

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 17, 2020

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Texas Department of Criminal Justice Re-Entry Services Program**

On January 22, 2019, City Council will vote to authorize the acceptance of grant funds from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) in the amount of \$500,000 over 2 years to operate a re-entry services pilot program.

## **Background**

On December 9, 2019, the Office of Community Care (OCC) briefed the Workforce, Education and Equity (WEE) Committee on the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Re-Entry Services contract. The briefing provided an overview of an appropriation of \$500,000 over two years for TDCJ to enter into a contractual agreement with the City of Dallas to operate a pilot program for re-entry services to offenders being released from TDCJ facilities, expectations of the contract, and highlighted how disparities in incarceration rates can ultimately impact communities. Additionally, the briefing provided a program plan for FY2019-20 and FY2020-21 funding and updates on a prior re-entry services programming partnership between TDCJ and the City of Dallas. During the briefing, Committee members asked several questions regarding the prior program and requested that staff take certain specific actions as we continue to plan for program implementation.

## **Program Overview and Contract Expectations**

The re-entry services pilot program was established during the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas legislative session. An appropriation of \$250,000 in FY20 and \$250,000 in FY21 to TDCJ to enter into an agreement with the City of Dallas to operate a pilot program for re-entry services to offenders being released from TDCJ facilities. The City may enter into contracts with non-profit entities, faith-based organizations, community groups and the private sector for the provision of re-entry services.

## **Previous Funding**

During the 84<sup>th</sup> legislative session, the City of Dallas was awarded a total of \$1,000,000 over 2 years to create and operate a pilot program for re-entry services. Funding was administered by the Office of Strategic Partnerships and Government Affairs (OSPGA) via a procurement process and expended via contracts with the Texas Offender Reentry Initiative and CityWide Community Development Corporation during FY17 and FY18.

During the December 9, 2019 presentation, members of the WEE Committee requested more information on the procurement process, metrics tracking, and expenses for the project.

The following is provided to address the information requested:

DATE January 17, 2020  
 SUBJECT **Texas Department of Criminal Justice Re-Entry Services Program**

***Procurement Process***

Contracting decisions were made via a procurement process. The top two bids were received from TORI and from CityWide CDC. TORI is a service provider with a strong reputation for providing re-entry services. CityWide CDC did not have prior experience in re-entry services delivery; however, they demonstrated partnerships with experienced providers of these services.

***Metric Tracking***

During this grant period, data on clients entering the program and entering into job training or apprenticeships was collected on a regular basis from sub-recipients. CityWide CDC reported on clients served monthly and TORI chose to report quarterly. OSPGA staff presented to the Quality of Life, Arts, and Culture Committee in February 2017, which was the 6-month mark for the program.

The below chart outlines performance metrics for the program. Because the program was a pilot program, bidders were asked to develop metrics based on the structure of the program they were proposing, therefore the metrics reported by CityWide and TORI were slightly different. Staff was asked to request additional data from the providers on how many clients were rearrested. At this time, staff has not been able to obtain this information from TORI but will provide if the information becomes available.

<b>Metric</b>	<b>CityWide</b>	<b>TORI</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Number of participants entering the program	88	55	143
Number of participants who completed professional development/job readiness training	55	17	72
Number of participants who completed classroom or on the job training/apprenticeship	25	4	29
Number of participants placed in employment	49	50	99
Number of participants retaining employment after 30 days	41	N/A	41
Number of participants retaining employment after 60 days	18	N/A	18
Number of participants retaining employment after 3/6/12 months (full- or part-time)	N/A	30	30
Rearrested	2	Unknown	2

***Program Expenses***

Expenses for the program over two years is outlined below.

<b>Expense</b>	<b>CityWide</b>	<b>TORI</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Strategic Planning and Program Oversight	\$95,348.80	\$16,965.16	<b>\$112,313.96</b>
Case Management – case management, screening and assessment, job placement, client tracking software, compliance monitoring	\$219,661.32	\$370,232.73	<b>\$589,894.05</b>
Job Training – classroom and on the job training, soft skills/job readiness training	\$65,286.70	\$24,083.20	<b>\$89,369.90</b>

DATE January 17, 2020  
 SUBJECT **Texas Department of Criminal Justice Re-Entry Services Program**

Direct Client Support – transportation assistance, stipends, job tools/uniforms, background checks, ID assistance	\$14,373.62	\$19,581.21	<b>\$33,954.83</b>
Evaluation – external evaluation to track client outcomes and performance measures	N/A	\$39,160.00	<b>\$39,160.00</b>
Administration – training spaces, phone, internet, grant accounting, equipment and supplies	\$69,769.56	\$65,537.70	<b>\$135,307.26</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$464,440.00</b>	<b>\$535,560.00</b>	<b>\$1,000,000.00</b>

**New Program Plan for FY2019-20 and FY2020-21**

Once the contract between TDCJ and City of Dallas has been executed, the OCC will administer the program. Historically, it is not uncommon for the OSPGA to administer new grant funded programs, and then transition management to the appropriate department. An example of this is the Corporation for National and Community Services VISTA program, which was initially administered by that department before transitioning to the Office of Planning and Urban Design.

The provision of re-entry services programming directly aligns with City efforts and priorities to fight poverty and promote equity, and as such, equity and poverty data will inform program prioritization. Additionally, OCC will integrate specific reporting requirements and processes into the procurement and contract to ensure that we are able to meet TDCJ expectations regarding reporting.

*Procurement*

Funding will be administered via a procurement process. OCC will seek holistic programming designed to ensure that clients are able to secure stable housing, stable employment and financial stability, and that includes direct services provision or linkages to case management, education or job skills/vocational training, housing placement support, job placement support, financial assistance, and life skills programming. The City will enter a 2-year contract with the option to terminate for non-performance. OCC will integrate key components of the Request for Proposals from the prior funding and will also integrate specific requirements recommended by TDCJ from lessons learned from the prior project.

*Planning In Progress*

Staff from OCC has met with representatives from TDCJ to learn more about their reporting of recidivism and grant reporting requirements. At the request of the WEE committee, we have submitted a data request for client released to the Dallas area by zip code. OCC will provide an update via memo to WEE once this data is received.

Additionally, OCC discussed with TDCJ specific opportunities for better client recruitment. TDCJ provided recommended steps for our contractors to undertake to enable them to better recruit and track eligible clients, as this was an identified barrier during the prior project.

DATE January 17, 2020  
SUBJECT **Texas Department of Criminal Justice Re-Entry Services Program**

Staff is in the process of having conversations with and scheduling meetings with community organizations that serve clients in the target population to learn more about their programming and client-tracking capacities. This feedback is being considered as we develop program expectations for the procurement process to ensure that we are able to hold our partners accountable in a way that is achievable, and to ensure we are able to contract with partners who can track clients beyond their time in the program. Additionally, staff is in contact with representatives from the City of Houston, who also received TDCJ funding for the FY2019-20 and FY2020-21 project, and with program partners at Dallas County.

### *Long Term Tracking*

TDCJ has committed to providing information to OCC about whether clients have been re-incarcerated at one year after the conclusion of the programming, but this would not be referred to as a recidivism. Per TDCJ, recidivism rate is specifically defined at a 3-year timeline. TDCJ is the sole entity responsible for reporting an official recidivism rate.

### **Conclusion**

Upon authorization of the TDCJ contract, staff will move forward with the procurement process in order to identify program partners. Staff has made efforts to provide information requested during the WEE briefing within this memo and will provide any additional data obtained via memorandum to the Committee.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact myself or Jessica Galleshaw, Director of Office of Community Care.



Nadia Chandler Hardy  
Assistant City Manager

c: TC Broadnax, City Manager  
Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim)  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
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  
Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
Laila Aleqresh, Chief Innovation Officer  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion  
Directors and Assistant Directors