



City of Racine, Wisconsin
AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE: May 31, 2022

PREPARED BY:
Matthew Rejc, Assistant Director, Dept. of City Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
Communication sponsored by Mayor Mason for an allocation of up to \$121,000.00 to be provided to the Racine Unified School District (RUSD) for the purposes of expanding mental health services at qualifying schools.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:
Currently, RUSD provides DHS Chapter 35 Outpatient Mental Health clinic services within 6 of its elementary school buildings. School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) Clinics provide much needed comprehensive mental health services to students and families. RUSD has adopted an integrative approach to implementing the SBMH Clinics. Services provided in the SBMH Clinics include identification, referral, assessment, and treatment for mental health issues. The services are provided by a full-time licensed master’s level clinical therapist at each location. Within the integrative model approach, the therapist also provides consultation for school staff, attend meetings for students and deliver professional development for school staff.

The goals of having SBMH Clinics are as follows:

1. Improved access to mental health services for students and their families and reduce barriers to care coordination efforts between the mental health provider and school.
2. Early identification and treatment intervention of mental health issues in students.
3. Improved school climate towards mental health issues through staff education and collaboration with mental health providers.
4. Improved functioning / reduction of symptoms of students with mental health disorders which results in higher levels of academic performance, reduced absenteeism, and decreased disruptive behavior.

Below are the indicators that are used to measure success of the SBMH Clinics:

- Improvement in academic outcomes as measured by Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing
- Improvement in the rate of attendance for those students participating in the SBMH clinic
- Decreased incidents of disruptive behavior as measured by number of Office Disciplinary Referrals (ODRs) and Out of School Suspensions (OSSs)
- Measurement of symptom change will be completed for all students participating in the clinics. The evidenced based tool that is being used to measure symptom reduction are the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). The SDQs are completed monthly by the student’s teacher.

Pursuant to the regulations for CDBG pre-award costs at 24 CFR 570.200(h), the City of Racine is permitted to obligate and incur CDBG costs prior to the execution of a grant agreement with HUD provided that “[t]he total amount of pre-award costs to be paid during any program year pursuant to this provision is no more than the greater of 25 percent of the amount of the grant made for that year

or \$300,000.” Further, the City’s Citizen Participation Plan limits the amount of public services funding that can be allocated outside of the typical Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process to no more than 10% of the amount of CDBG funds received in a given year.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

This action would allocate \$121,000 of the estimated \$285,000 in CDBG public services funds that will be available in FY 2022.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That up to \$121,000.00 in CDBG funds be allocated to RUSD for the purposes of expanding mental health services at qualifying schools.