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NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT

Sacramento START

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

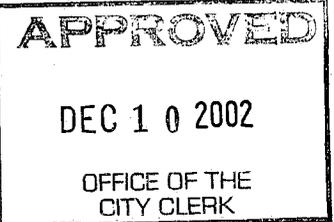
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November 27, 2002

City Council  
Sacramento, California

06 2002 - 223



Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: Approval of START Grant Application and Partnership Agreements**

**LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that City Council, by resolution:

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute all documents on behalf of the City of Sacramento as necessary to apply for an AmeriCorps grant for the START after-school program.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute all agreements and documents on behalf of the City of Sacramento with the North Sacramento School District, allowing for the subcontracting of the operation of the Sacramento START after-school program at four elementary schools within the District during fiscal year 2003 and for the maximum reimbursement to the District of \$304,159 in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute all agreements and documents on behalf of the City of Sacramento with the Sacramento Children's Home and the Center for Fathers and Families, allowing for the subcontracting of the operation of the Sacramento START after-school program at the approved sites in the North Sacramento and Meadowview communities.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Kelly J. Montgomery, Area Director, 433-2260  
Marie L. Dixon, START and Grants Manager, 277-6022

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:** December 10, 2002

**SUMMARY:**

Sacramento START (Students Today Achieving Results for Tomorrow) is an after-school literacy and enrichment program operated at elementary schools within Sacramento County. START believes that

**SUMMARY:**

Sacramento START (Students Today Achieving Results for Tomorrow) is an after-school literacy and enrichment program operated at elementary schools within Sacramento County. START believes that children should be given every opportunity to be successful. START fosters enthusiasm for learning by engaging children in fun, literacy-focused activities. In a safe and caring environment, START expands the school day and supports school district goals.

Approval is requested to submit a grant application to the federal government for the AmeriCorps program, and to sign agreements with the North Sacramento School District and the fiscal agent for CORAL (Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning) Sacramento to subcontract operation of the START program at approved sites.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:** None.

**BACKGROUND:**

Sacramento START has been operating at elementary schools throughout the City and County of Sacramento since 1995. The program provides after-school, no-cost, literacy, homework assistance and enrichment programs in schools with populations demonstrating the greatest financial need. Funding is provided through the City's partnership with the California Department of Education (CDE), the County of Sacramento, six participating school districts, and donations from foundations, businesses and individuals. Having competed successfully for a new three-year CDE grant, START is operating at 38 elementary schools serving 5,000 students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Governed by State law, the START program must operate nearly every school day for at least three hours, from the time school ends until at least 6:00 P.M. A minimum staffing ratio of one adult for 20 students must be maintained, the adult must pass a health and criminal background check, and the adult must meet the same educational requirements as an instructional aide in the school district. State funding is limited to \$5 per day per student in attendance, with a cap on the amount that can be earned at each school, and a complicated formula that requires a 50% local match and certification of spending the amount claimed.

AmeriCorps Program – 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. Under a planning grant awarded earlier this year, the partners have developed a concept to incorporate AmeriCorps members into the START program, with the goal of reducing the adult to student ratio and of recruiting and training volunteers to work in the program. With Council approval, this concept would be part of a grant application to be submitted by December 18, in which the City would apply for approximately \$700,000 to support AmeriCorps members. More information on the proposed grant application can be found on Attachment 2. If approval is given to submit the application, staff would return to Council to accept the grant.

North Sacramento School District Subcontract – On November 7 Council ratified the City Manager’s signature on an agreement with the North Sacramento School District for subcontracting the START program at four of their schools (Hagginwood, Noralto, Northwood, and Smythe) during 2001-02. At that time staff reported that we would return to Council when the school district had signed their agreement for 2002-03. The school district has now signed the agreement and we are requesting approval of the agreement with a maximum payment of \$304,159 for START after-school services at the four sites. The agreement is on file and available for review in the City Clerk’s Office.

As in the prior year, the school district would operate the program in accordance with START and State guidelines. The amount that would be reimbursed to the school district would be the same amount that would be spent had START operated the program, ensuring there would be no net impact on the City’s budget.

CORAL Sacramento – CORAL (Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning) is a new community-based learning initiative funded by the Irvine Foundation to boost the academic achievement of children and youth through out-of-school programs. The lead agencies for CORAL Sacramento are the Sacramento Children’s Home and the Center for Fathers and Families. These agencies have completed their planning process and will initiate new programs early in 2003. Sacramento START expects to be a partner at one new site (Freeport) if funding is approved in a recent grant application, and at several existing school sites (Chavez, Kemble, Noralto and Northwood). START would subcontract site operations in a manner similar to the relationship with the North Sacramento School District. By partnering with CORAL, staff would be able to bring significantly more resources to the students at these schools. Although contract language still is being negotiated, it is anticipated that the agreement would call for reimbursement over \$100,000. Authorization is requested to enter into agreements that would limit costs to no more than what START would spend had START operated the program.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

Should the AmeriCorps grant application be approved, the financial implications will be identified in a future report to Council that would request authorization to accept the grant. All funds required under the terms of the agreement with the North Sacramento School District and with CORAL Sacramento are available within START’s budget. No appropriation is required.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

There are no environmental considerations associated with this report.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:**

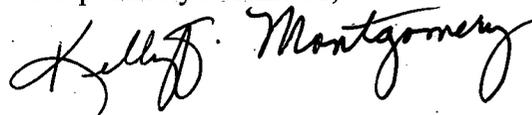
The START program supports a number of goals in the City’s strategic plan, including:

- Establish and Strengthen Community and Regional Partnerships to Enhance the Quality of Life (Principle – The City will pro-actively seek out partnerships with community organizations and other agencies to build, operate, program and maintain community facilities)
- Preserve and Expand the Arts and Culture, Open Space, Urban Forest, Parks, and Recreation Opportunities (Principle – The City should support broader access to regional properties, facilities and services through specialized program and partnerships)
- Enhance Educational Opportunities for the Entire Community (Principles – The City should provide resources to improve and expand accessibility to facilities and programs for community learning; Partnerships with multiple local institutions should be continuously expanded to leverage resources; Pursue opportunities to educate the public and promote civic engagement; and Support students and provide resources (e.g., libraries, START, Archives) to them so they have the best chance to be successful)

**ESBD CONSIDERATIONS:**

There are no ESBD considerations associated with this report.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly J. Montgomery  
Area Director

**RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:**



ROBERT P. THOMAS  
City Manager

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## **Attachment 1**

### **Proposed AmeriCorps Grant Application**

#### **What is the AmeriCorps Program?**

Known as the domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps provides Americans with full-and part-time opportunities to perform intensive community service.

#### **Program Proposal**

With the addition of the resources from the AmeriCorps grant, START would have the opportunity to reduce the adult to student ratio from 1:20 to 1:15. AmeriCorps' philosophy of identifying community needs and then mobilizing human resources to meet these needs is consistent with the goals of START. The lack of ongoing enrichment and recreational opportunities has been identified as a top priority for START.

Through the efforts of the AmeriCorps members, students would be provided with a vast array of enrichment experiences in the visual and performing arts, sciences, creative writing, service learning projects, scouts, field trips, and family and community special events.

The second strand of member services would be the addition of a strong sports and recreation program. There would be a seasonal intramural sports program at each START site. Successful teams would have the opportunity to participate in city-wide competitions. Recreational opportunities would also be opened up to neighborhood youth who are not enrolled in the START program.

#### **How will the program work?**

Our current START employees would become AmeriCorps members, which would entitle them to receive a voucher to be used for higher education costs, including paying off student loans, if they successfully complete their service commitment. Fifty new AmeriCorps members would serve a minimum of 675 hours as enrichment or recreation leaders. Their stipend would be based upon current salary rates, and they would also receive the education voucher. The federal government would pay for 85 percent of the stipend costs.

Four part-time members would have the responsibility of coordinating all volunteer activities in their geographic area. The goal is to greatly enhance the number of volunteers able to assist with recreation and enrichment at each site. This represents an exciting opportunity for START to continue to positively impact the children we serve.

Twenty percent of each member's time would be devoted to training. In addition, there would be four days of national service in which each member would be required to participate.

**APPROVED**

DEC 10 2002

OFFICE OF THE  
CITY CLERK

**RESOLUTION NO.**

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF DEC 10 2002

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING VARIOUS ACTIONS RELATED TO  
GRANT FUNDING AND PARTNER AGREEMENTS  
FOR THE SACRAMENTO START AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Sacramento desires to continue and improve the Sacramento START after-school literacy, homework assistance and enrichment program in elementary schools throughout the City and at County locations,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:**

1. The City Manager, or a designated representative, is authorized to execute an application with the State of California and the United States Government as necessary to apply for an AmeriCorps grant that would allow the Sacramento START after-school program to provide AmeriCorps members at START sites and at sites of partner agencies.
2. The City Manager, or a designated representative, is authorized to execute all agreements and documents, including any extensions or amendments, on behalf of the City of Sacramento, with the North Sacramento School District, allowing for the subcontracting of the operation of the Sacramento START after-school program at four elementary schools within the District during fiscal year 2003 and for the maximum reimbursement to the District of \$304,159 in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.
3. The City Manager, or a designated representative, is authorized to execute all agreements and documents, including any extensions or amendments thereto, on behalf of the City of Sacramento, with the Sacramento Children's Home and the Center for Fathers and Families, allowing for the subcontracting of the operation of the Sacramento START after-school program at a maximum of five elementary schools during fiscal year 2003 and for the maximum reimbursement not to exceed the amount that would be spent had START operated the program at the schools, ensuring no net impact on the City's budget.

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**FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY**

RESOLUTION NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ADOPTED: DEC 10 2002

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

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**FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY**

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DATE ADOPTED: DEC 10 2002