



# COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE: 02/06/2024

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO SUBMIT THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 JUVENILE JUSTICE AND TRUANCY PREVENTION GRANT APPLICATION AND RESOLUTION TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION, FOR THE RECONNECTING YOUTH PROGRAM**

**\*\*\* CONSENT AGENDA \*\*\***

**COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED**

It is requested that the Commissioners Court approve the submittal of the FY 2025 Juvenile Justice and Truancy Prevention Program grant application and resolution to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division (CJD), for the Reconnecting Youth Program.

**BACKGROUND**

The Office of the Governor, CJD, solicits applications for projects that support juvenile justice and delinquency prevention during the state fiscal year 2025 grant cycle. The purpose of these grant funds is to support programs that prevent violence in and around school; and to improve the juvenile justice system by providing mental health services, truancy prevention and intervention through community-based and school programs.

The Reconnecting Youth Program's target population is high school youth, ages 14-19, enrolled in the Tarrant County Juvenile Justice Education Program (TCJJAEP) under the mandatory and discretionary expulsion provisions. Characteristics of this population include youth at risk of dropping out of school, substance abuse, truancy, poor school performance, depression, aggression, suicidal behavior, deviant peer bonding, lack of social skills, delinquency, gang affiliation, developmental disabilities, emotional problems, and poor communication skills. The program has provided an 18% overall increase in GPA, 35% reduction in dropout rates, a 50% reduction in drug usage, and an 80% reduction in suicidal risk behaviors.

If awarded, the TCJJAEP will continue to administer the Reconnecting Youth Program curriculum. The deadline for submission is February 8, 2024. The funding period for the grant begins September 1, 2024 and expires on or before August 30, 2025.

The Tarrant County Juvenile Board approved this grant submission at its regular meeting on January 17, 2024.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The grant funds being requested is \$100,000.00. No grant match is required.

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| SUBMITTED BY: | Budget and Risk Mgmt | PREPARED BY:<br>APPROVED BY: | Shelley Aguirre<br>Bennie Medlin |
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