



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 5615  
November 4, 2019  
Regular Business**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 5615: SAMHSA Grants for Youth and Family Services Prevention Work	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Accept SAMHSA grant funds.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Youth and Family Services
<b>STAFF:</b>	Cynthia Goodwin, YFS Director
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	n/a
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	1. Implement a Fiscal Sustainability Plan

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ 435,750
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ 0
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ 435,750

**SUMMARY**

In August 2019, Youth and Family Services (“YFS”) received notification of two grant awards from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (“SAMHSA”). These funding opportunities are new as this grant was previously only available to Single State Agencies and tribal organizations.

The combined total of both grants is \$1,694,400 with zero match required from the City. The first is a *Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act* (“STOP”) grant of \$48,600 annually for four years (\$194,400 total) aimed specifically at preventing and reducing underage drinking. The second is a *Partnership for Success, Strategic Prevention Framework* (“SPF”) grant of \$300,000 annually for five years for broader drug and alcohol prevention and mental health promotion efforts (\$1.5 million total).

The two grants complement each other as both use a SAMHSA-specific prevention methodology and framework. The scale and scope of the SPF grant is larger than the STOP grant because, in addition to providing additional capacity for underage alcohol prevention, it also funds prevention of underage vaping, marijuana, opiates, prescription drug, nicotine/vape use, as well as direct mental health services and strategies. SPF mental health promotion funding includes parent education, youth mental health screening, campaigns to reduce mental health stigma, and suicide prevention.

The STOP and the SPF prevention grants will replace lost capacity for youth prevention and health promotion after the sunseting of the 2007-2017 Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant (also SAMHSA). At the end of the last DFC grant a full-time staff position was eliminated that was tied to grant funding. YFS scaled back the program and maintained it at a nominal level leveraging existing staff time with a small operating budget. The “Healthy Youth Initiative” project continued prevention work for the next two years while continually looking for new funding opportunities to scale back up.

These two grants will be coordinated under the YFS *Mercer Island Healthy Youth Initiative* (HYI) coalition project, the evolution of the Communities That Care coalition that previously coordinated DFC grant funds. Together, funds from both the STOP and SPF grants will restore current YFS community-wide substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion back to, and beyond, previous DFC funding levels. The majority of grant funds require application to new efforts, including public health messaging/education, social norms marketing, social-emotional and prevention curriculum for parents/students, and YFS staffing to coordinate and manage the effort. There will be 1.0 FTE to replace that which was lost when DFC funds ended and an additional 0.5 - 0.75 FTE to cover the expanded scale/scope of this project. Staff will work out of the Luther Burbank Admin building and all associated expenses (salary, benefits, training, computer, etc.) are paid for with grant funds. A small portion (\$24k/per year) will supplant the current department work of the school-based mental health counselors.

Grant-related substance use prevention outcomes include:

- reduce current drug and alcohol use among youth,
- increase perception of risk/harm, and
- increase perception of parent and peer disapproval.

Mental health outcomes include:

- reduce help-seeking stigma,
- decrease anxiety and depression indicators in youth, and
- increase identification and linkages for youth with mental health precursors.

The SPF grant includes collaborations with partners in prevention science and mutual learning opportunities. YFS will use grant resources to expand existing partnerships with academic institutions (i.e. U.W.) and work more closely with formal health organizations that impact Islanders (i.e. DOH, Health Care Authority). The grant scope of work includes close collaboration with a “Lead Epidemiologist” from the Center for Health and Safety Culture via contract to assist with evaluation and data interpretation. The activities and budgets for these grants will be coordinated to avoid overlap and maximize collective impact. Given the grant timelines, budgets will be finalized by October 31.

The \$435,750 grant funded appropriation request is for the remainder of the 2019-2020 biennium. Funds will restore the Healthy Youth Initiative programs and services to previous levels and expand relationships with community partners for prevention efforts. The remainder of the grant funds (\$1,258,650) will be budgeted in the 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 biennia as appropriate. Both grants run on a federal fiscal year of October 1 to September 30; STOP ending in September 2023 and SPF ending in September 2024.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize City Manager to accept the SAMHSA STOP and SPF grants and appropriate \$435,750 in grant funds for the 2019-2020 biennium.

