

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

Agenda # 5 funding for Work Force.

In City Council January 14

1991

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT	
Mr. Ed Cyr	✓				
Mr. Francis H. Duehay	✓				
Mr. Jonathan S. Myers	✓				
Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves	✓				
Mrs. Sheila T. Russell	✓				
Mr. Walter J. Sullivan	✓				
Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	✓				
Mr. William H. Walsh	✓				
Mayor Alice K. Wolf	✓				

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Agenda # 5
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

January 14, 1991

INTRODUCED BY CITY MANAGER ROBERT W. HEALY

AN ORDER CONCERNING APPROPRIATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1990

ORDERED: That in addition to sums previously appropriated by the City Council for the fiscal period 1990-91 the following sum is hereby accepted in accordance with General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A and appropriated in the Grant Fund of the City of Cambridge:

FUNCTION	DEPARTMENT OF PROGRAM	SALARIES & WAGES	OTHER ORDINARY MAINTENANCE	TRAVEL & TRAINING	EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURES	APPROPRIATION
Human Resource Development	Human		\$40,000			\$40,000

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the above acceptance and appropriation in the Grant Fund to be financed by estimated revenues drawn from the following sources:

FINANCING PLAN

REVENUE

Free Cash (Work Force Program)

\$40,000.00

In City Council January 14, 1991.

Adopted by a yeas and nays vote:-

Yeas 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk

The Work Force Unemployment Prevention Program was funded for six years by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Communities and Development. The program's operating budget in FY '90 was \$248,860. In September, 1990, that funding was eliminated in an across-the-boards budget cut which did away with, among other things, the entire state-wide Supportive Services Program which funded employment and training programming in 22 housing authorities across the state. Since October, we have pieced together sufficient funding to maintain through mid-February a dramatically scaled-down Work Force program (20 participants of a previous 120; 1 staff person of a prior 6). We are working concurrently to raise the funds needed to rebuild the program and then to pursue replication in some of the over two dozen cities nationwide which have contacted us since we won the Innovations in State and Local Government Award in September.

We have received considerable interest in The Work Force from potential private sector funders, particularly since the program's appearance on the national news last week, and we anticipate a phased re-building of the program between now and June 1992, based primarily on private support. By July, 1992, when the Weld administration has had time to settle in, we anticipate piecing together a public-private partnership in which a portion of the cost is picked up again by state government, a portion by federal sources and a portion by the private sector.

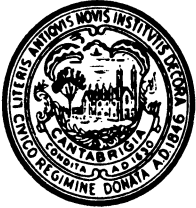
In order to help keep the scaled-down program afloat in the short-term while we solicit private funding, and in order to gain the confidence of private funders that the City of Cambridge is supportive of our efforts, we are seeking financial support from the City. We do not expect the City to be the sole source of support, even in the short run. We have been using a portion of the Innovations Award grant to help keep The Work Force afloat to date and will continue to draw on that source, as well as to draw on foundation and corporate donations as they are made.

At a minimum, funding from the City will help to support the continuation of current programming through June, 1990. The current level of programming consists of one staff person, the program director, serving 20 youth. The Work Force serves youth ages 13-19 in three levels of classes: Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced. One class at each level will be provided, at a minimum, with classes meeting twice per week, except Advanced classes, which meet once per week. City funding will also support youth wages, which are \$3.10/hour for Introductory participants (paid to attend classes) and \$3.85/hour for Intermediate and Advanced participants, who are paid both for attending classes and for 10-15 hours/week of work with local employers. While The Work Force employed three Teacher/Counselors, a Job Developer and a School Liaison, as well as a Director, when it was fully funded, the Director, Stephen Davis, currently performs all staff functions for the limited number of youth enrolled. The program is currently sited at Roosevelt Towers, but it has and will continue to draw participants from Washington Elms, Newtowne Court, Jefferson Park, Woodrow Wilson Court, Putnam Gardens and River Howard Homes. When we were forced to scale the program down, we stopped accepting 13 year olds who had not been previously enrolled, and we will continue this practice until we are again at full staffing. Beyond this, we are and will continue to screen potential participants on the basis of need for the program's services.

As we begin to receive funding from corporations and foundations currently being solicited, we anticipate garnering sufficient funding to provide more than the minimal services described above. As this occurs, we will first hire two Teacher/Counselors, allowing us to re-open the sites at Washington Elms/Newtowne Court and Jefferson Park. A Job Developer will be hired next, then a School Liaison and a third Teacher/Counselor, bringing us back to a full complement of staff. With the addition of each additional Teacher/Counselor, we will be able to serve an additional 25-30 youth, bringing us ultimately back to our prior performance level of 100+ youth/year.

As this occurs, we anticipate a strong likelihood of garnering support from national foundations for a multi-site national demonstration project in which we replicate The Work Force in 5-10 cities across the country, using the Cambridge program as the training site and administrative headquarters. While it may sound far-fetched to be anticipating such a large-scale national replication when the local program is down to one staff, we have received encouraging signs from a number of directions and believe it to be worth the effort to pursue this route at the same time as we seek local support for the local program.

These, then, are our plans for the future of The Work Force. We are confident that any investment the City can make at this time will be multiplied many times over as we use it to leverage private funding at the local and national level. Thank you for any support you can provide us.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

January 14, 1991

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 50, regarding funding for the Work Force Program, as the City Council is aware, the nationally acclaimed Workforce Program has fallen victim to State budget cuts. In recognition of the valuable services provided by this program, I am recommending a one-time non-recurring appropriation of \$40,000 from unreserved fund balance to enable this program to operate for the remainder of the fiscal year. Future years funding, however will have to come from other sources in keeping with my position that the City will not have the financial wherewithal to continue programs impacted by state cutbacks. Attached is a memorandum from Steve Swanger, Director of Tenant Services.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Agenda # 5

S-129

Awaiting Report Item Number 50 regarding funding for the Work Force Program together with an order for funding.

In City Council,

January 14, 1991

Order adopted
9-0-0.