



Date: February 7, 2022

To: Wanda S. Page, City Manager
Through: W. Bowman Ferguson, Assistant City Manager
From: Patrice V. Andrews, Chief of Police
Subject: 2021 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Responses Program Grant Project Ordinance

Executive Summary

The Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (DOJ/OJP/BJA), has issued the FY 2021 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Responses Program Grant. This grant funding will be used to contract three Licensed Clinicians, fund site visits to other law enforcement agencies to learn best practices, crisis intervention training, and supplies and equipment needed for the three new clinicians. The purpose of the Connect and Protect Program to support law enforcement-behavioral health cross-system collaboration to improve public safety responses and outcomes for individuals with mental illness (MI) and co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse (CMISA) issues. The total award to the City of Durham from DOJ/OJP/BJA, for the 2021 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Responses Program Grant, is \$848,337, which includes a required local match of \$356,098.

Motion

To authorize the City Manager to accept the “2021 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Responses Program” grant by executing the grant documents; and to adopt the “2021 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Responses Program” Grant Project Ordinance in the amount of \$848,337.

Background

The DOJ/OJP/BJA, Connect and Protect Program is part of the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP). It is designated to support law enforcement-behavioral health cross-system collaboration and to improve public safety responses and outcomes for individuals with mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse who come into contact with the criminal justice system. Funding must be used to help entities plan, create, or expand comprehensive collaboration response programs that target preliminarily qualified offenders and promote public safety and public health.

In order to respond to Durham’s growing mental health population’s needs, the City’s Police and Community Safety Departments, Emergency Communications, and a MI/CMISA Service Provider are collaborating in the development of a Crisis Advocate Response and Engagement (CARE) Initiative. CARE is a pilot project of the City of Durham’s Police and Community Safety Departments. The program will serve as a co-responder model between law enforcement and mental health and implement a crisis call diversion program. Specifically, it is expected that the extended outreach and follow-up will significantly reduce the number of arrests, incarcerations and requests for service from citizens having MI or CMISA issues. CARE will serve as an enhancement to the DPD’s current Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program, by pairing CIT

trained officers with a Licensed Clinician in a co-response model. With these combined efforts, the program aims to significantly improve outcomes related both to criminal justice involvement and engagement in treatment. This program will also develop a crisis call diversion program, that will embed a mental health clinician into our 911 call center, to improve our ability to identify and redirect non-emergent, non-life threatening calls for service that are mental health related. The crisis call diversion program will help to identify and reduce the risk of harm to individuals with MI or CMISA issues and to public safety, by handling calls remotely by tele-counselors, dispatch the calls to the Community Safety Department’s mobile crisis response teams, or dispatch to the co-response team.

Issues and Analysis

The main issue is whether to accept this funding opportunity from the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Connect and Protect Law Enforcement Behavioral Responses Program Grant. If the City refuses to accept funding from the 2021 Connect and Protect Program Grant, it could negatively impact the possibility of future funding to the City of Durham from the DOJ/OJP/BJA.

Alternatives

DOJ/OJP/BJA has made the funding available to the City of Durham for this project. The alternative would be to deny this motion, which would impact the Police and Community Safety Departments ability to implement the CARE pilot program. If the motion is denied additional funding could be sought in the General Fund to assist in implementing the pilot project.

Financial Impact

There will be financial impact on the City of Durham’s general fund starting in FY24 by accepting this grant award. The budget for this funding is as follows:

Budget Item	Amount
2021 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Responses Program Grant	\$492,239.00
Match (In-Kind)	\$209,416.00
Match Cash (City Match)	<u>\$146,682.00</u>
 Total Project	 \$848,337.00

Equal Business Opportunity Summary

Due to the nature of this item, Equal Business Opportunity Summary (EBOP) is not applicable to this agreement.

Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices

Due to the nature of this agenda item, obtaining Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices information is not applicable.

Attachments

- Grant Project Ordinance
- Grant Award Documentation