

Community Relations Board

Legislative Summary

Amendment to grant from Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Court Division to Conduct the Cleveland Youth Diversion Program

DEPARTMENT: Community Relations Board

ORD NO: 1272-2024 [Amending 1250-2023]

PURPOSE: The Community Relations Board is requesting an amendment to this legislation due to the grantor's decision to extend the contract term from December 31, 2024, to December 31, 2026. Additionally, the grantor is increasing the funding by \$82,800 for the period from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026, with half of the amount allocated to each calendar year. Contract is currently at \$44,700. This amendment also involves adjusting the contract's not-to-exceed \$127,500.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Program:

The Youth Diversion Program is a collaborative initiative between the city of Cleveland and the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court. Its primary goal is to redirect youth offenders who have committed non-violent, low-level offenses away from the formal court system. The program focuses on addressing the youth's delinquent behavior and resolving the issue within the community, while still holding the youth accountable for their actions.

When a complaint is filed against a youth, the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office determines if they are eligible for the Youth Diversion Program. If eligible, the youth's case is forwarded to the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court's Early Intervention and Diversion Center (EIDC), where staff conduct risk and needs assessments. Following this evaluation, the EIDC staff refers the youth to the Youth Diversion Program. Program staff will then contact the youth's parent or guardian to offer the program; participation is voluntary.

If the family agrees to participate, they will attend a diversion meeting with an assigned caseworker. During this meeting, the caseworker will assign accountability-based tasks and provide referrals to community resources as needed. Once the youth completes the assignments, their case is closed, and the EIDC is notified. If a youth reoffends or fails to complete their assignments, they can be referred back to court for further action.

This grant does not require a match. The program will receive a \$300 stipend per youth served, upon successful engagement.

CONTRACT TERM: Extending term of contract from December 31, 2024 to December 31, 2026.

PROJECT AMOUNT: Increasing funding by \$82,800 for a total of \$127,500; with half of said amount allocated to each calendar year.