept any grant funds awarded to the City and negotiate and execute all necessary documents related to any grant funding.

## OUTCOME

If the grant is approved, the City, through its Library Department, would receive no more than \$450,000 over the five year period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2017, for the provision of Family Literacy Services. If received, this grant would enable the City, through the Library Department's Partners in Reading program, to provide family literacy services to parents of at-risk high school students at the Andrew P. Hill, James Lick, William C. Overfelt, and Yerba Buena High Schools in the East Side Union High School District.

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These family literacy services will focus on English as a Second Language (ESL) and basic literacy skills in the context of supporting their child's high school education and higher educational pursuits. These services can help parents influence their child's academic achievements, successful completion of high school and higher education, or career pursuits. Research shows that with adolescents, parents still have a profound influence on their child's school success and that the higher the parent's expectations, the higher the adolescents' achievements. ESL and basic literacy skills will also be provided in the context of finding and securing employment. Stabilizing a family's income can also have positive impacts on a child's educational attainment. Grant funds will be used for personnel expenses such as ESL instructors, curriculum developers, and other project related staff. Non-personnel costs will include teaching supplies, student materials, testing supplies, mileage, and other such costs associated with the project.

## **BACKGROUND**

The YWCA Silicon Valley, in partnership with the East Side Union High School District, is applying for the 21st Century ASSETs (After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens) program grant. The purpose of this grant is to establish or expand community learning centers that provide at-risk students with academic enrichment opportunities and activities designed to complement the students' regular academic program and assist students in passing the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE). At the same time, centers help working parents by providing a safe environment for students during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session.

The first grant for this partnership was received in 2007 at which time *Project Inspire* was created. The goal of the YWCA's *Project Inspire* After School Program is to improve academic achievement and provide students with the opportunity to earn credit recovery within an after-school setting and provide a wide-range of services and activities to students enrolled within the East Side Union High School District in order to build developmental assets. The services include, but are not limited to: Academic Assistance using the AVID Tutorial Model, Life Skills Enrichment Classes, Fitness, Mentorship, Self-Expression via The Arts, Field Trips, Leadership Development Opportunities, and Service-Learning Projects. *Project Inspire* has served 5,359 students in the Overfelt, James Lick, Yerba Buena, and Andrew Hill High Schools and helped 930 seniors graduate.

Community learning centers must also offer literacy and related educational development services to the families of these students. The YWCA Silicon Valley has requested that the Library Department's Adult Literacy Program, Partners in Reading, offer these services. Partners in Reading has a long history of providing family literacy programs.

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### **ANALYSIS**

Through these grant funds, Partners in Reading would offer two classes for parents at each of the four high schools. These classes will focus on ESL and basic literacy skills in the context of supporting their child's education and securing employment. Through the program parents would learn about the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) and why it is important for their child to pass, how to support their child's success in high school, how to read transcripts, and other high school related topics. They would also learn about higher education opportunities for their children, financial aid, and visit local colleges and universities. By demystifying higher education, parents will be better able to support their child's educational pursuits.

Parents will also learn ESL and basic literacy skills related to employment. Topics will include using a computer to locate employment, completing an online job application, and interviewing.

This collaboration unites the strengths of the City, the YWCA, and the East Side Union High School District on behalf of these families and the educational success of their children. This is in direct alignment with the goals of SJ2020, a program that unites the County Office of Education, the City of San José, educators, business leaders, and community organizations in eliminating the achievement gap in San José by the year 2020. SJ2020 focuses on decreasing the dropout rate and increasing the graduation rate by establishing partnerships between the City, school districts, and non-profit organizations. It also strives to partner with schools to provide services that address the full continuum of students' needs, and aligning resources and coordinating services with other organizations.

### **EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

This project aligns with the Library Department's Performance Measure that 80% of literacy and school readiness program participants will rate the program as good or excellent and responsive to their needs.

If the grant is awarded, the Library will keep Council apprised of the project through reports to the Neighborhood Services & Education Committee.

No additional follow-up to Council is necessary as a result of this memorandum.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST**



**Criterion 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater.

**(Required: Website Posting)**

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- Criterion 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criterion 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

While this item does not meet any of the criteria, this memorandum will be posted on the City's website for the November 29, 2011 Council agenda.

### **COORDINATION**

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office and the City Manager's Budget Office.

### **COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS**

There are no costs to the General Fund or other City funds arising from this proposal. Funding is from the YWCA Silicon Valley through a grant from the California Department of Education and no match from the City is required for the grant.

This grant is not contingent on continuation of current library hours. Should budget actions impact Partners in Reading staff to the point where we could no longer administer the grant, we would exercise our right to withdraw from the agreement with the YWCA.

### **CEQA**

Not a project, File No. PP10-068(a), General Procedures & Policy Making, Grant Applications.

/s/  
JANE LIGHT  
Director, Library Department

For questions please contact Jane Light, Library Director at (408) 808-2150.