



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 7/23/2024

REQUESTER: AshLynn Wilkerson, Assistant City Attorney

PRESENTER: Rick Knighton, Interim City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2425-22: BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN AND THE VIRTUE CENTER FOR A TOTAL OF \$190,000 TO IMPLEMENT THE APPROVED POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OPIOID ABATEMENT GRANT PROJECT WHICH CONSISTS OF A FREE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAM, EXPANDING OUTPATIENT TREATMENT SERVICES FOR ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS ADDICTED TO OPIATES, AND PROVIDING TRAINING FOR THERAPISTS IN EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT MODALITIES.

BACKGROUND:

In 2020, the Oklahoma Legislature enacted House Bill 4138, the Political Subdivisions Opioid Abatement Grants Act, creating the Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board oversight body for the distribution of opioid settlement funds. Section 2 of the Act provides the Legislature's purpose, which is "to promote and protect the health of Oklahomans by using monetary grants to abate the opioid crisis in a comprehensive manner that includes cooperation and collaboration with political subdivisions." 74 O.S. § 30.4. Although the City of Norman did not participate as a litigating party in any of the opioid lawsuits, it is eligible for opioid abatement grants.

On October 10, 2023, the City Council approved Resolution R-2324-71 authorizing the City Manager to submit a letter of intent to submit an application for Opioid Abatement Grant funds.

In early 2024, Staff drafted Request for Proposal RFP-2324-49 seeking proposals for a partnership to assist the City with executing a project pursuant to the approved purposes set forth in the Act. See, 74 O.S. §30.5. The Virtue Center was the highest ranking submission and their proposal informed the project submitted to the State in the grant application.

On March 4, 2024, the City Council approved Resolution R-2324-132 authorizing Staff to submit an application for \$190,000 of grant funding for the purpose of funding a partnership with The Virtue Center to implement the qualifying programs and services described in their proposal.

DISCUSSION:

On June 4, 2024, the State provided a Conditional Award of the \$190,000 grant funding for the partnership project with The Virtue Center. To be fully awarded the grant funding, Staff must complete an implementation plan for the project, make revisions to the budget as requested in the conditional award, and register on the State's supplier portal. The City Council must also officially accept the grant award and approve both the agreement between the State and the City and the agreement between the City and The Virtue Center. Staff have already completed the required steps to satisfy the conditional award.

The agreement with The Virtue Center outlines the responsibilities of both the City and The Virtue Center. The City will provide the grant funding, only after receipt from the State, to The Virtue Center in monthly installments, the first payment following execution of the agreement, and the rest to be provided on the last day of each month. The Virtue Center is to execute the State approved project in conformance with their proposal, the implementation plan, and the State approved budget. The project generally goes to serve:

- Initiating a free education and awareness program for approximately 500 community members and leaders at large annually.
- Expanding outpatient treatment services by providing specialized treatment for adolescents and adults whose primary addition is opiates.
- Supplementing outpatient treatment services by training therapists in two evidence based treatment modalities for substance use disorders – Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy.

The Virtue Center is also to supply any and all information, documentation, and reports needed to satisfy the quarterly reporting requirement and any other reporting information required from the State concerning the project. The term of the agreement will begin upon execution of the agreement and last until either the date of project completion or June 30, 2026, whichever is first. This agreement also obligates The Virtue Center to the same obligations contained in the City's agreement with the State, as is required by that agreement.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Contract K-2425-22.