



## CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

### AGENDA ITEM

---

Report: Acceptance of Grant Funds for Community Connections Collaborative grant from the California State Library.

1. Motion accepting \$71,257 in Community Connections Collaborative grant funds from the California State Library, which are being provided and administered by Califa Group, to enable the Director of Library, Arts and Culture to carry out the Community Connections Collaborative project and to add a part-time Community Resource Specialist to connect the public with available social services; and authorizing the City Manager or a designee to execute all agreements, amendments, certifications, and documents necessary to accept and implement the funding.

2. Resolution appropriating \$71,257 from the California State Library.

### COUNCIL ACTION

---

**Item Type:** Consent Calendar

**Approved for** August 9, 2022 **calendar**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---

The Community Collaborative grant will allow the Glendale Library, Arts & Culture to expand its role as a social services connector by adding a part-time Community Resource Specialist, who will work with the Library's existing Social Service Liaison. Library, Arts and Culture will receive \$71,257 and will contract with Ascencia to provide a Community Resource Specialist to work at the Library for one year.

## **COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

---

Housing: The Community Connections Collaborative Project will provide social services referrals to community members with a variety of needs, including housing.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

---

Staff recommend that the City Council approve the motion accepting grant funds in the amount of \$71,257 from the California State Library, which will be administered by Califa Group, and a resolution appropriating the funds for the Community Connections Collaborative Project.

## **BACKGROUND**

---

Library, Arts & Culture (LAC) has been successful in securing a grant from the California State Library (CSL) to support the Community Connections Collaborative project, which is a partnership between Madera County Library, Oceanside Public Library and Glendale Library, Arts and Culture, with Califa Group, a nonprofit library membership consortium, administering the grant.

In 2017, through the support of the CSL's Mental Health Initiative grant, GLAC brought on a part-time Social Service Liaison (SSL), who connects with people experiencing homelessness and/or mental health issues at the Library and refers them to needed resources. LAC has continued the position using general fund support. The SSL assists patrons who are struggling to navigate the various programs and systems available to them and acts as a critical point of de-escalation when patrons violate the Library's Rules of Behavior. In 2019, the SSL assessed 221 unique patrons for services, made 173 referrals to other community agencies for services, and made 878 total patron contacts. That same year, staff completed 155 hours of mental health training and, as a result, documented 53% fewer patron behavior incidents at the Central Library than in the prior year.

In FY21-22, LAC received a six-month long Community Connections grant from CSL, allowing LAC to:

- Extend the SSL's hours and contract with Ascencia to staff a Community Resource Specialist (CRS) at the Library, resulting in LAC connecting with 187 individuals through 751 total interactions and 97 referrals to community partners over six months.
- Expand access to social services by giving community partners space to do outreach visits, providing support to more than 40 community members.
- Host a Mental Health Fair with over 50 community members connecting with 15 community organizations.
- Develop a needs assessment, establish a Library-based community resource center, and participate in a community of practice with libraries throughout the state offering social services support.

The new CSL Community Connections Collaborative grant will allow the partner libraries to extend and deepen the work of the FY2021-22 CSL Community Connections grant.

## **ANALYSIS**

---

LAC, Madera County Library, and Oceanside Public Library will partner to extend the work initiated by the FY2021-22 Community Connections grant and create the Community Connections Collaborative project, with Califa Group administering the grant.

As part of the Community Connections Collaborative project, LAC will:

- Contract with Ascencia to provide a Community Resource Specialist (CRS) to provide referrals to needed social service assistance to Library patrons, and maintain a community resource center in the Library.
- Generate more formalized tracking and reporting on local outcomes through surveys conducted in referral consultations provided by the CRS.
- Create a report evaluating the Community Connections Collaborative work.
- Participate in online monthly meetings to create a Community of Practice and strengthen the efforts of the Community Connections Collaborative.
- Identify new, grow existing, and formalize project partnerships with local community agencies offering critical services.
- Offer joint training with partner libraries for Library staff to build awareness of social services resources, bolster staff capacity to handle referrals and embed the work more fully into each organization.
- Host an informational webinar on implementing the Community Connections work so that other public library systems can learn from the experience.

The Community Connections Collaborative project aims to improve the quality of life of individuals and families by providing warmer hand-offs and direct referrals to vital social services. Additionally, Library staff will be more knowledgeable, confident and better equipped in being able to address the needs of the customers that they serve.

## **STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH**

---

A key piece of the FY22-23 Community Connections grant project included LAC staff connecting with local social services organizations and providing them the opportunity to do outreach at the Central Library's community resource office. Community Resource Center for Aging, at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital, and the Veteran Peer Access Network have both held regular outreach at Central Library, enabling them to better connect with and support community members in need. The Verdugo Jobs Center will be providing onsite outreach in September.

LAC also participates with CSP in regular Continuum of Care meetings and will include the new CRS in those meetings in order to connect with stakeholders. By continuing to work with these organizations, and extending the offer of space for regular outreach at Central Library, LAC will improve its ability to be a social services connector for community members in need.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The Community Connections Collaborative project will cost \$71,257 which was not included as a part of the FY 2022-23 approved budget. Therefore, staff is requesting for an appropriation of \$71,257 from the Federal Grant Revenue. The appropriation request is outlined below:

<b>Requesting Appropriation</b>			
<b>Amount</b>	<b>From (Account String)</b>	<b>To (Account String)</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
\$71,257	GL: 31240-2750- LAC-0020-P0000- PL: LAC00860AG	GL: 43110-2750- LAC-0020-P0000- PL: LAC00860AG	Federal Grant Revenue

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA/NEPA)**

Because no possibility exists that the activity in question (carrying out the Community Connections Collaborative project services and adding a part-time Community Resource Specialist to connect the public with social services) may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA review under the common sense exemption set forth in 14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15061(b)(3).

## **CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE**

This item is exempt from campaign disclosure requirements.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

Alternative 1: The City Council may elect to approve a motion to accept grant funds in the amount of \$71,257 from the California State Library, along with a resolution appropriating funds.

Alternative 2: The City Council may decline to adopt a Motion and Resolution of Appropriation and, thus, forfeit the grant funding.

Alternative 3: The City Council may consider any other alternative not proposed by staff.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

### **Prepared by:**

Kristina Gerber, Library, Arts & Culture Administrative Manager

### **Approved by:**

Roubik R. Golanian, P.E., City Manager

## **EXHIBITS/ATTACHMENTS**

None