



## COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

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

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DATE: 08/29/2023

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF INTERIM FUNDING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023  
GRANT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE DIVISION, FOR THE RECONNECTING YOUTH PROGRAM  
OPERATED BY TARRANT COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES**

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

#### **COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED**

It is requested that the Commissioners Court approve interim funding for the FY 2023 grant from the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division (CJD), for the Reconnecting Youth Program operated by Tarrant County Juvenile Services (TCJS) for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Reconnecting Youth Program is a state-mandated life skills program for students attending the Tarrant County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP). The targeted population is high school youth, Ages 14-19, enrolled in TCJJAEP under the mandatory and discretionary expulsion provisions of Texas Education Code, Chapter 37.00.

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. TCJJAEP has successfully offered an evidence-based life skills curriculum for many years.

This program has provided an eighteen percent (18%) overall increase in GPA, a thirty-five percent (35%) reduction in dropout rates, a sixty-two percent (62%) reduction in drug usage, and an eighty percent (80%) reduction in suicidal behaviors.

On October 25, 2022, the Commissioners Court, through Court Order #139515, accepted a FY 2023 Grant Award from the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, to fund the Reconnecting Youth Program. The FY 2023 grant expires on August 31, 2023.

With approval, interim funding in the amount of \$22,485.00 will be used to ensure the Reconnecting Youth Program continues. Staff anticipates Tarrant County will receive an FY 2024 grant award.

This request has been reviewed by the Budget Office and Auditor's Office.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

If County funds are utilized, the grant will reimburse the interim funding upon the Commissioner's Court approval of the grant contract renewal. If interim funding is required for ninety (90) days, the estimated cost of \$22,485.00 is available in account G0095-2024/2610115000 (Juvenile Services/Reconnecting Youth Program).

SUBMITTED BY:	Budget and Risk Mgmt	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Ty Guy Helen Giese
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