



## COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

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

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DATE: 02/07/2023

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO SUBMIT THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 GENERAL JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PROGRAMS GRANT APPLICATION AND RESOLUTION TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION, FOR RECONNECTING YOUTH PROGRAM**

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

**COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED**

It is requested that the Commissioners Court approve the submission of the FY 2024 General Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Programs Grant Application and Resolution to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, for the Tarrant County Reconnecting Youth Program (RYP).

**BACKGROUND**

The Office of the Governor solicits local applications for projects that support juvenile justice and delinquency prevention during the State grant cycle. The purpose of these grant funds is to support programs that prevent violence in and around schools and improve the juvenile justice system by developing effective education, training, prevention, diversion, treatment, and rehabilitation programs for juvenile delinquency.

The Tarrant County Reconnection Youth Program provides services to high school youth, ages 14-19, enrolled in the Tarrant County Juvenile Justice Education Program (TCJJAEP) under the mandatory and discretionary expulsion provisions. Program participants are at risk of dropping out of school, truancy, and poor school performance. In addition, participants typically experience substance abuse issues, depression, aggression, suicidal behavior, deviant peer bonding, gang affiliation, lack of social skills, developmental disabilities, emotional problems, and poor communication skills. TCJJAEP, through RYP, has successfully offered an evidence-based life skills curriculum to these at-risk youth. Historically, this program has provided an eighteen percent (18%) overall increase in GPA, a thirty-five percent (35%) reduction in dropout rates, a fifty percent (50%) reduction in substance abuse, and an eighty percent (80%) reduction in suicidal risk behaviors.

To continue these efforts, Tarrant County Juveniles Services is seeking approval to request grant funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the TCJJAEP RYP curriculum. The term of the grant is expected to begin September 1, 2023 and expire on or before August 30, 2024.

The Tarrant County Juvenile Board approved this grant submission at its regular meeting on January 18, 2023. The Budget and Risk Management Office have reviewed the application.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

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

SUBMITTED BY:	Budget and Risk Mgmt	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Claudia J. Del Toro Castro Helen Giese
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