



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Allyson Griffith, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), Director
COPY: Community Vitality and Safety (CVS) Committee; D'Angelo Baker, Senior Management Fellow, City Manager's Office
PRESENTER: Sarah Bridgeford, NCS, Community Wellness Program Manager
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SUBJECT: Building Resilience Against Violence and Exploitation (BRAVE) fka: Youth and Young Adult Violence Reduction Program Update
DATE: July 25, 2024

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:
The CVS committee members will hear a service delivery update from 2023-2024 and how the restructure of Youth and Young Adult Violence Reduction Initiative will inform the City's approach to reducing and preventing violence with populations under 30.

BACKGROUND:
Since 2013, the City has been implementing the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model (CGM), a set of five core strategies (community mobilization, opportunities provision, social intervention, suppression, and organizational changes) this framework offers the coordination of multiple strategies to reduce youth violence. Under this model, the City increased to five service delivery providers that have offered culturally relevant programming since June 2021. These providers engage in a Multidisciplinary Team and Community Advisory Council and offer direct services to youth and young adults ages 12-30. The priority areas of focus include Hilltop, Eastside, and West of the Tacoma Mall. During the 2023-2024 biennium, the City funded an additional eight service delivery providers under the Youth and Young Adult Violence priority area. This expansion allows for a deeper reach of programming in the priority areas and supports the CGM by increasing opportunities and social intervention for at-risk youth. The City also received a \$400,000 grant from Department of Commerce's Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention for a short-term pilot program of Credible Messengers. In total, the City awarded approximately \$2.5 million across multiple funding sources to fund 14 vendors for 20 programs under the Youth and Young Adult Violence Reduction department priority. In 2023, where demographics were collected, 6,512 individuals were served under this priority area and of those served, 53% identified as a race other than white.

Under the priority areas of Youth Development and Education, the City allocated approximately \$1.2 million to eight agencies for programs that primarily serve youth of color and young people identifying as LGBTQIA+, which are two of the primary populations with disparate impacts from violence. The funded programs address youth development, which is a preventative method of addressing youth violence; they do so through mentoring, empowerment groups, awareness



training for LGBTQIA+ issues, and academic support. In 2023, reports indicate that 832 unduplicated individuals were served, and of those, 54% identified as a race other than white.

An additional investment to youth violence reduction and youth development includes \$662,500 for the Summer Teen Late Night programs for 2023-2024. In 2023, Summer Teen Late Nights reached 10,000 duplicated youth, of which 69% identified as a person of color. 2024 programming is underway, and reports will be available this fall.

Additional investments by the City for supportive services of Tacoma’s youth people includes sheltering, employment support, and legal aid. These services fall under other department priority areas.

As presented to CVS on April 25, 2024, the department updated priority areas and established a new priority area of Violence Reduction and Prevention for the 2025-2026 biennium and in doing so, renamed the Youth and Young Adult Violence Reduction initiative. The new program title **BRAVE-Building Resilience Against Violence and Exploitation**, reflects the City’s intentional investments in intervention and prevention strategies in pursuit of reducing violence and exploitation. The City will continue to invest in previously funded types of youth related services that include behavioral health, education, youth development, youth and young adult violence reduction, and commercial sexual exploitation of children. Having these service delivery areas under one priority will provide strategic alignment under the same goal and model and offer a comprehensive approach to violence reduction.

ISSUE:

Youth and young adult violence continues to be a top priority to for Council and the Department as demonstrated in the System and Strategy Division Issue Statement. Programs funded under BRAVE seek to benefit youth and young adults under the age of 30 identified through data and the Tacoma Equity Index as being highest risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of violence. These high-risk youth include youth of color, specifically young black men, and LGBTQIA+ individuals. The communities of focus are identified based on crime statistics from the Tacoma Police Department, these locations currently include Hilltop, Eastside, West of the Tacoma Mall. South Tacoma (specifically Hosmer community) will be added as a focus area in 2025.

Fund	Priority Area	Program Allocation 2023-2024
General Fund	YYAVR	\$1,332,085
MHSUD	YYAVR	\$193,718
Criminal Justice	YYAVR	\$295,000
JAG Grant	YYAVR	\$315,875
Commerce Grant	YYAVR	\$400,000
General Fund	Youth Development & Education	\$273,116
MHSUD	Youth Development & Education	\$914,134



General Fund	Summer Programs	\$320,000
Criminal Justice	Summer Programs	\$300,000
JAG	Summer Programs	\$42,500
Total	-	\$4,386,428

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only; no alternatives are being presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.