



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www.CityofSacramento.org

CONSENT
September 8, 2009

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Title: Grant: AmeriCorps

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Adopt a **Resolution 1)** authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute the standard State of California AmeriCorps agreement and any extensions, amendments, reapplications or other documents with the State of California as necessary for the City to accept and administer a three-year AmeriCorps grant in the amount of \$1,952,217; **2)** authorizing the City Manager or designee to establish a grant project in the START Fund 2501 for the AmeriCorps Program; **3)** authorizing the City Manager or designee to adjust the necessary grant and operating revenue and expenditure budgets to implement the \$1,952,217 grant in three one-year components of \$650,739 each; and **4)** approving the Resolution required by the State agency that operates the AmeriCorps program.

Contact: David Mitchell, Operations Manager, 808-6076

Presenters: Not applicable

Department: Parks and Recreation

Division: Recreation

Organization No: 19001631

Description/Analysis

Issue: The City has again been awarded a grant to operate an AmeriCorps program within the Sacramento START (Students Today Achieving Results for Tomorrow) program in the Parks and Recreation Department. Known as the domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps provides Americans with full- and part-time opportunities to perform intensive community service. The grant is awarded in three one-year increments, beginning July 1, 2009. Each of the three one-year grants covers operation of the program on a July 1 to June 30 cycle, with an additional six months after June 30 to continue spending on a limited number of items.

Authorization is requested for the City Manager to accept the grant, sign the agreement and related documents, establish a grant project, adjust budgets and appoint the Director of Parks and Recreation to take actions on behalf of the City

to administer the grant.

Policy Considerations: Continued participation in this program is consistent with the City's strategic plan to enhance livability.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): This report concerns administrative activities that will not have any significant effect on the environment and that do not constitute a "project," as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3); 15378(b)(2)].

Sustainability Considerations: Approval of this grant is not applicable to the goals, policies and targets of the Sustainability Master Plan or the 2030 General Plan, and its impact on the City's sustainability efforts cannot be evaluated at this time.

Commission/Committee Action: None

Rationale for Recommendation: Approval will allow AmeriCorps members to continue providing nutrition and fitness programs and resources to help START students and their families live healthier lives.

Financial Considerations: The program is funded for the first year of a three-year grant by the State of California in the maximum amount of \$650,739. The State expects to renew the grant for the second and third years for a maximum of \$650,739 each year for a total of \$1,952,217. In order to earn this amount, the program must be operated in accordance with the approved grant application, and local matching funds must be spent, either by direct cash expenditures or in-kind contributions. The Sacramento START program has the capability to absorb the grant match within its existing operating budget, and no additional General Fund appropriation is required.

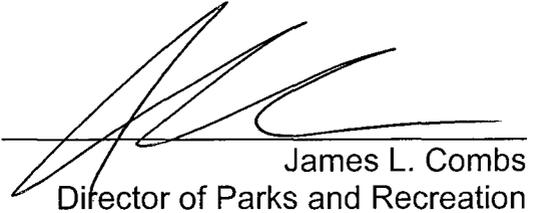
Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Purchase of supplies and equipment will be made in accordance with the City's Emerging and Small Business Development program requirements.

Respectfully submitted by:



David Mitchell
Operations Manager

Approved by: _____


James L. Combs
Director of Parks and Recreation

Recommendation Approved:

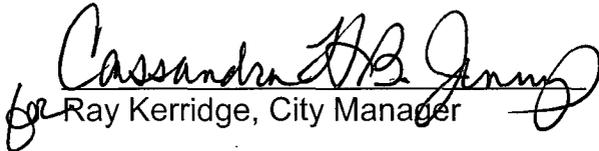

for Ray Kerridge, City Manager

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Attachment 1**Background**

Sacramento START (Students Today Achieving Results for Tomorrow) is a public/private collaborative providing after-school literacy and enrichment programs to more than 8,000 enrolled elementary school children in the most disadvantaged areas of the City and County. Part of the mission of START is to build the capacity of elementary school children to succeed academically and socially, while reconnecting families and neighborhoods with their schools.

Known as the domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps provides Americans with full- and part-time opportunities to perform intensive community service. AmeriCorps participants, known as members, work in locally-designed programs using a combination of local and federal funds. A concept has been developed to incorporate AmeriCorps members into the Recreation Division's programs, with the goal of enhancing the after-school enrichment programs and of recruiting and training volunteers to work in those programs.

The AmeriCorps program is funded by the Federal government, which passes through its funding to the State of California.

Original Grant 2004

With Council authorization, Sacramento START applied for a large AmeriCorps grant in 2002. Shortly after that, federal funding was reduced, and a grant award smaller than applied for was approved, in the amount of \$169,992 per year for three years. In June 2004, 53 part-time members were enrolled, each of whom was required to provide 675 hours of service.

Initially there were 44 AmeriCorps members working at 42 sites in the Sacramento START after-school program. They were trained as enrichment and/or recreation specialists, allowing START's employees to focus on academics with the elementary school students. The AmeriCorps members delivered dance, drama, journalism, art, music, science, youth leadership and fitness programs. Approximately 6,000 children reaped the benefit of additional daily positive role models and enhanced opportunities for skill-building and access to a broad array of new activities. Five AmeriCorps members acted as volunteer recruiters, and they recruited 200 community members and established partnerships with faith-based, youth, senior and corporate organizations.

In addition to working at START sites, the AmeriCorps members provided more than 1,500 hours of community service at such activities as National Night Out, Lights On Afterschool, Natomas Community Festival, National Make a Difference Day, and George Sim Community Center Halloween Festival.

Amended Grant 2005

An expanded AmeriCorps program began in January 2005. The intent was to add 107 part-time AmeriCorps members in the second and third years of the three-year grant, some of whom would have served their first 675 hours during the first year. As implemented, funds were released to START to support 60 additional members, 58 of whom completed their required term of service.

These members continued to support the 42 START sites with enrichment and recreation programming. They took the lead in character education of the 6,000 START children, service learning projects, youth leadership, community service projects, planning for family nights, community outreach and partnerships, as well as chess, karate, dance, drama, art, music, nutrition, journalism and recreation programs. In addition, they participated in community service projects.

The AmeriCorps members were assigned to one site for their entire length of service. This allowed them to work more closely with the City employees at the site and to build a stronger relationship with the children. At START sites they were counted as one of the adults needed to meet the required ratio of one adult for every twenty children.

Renewed Grant 2006

In May 2006, START applied for a three-year AmeriCorps grant which was approved for a maximum of \$405,901 for each of three years for a maximum total of \$1,217,703. START was required to provide matching funds, which was met through the payment of payroll expenses to the 82 half-time AmeriCorps members who worked in the Sacramento START program. The AmeriCorps members were used in lieu of the typical first-line staff, enabling START to use the funds that would normally be spent on the first-line staff to supplement the AmeriCorps grant to cover the program costs.

The AmeriCorps members provided nutrition and fitness programs and resources to help START students and their families live healthier lives in a program called "Get Fit Now!" Each member served a 900-hour term of service that focused on providing 3,600 START students at 41 after-school locations with nutrition and community service curricula. In addition, the AmeriCorps members led fitness activities, planned family nights, recruited community volunteers, oversaw the implementation of school site gardens, participated in three National Days of Service, and participated in one large-scale community service project. More than 1,600 volunteers were recruited over the course of the three-year grant, serving more than 50,000 hours of volunteer service on 57 community service projects and 31 school garden projects.

The AmeriCorps "Get Fit Now!" program was a Bronze Medalist in the Park Program category in the California Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports Spotlight Awards. The awards honor individuals, organizations and events that positively impact the physical activity and fitness levels of California's children and youth.

New Grant 2009

The latest grant is expected to involve 124 half-time AmeriCorps members continuing to provide nutrition and fitness programs and resources to help over 5,000 START students and their families live healthier lives. Each of these members will serve a 900-hour term of service that will focus on providing START students with nutrition and community service curricula.

START is required to provide matching funds, which will be met through the payment of payroll expenses to the 124 half-time AmeriCorps members who will work in the Sacramento START program.

The grant is awarded in one-year components, beginning July 1, 2009. Each of the three one-year grants covers operation of the program on a July 1 to June 30 cycle, with an additional six months after June 30 to continue spending on a limited number of items.

The State announced the grant award some time ago and gave approval to begin operations and incur reimbursable costs. However, the State's contract documents have yet to be received. Because of the ongoing relationship with the State, the City will begin operations now and execute the contract when it is received.

RESOLUTION NO.
Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

AMERICORPS GRANT APPROVAL

BACKGROUND

- A. The Department of Parks and Recreation has operated an AmeriCorps program for five years within the Sacramento START (Students Today Achieving Results for Tomorrow) program under prior agreements. The pending agreement with the State of California would authorize the continuation of the program for three years, with the expectation that agreements for the second and third years will follow.
- B. Continued operation of the AmeriCorps program will enable the City to continue providing valuable services to the thousands of children enrolled in the Sacramento START after-school program, as well as provide community service and training to 124 AmeriCorps members.
- C. The program is partially funded by the Federal government through the State and requires a local contribution of cash and in-kind support. The Sacramento START program is able to absorb the grant match within its existing operating budget, and no additional General Fund appropriation is required.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. The City Manager or designee is authorized to execute the standard State of California AmeriCorps agreement and any extensions, amendments, reapplications or other documents with the State of California as necessary for the City to accept and administer a three-year AmeriCorps grant in the amount of \$1,952,217.
- Section 2. The City Manager or designee is authorized to establish a grant project in the START Fund 2501 for the AmeriCorps Program.
- Section 3. The City Manager or designee is authorized to adjust the necessary grant and operating revenue and expenditure budgets to implement the \$1,952,217 grant in three one-year components of \$650,739 each.
- Section 4. The Resolution required by the State agency that operates the AmeriCorps program (attached as Exhibit A) is approved.

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Exhibit A – Resolution in a format required by the State of California

Exhibit A

RESOLUTION NO.
Adopted by the Sacramento City Council
AMERICORPS GRANT APPROVAL

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:

That the Director of Parks and Recreation is hereby authorized to execute for and on behalf of the City of Sacramento, a public entity established under the laws of the State of California, any actions necessary for the purpose of obtaining federal financial assistance under the Corporation for National and Community Service in an amount not to exceed \$1,952,217 to operate an AmeriCorps program in Fiscal Years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12, and that all actions are subject to current and future rules and requirements associated with the AmeriCorps program funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Passed and approved this _____ day of _____, 2009.

CERTIFICATION

I, Shirley Concolino, duly appointed City Clerk of the City of Sacramento do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution passed and approved by the City Council of the City of Sacramento on the _____ day of _____, 2009.

Date: _____

City Clerk

(Signature)