

COVID Relief Competititive RFP Summary

The City's 2021 Adopted Operating Budget authorized a total of \$725,000 COVID Relief Fund, to be administered by the Community Development Division to support community-directed responses to needs arising from the social and economic fallout from the pandemic. Prioritized use of these funds will include initiatives supporting community responses that help meet the basic needs of populations affected by COVID-19 and to support service gaps identified in the Public Health Violence Prevention Plan. On January 19, 2021, the City Council approved the expenditure of \$500,000 of the COVID Relief Fund (RES-21-00042) for rental assistance. This RFP will provide recommendations to the Council for the expenditure of the remaining \$225,000 in three distinct service areas:

- 1) Community Safety Worker Program Planning,
- 2) Youth Violence Prevention through leadership and employment opportunities, and
- 3) Basic Needs for individuals and families impacted by violence.

Community Safety Worker Program Planning

Purpose

The City recognizes the contribution that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on violence and crime patterns in the city. The City recognizes the ongoing challenges that exist with our current public safety model and continues to seek models that will improve our approach and subsequently prevent violence. We rely heavily on law enforcement to provide services which many times can be classified as outside of their scope of knowledge, training, or expertise. Fear of crime within communities, a perceived lack of social controls or community cohesion, and the limitations of reactive or repressive approaches to crime have all contributed to a new way of conceptualizing safety. This has led to an expansion and incorporation of community safety—direct outreach professions, seen around the world. Funds from this RFP will support the development of a community safety—direct outreach program model to support the community based work these individuals provide, while also providing a system that will continue to adequately train, support, and encourage.

Funds will support an organization/agency that will take on an active and collaborative role in developing a comprehensive community safety worker program model complete with training, program deliverables, standards of best practice, and evaluation principles in conjunction with Public Health Madison and Dane County (PHMDC). Proposals will be measured by the extent to which they are efficiently responsive to the goals, objectives, and requirements of the RFP.

Please note: These funds are not for implementation but rather for the development of a community safety worker program model. Additionally, funds are only available for 2021 and are not part of the CDD annual budget.

Funding Available

This RFP will make available up to \$20,000, comprised of:

- COVID Relief Fund -Violence Prevention Funding: Established by the City of Madison Common Council, these funds are dedicated to support community-based efforts to prevent violence or provide support to the development and/or implementation of violence prevention programming.

Target Population

This RFP will provide funding to an organization/agency that has experience working in disadvantage and disproportionately impacted communities in the area of community safety. In particular, funds will support *the development* of a comprehensive community safety—direct outreach program. This program will increase the amount of available community safety—direct outreach professionals in our community and will equip them with the tools and resources necessary to be successful in the community.

Eligible Applicants

These funds will be offered to qualified organizations that have experience implementing community based safety programs including but not limited to community safety worker programs or street outreach worker programs. The City seeks to specifically support qualified agencies with infrastructure in place to support community safety based programming, as the intent is to partner with an organization who has direct experience in this type of programming. This experience will aid in understanding of any successes that should be replicated in the model and any opportunities for improvement that should be incorporated into the model. Additionally, priority will be given to organizations that are positioned to utilize funds rapidly, with infrastructure in place to identify appropriate staff who have experience in program development, researching and implementing best practice standards, and/or direct experience in providing community safety programming and support. Preference will be given to organizations that demonstrate that they are already connected to residents in need of safety, conflict deescalation, and conflict resolution support and have existing collaborations and relationships with key stakeholders. Preference will also be given to organizations that demonstrate ability to meet consistently and continually through 2021 in order to fully develop a community safety worker model.

Youth Violence Prevention

Purpose

The City recognizes that low-income youth and youth of color have been and continue to be disproportionately effected by the impact of the pandemic and violence in our community. This RFP will provide resources to high school age youth for specific activities that support social emotional learning and positive attachment to peers and the community through leadership and employment opportunities preferably through continuation or expansion of existing programs.

Proposals will be measured by the extent to which they (1) authentically partner with youth to build their leadership skills and support youth in leadership roles or (2) increase employment and paid internship opportunities for youth who face multiple barriers to employment.

Funding Available

This portion of the RFP will make available a minimum of \$75,000 and a maximum of \$205,000 of the COVID Relief Fund, as described in the City of Madison 2021 budget.

Please note: These funds are only available for 2021 and are not part of the CDD annual budget.

Target Population and Activities

This RFP will focus support to high school age youth (14-18 years) from low income families and youth of color that have been disproportionately effected by the pandemic and impacted by violence.

In particular, funding recommendations will prioritize programs that create a safe and inclusive environment recognizing that race and culture are core to youth identity through the following activities:

- Meaningful opportunities that promote youth voice and leadership through the support of youths' social-emotional skills and self-efficacy with an emphasis on promoting a violence-free community, developing knowledge and awareness about the impact of violence on individuals and the community, and building conflict resolution skills to reduce the incidents of interpersonal conflict that can occur among youth in the community.
- Employment and/or paid internship opportunities that support of youths' transition to adulthood, and self-reliance, through the development of employment skill that reduces participant's barriers to active participation in future education or employment.

Eligible Applicants

These funds will be offered to qualified organizations whose history, mission, vision, values and long term goals align with CDD's goals; and is experienced and qualified to provide high quality programming to the proposed population. Additionally, priority will be given to organizations that are positioned to utilize funds rapidly through on-going programs. Preference will be given to organizations that demonstrate that they have established relationships with youth in need of support and have existing collaborations with key stakeholders.

Basic Needs for Families Impacted by Violence

Purpose

As a result of the pandemic, the basic needs of many in our community are not being met and connections to community are halted. The City recognizes that this is particularly true for low income individuals and families. Violence has increased in our communities and is driven in part by these challenges to meeting basic needs, an increase in isolation, and the loss of income. This RFP will provide resources to individuals and families impacted by violence to help meet basic needs.

Proposals will be measured by the extent to which they (1) authentically connect with the family system and individuals and families who have been impacted by violence; and (2) provide basic needs assistance to support wrap around services to families with young adults to alleviate stressors and support healing and well-being.

Funding Available

This portion of the RFP will make available a minimum of \$75,000 and a maximum of \$205,000 of the COVID Relief Fund, as described in the City of Madison 2021 budget.

Please note: These funds are only available for 2021 and are not part of the CDD annual budget.

Target Population and Activities

This RFP will focus support to low income individuals and families that have been disproportionately effected by the pandemic and violence. In particular, funding recommendations will prioritize programs that have:

- (1) A strong history of working with individuals and families impacted by violence,

- (2) Existing connections to families of young adults in need of support, and
- (3) A mechanism by which to connect them to resources.

Proposals that also focus on neighborhoods that have been assigned a City of Madison Neighborhood Resources Team (Balsam Russet, Darbo Worthington, Hammersley/ Theresa Terrace, Park Edge Park Ridge, Allied Drive, Bram/Burr Oaks, Owl Creek, Leopold and Brentwood/Northport) are strongly encouraged.

Through funding provided by the RFP, families, youth, and young adults will be connected to basic needs such as food, medical assistance, utility assistance and other services/resources.

Eligible Applicants

These funds will be offered to qualified organizations whose history, mission, vision, values and long term goals align with CDD's goals; and are experienced and qualified to connect with and provide support for basic needs to families impacted by violence. Additionally, priority will be given to organizations that are positioned to utilize funds rapidly through on-going programs. Preference will be given to organizations that demonstrate that they are already connected to residents in need of this support and have existing collaborations with key stakeholders; and have the staff and programmatic capacity to execute by the end of the year.

Timeline for RFP

| Date - 2021 | RFP Activity |
|--------------------|---|
| 2/24 | CSC Committee reviews RFP Summary |
| 3/12 | Release of RFP |
| 4/19 | DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS |
| 4/28 | Community Services Committee – Discuss proposals, possible applicant presentations and make recommendations to Common Council |
| 5/4 | Common Council - Introduction |
| 5/10 | Finance Committee |
| 5/18 | Common Council - Final Action |
| 5/20 | Notification of Awards |
| 6/1 | Earliest anticipated contract start date(s) |