

Memorandum



DATE August 21, 2018

CITY OF DALLAS

TO Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee; Sandy Greyson, Committee Chair; Mark Clayton, Vice Chair; Scott Griggs, Rickey D. Callahan, Jennifer S. Gates, B Adam McGough, Omar Narvaez

SUBJECT Corporation for National and Community Service Grant for the AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service to America) Program

On September 26, 2018, the Dallas City Council will consider Consent Agenda Item 18-716 concerning continuation of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) AmeriCorps VISTA Program.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is a federal government agency that provides resources for supporting services, volunteering, and capacity building to cities in the United States. CNCS engages more than five million Americans in service through many programs such as AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America. One of the CNCS AmeriCorps Programs is Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA). VISTA members are passionate and committed to their mission to bring communities out of poverty. Members make a year-long, full-time commitment to serve on a specific project at a nonprofit, community organization or public agency. They focus their efforts to build the capacity of organizations that fight illiteracy, improve health services, foster economic development, and otherwise assist low-income communities.

In 2014, the City of Dallas applied to the CNCS for an AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) Program grant. The City was awarded the grant, which began in the Mayor's Office as part of the growSouth Initiative. VISTA members were assigned to work in the Southern Dallas community providing technical assistance and capacity building services to neighborhood organizations.

In 2016, CNCS provided a monetary grant to the City of Dallas to expand the AmeriCorps VISTA Program for community outreach and community policing to include VISTA member placements with the Dallas Police Department and Community Courts, and to cover the salary for a full-time Coordinator for the program in the amount of \$60,000 for the period from May 1, 2016 through April 29, 2017. In 2017, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) continued this grant for an additional year for the period from April 30, 2017 through April 28, 2018.

In FY 17-18, the Planning and Urban Design Department began managing the CNCS AmeriCorps VISTA Program grant. Starting April 30, 2018, CNCS discontinued the monetary grant and transitioned the program to a cost-share program. The program included a total of 19 VISTA members for which the City was responsible for a cost-share for up to 6 (six) VISTA members. This increased the number of VISTA placements with the Dallas Police Department and added new placements with the Office of Community Care. At this time CNCS agreed to modify the Memorandum of Agreement term to better

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align with the City's fiscal year. An Administrative Action No. 18-5705 was approved to execute a Memorandum of Agreement No. PNV-2018-00006065 with CNCS, for the period from April 29, 2018 through September 29, 2018, to expend \$28,338.00 of appropriated funds for the cost-share portion of the grant for the remainder of FY 17-18.

This Council action will enable continuation of this grant for FY 2018-19, subject to the Council's appropriation of funding for the City's cost share portion. The grant will continue to provide for up to a total of 19 VISTAs, with the City of Dallas responsible for a cost-share for up to 6 VISTAs.

Please let me know if you have any questions.



Raquel Favela

Chief of Economic Development & Neighborhood Services

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Larry Casto, City Attorney
Carol A. Smith, City Auditor Interim
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Raquel Favela, Chief of Economic Development & Neighborhood Services
Directors and Assistant Directors