



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Community Planning & Economic Development**

Date: April 2, 2004

To: Council Member Lisa Goodman, Community Development Cmte

Prepared by: Edie Oliveto-Oates, Phone 612-673-5229
Presenter in Committee: Edie Oliveto-Oates

Approved by: Chuck Lutz, Deputy CPED Director _____
Lee Pao Xiong, Director, Housing _____

Subject: "Its All About the Kids"

RECOMMENDATION: The Director recommends that the Council authorize CPED to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Its All About the Kids Partners.

Previous Directives: On July 27, 2001 the City Council approved the appropriation of \$300,000 in Fund FNA for this project. On April 22, 2002 the Board authorized the MCDA to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Youth Coordinating Board to fund the activities of the Minneapolis Redesign over a two-year term for \$172,288. On November 2002 the Board authorized a contract increase with Lutheran Social Services for \$88,730 and reduced the commitment to Youth Coordinating Board for Minneapolis Redesign to \$142,162. On January 21, 2003 the Board authorized canceling the contract with YCB and increasing the funding for Lutheran Social Services to \$145,143. On February 3, 2004 the City Council authorized CPED to enter into a contract to fund Lutheran Social Service for \$193,549 for 2004.

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact

Ward: City Wide

Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable

City Goals: Foster the development and preservation of a mix of quality housing types that is available, affordable and meets current needs and promotes future growth. Promote public community and private partnerships to address disparities and support strong healthy families and communities.

Comprehensive Plan: 5.1 - Minneapolis will invest human and financial resources in nurturing healthy children and providing them with a safe school environment.

Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Living Wage/Job Linkage: Not Applicable

Other: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

Project Summary:

The MCDA is working in collaboration with the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA), Family Housing Fund, Youth Coordinating Board/Minneapolis Redesign, the Minneapolis Public Schools and Lutheran Social Services on a demonstration project. The focus of the project is to identify affordable, high quality rental housing options for low-income families near the community schools in which their children are enrolled. These families currently live outside of the communities where the school is located and their children are being transported some distances from their homes to their schools. The project has been titled "It's all about the Kids."

The goals of the project are:

- Provide affordable housing options in non-concentrated areas of the City
- Improve school attendance
- Reduce the need for busing by providing diversity in all Minneapolis neighborhoods

At this time the collaborative has determined that entering into the attached Memorandum Of Understanding will emphasize the commitment of each member of the collaborative and strengthen the position of the program to achieve their future fund raising goals.

Memorandum of Understanding for It's All About the Kids

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into March, 2004, is between Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA), Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), the City of Minneapolis by and through its Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (City), and Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) to implement the collaboration known as "It's All About the Kids."

The sole purpose of this MOU is to ensure cooperation among the organizations consistent with their respective missions and legal frameworks to improve educational outcomes for Minneapolis Public Schools students by focusing on the link between stable housing and student achievement.

This MOU outlines the understandings and agreement among MPHA, MPS, City, and LSS that define the roles and responsibilities of each member of "It's All About the Kids."

I. The Program

"It's All About the Kids" (the Program) provides affordable housing and support services to low-income families who live in high poverty census tracts and whose children attend one of the participating Minneapolis Public Schools. The Program uses Section 8 Hollman Vouchers (Vouchers to be used in non-concentrated areas only) to ensure affordability, provides incentives to attract landlord participation, and provides services that assist families to move and stabilize in the community where their children attend school. The parties believe that participation in "It's All About the Kids" will increase the success of the programs and services offered individually by each party. The parties intend this MOU to remain in effect for the duration of the project unless amended by agreement of all of the parties. If one of the parties wishes to withdraw from the MOU, that party shall notify the other parties no less than 90 days prior to the intended date of withdrawal so that the other parties can redesign the Program and amend this MOU.

II. Expectations, Roles, Responsibilities: Organizations

General Expectations of Each Partner Organization

- All parties agree that they are working together as part of the Program and to the extent participants have explicitly authorized the release of private or confidential information to other parties to the MOU, the parties will provide access to such information, but only to the extent necessary to implement the Program. All parties agree that the private or confidential information obtained from Program participants will be released only to representatives of other Program partners to the extent necessary for the other Program partners to do their jobs and as specifically authorized by the individual data subject. The Program partners agree to work together to produce and abide by a data sharing policy that meets each individual organization's responsibilities, while allowing the sharing of key and relevant information

between and among the participating organizations. The Program partners agree that they will treat information provided to them by any party in accordance with the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes chapter 13.

- All parties will assist in the raising of grant funds for the Program.
- All parties agree to meet regularly and review progress.
- All parties agree that participation in the Program meets their respective missions and strengthens the possibility of success.
- All parties agree to participate in ongoing evaluation efforts that measure progress of the Program.
- All parties participate in development of Program evaluation tools, providing information as needed to measure the Program outcomes.

MPS/Identify and Recruit Families

- MPS desires to increase student achievement and supports efforts that stabilize families, resulting in improved student attendance, test scores and increased parental involvement.
- MPS identifies schools to participate in Program.
- School staff refers families to Lutheran Social Service who meet basic eligibility requirements to LSS.
- MPS representative provides information/updates on MPS policy, program or operation changes that impact on the Program, reports Program progress to involved school personnel and the School Board.
- MPS will obtain any necessary authorizations from potential family participants to allow MPS to share information with the other parties to this MOU

MPHA/Deliver Affordable Housing

- MPHA expects the Program to assist in achieving utilization of Hollman vouchers in low poverty census tracts of Minneapolis where vouchers have not historically been accepted and in expanding the pool of landlord participants in the Section 8 Program.
- The MPHA Board has committed up to 150 Hollman vouchers for use in the Program.
- MPHA staff processes the Section 8 applications and works closely with the participating organizations to ensure an efficient application and lease-up process.
- MPHA representative provides information regarding Section 8 or staff changes/issues that impact the Program, reports Program progress to MPHA Executive Director, Board and Section 8 staff.

City of Minneapolis/CPED Fund Support Services

- The City expects the Program to help engage the private market in the provision of affordable housing in low poverty census tracts, using less subsidy than conventional production programs require.
- For 2004, CPED will provide up to \$194,000 to fund a portion of the staffing costs for LSS to provide services to families, recruit landlords, and manage the associated contracts.

- Department representative provides information about CPED/City issues that impact the Program, reports Program progress to appropriate CPED/City staff and elected officials.

LSS/Deliver Support Services

LSS sees the Program as another strategy for preventing and ending homelessness, through the provision of affordable housing coupled with services that support family and economic stability.

- The Program is included in the LSS Housing Department's annual Work Program and is partially funded from LSS sources.
- LSS Outreach staff recruits landlords, explains the voucher program, and the incentives available for participation
- LSS Outreach staff provides communication and mediation support to landlords and ensures a successful lease-up process and positive rental experience.
- LSS' Intake Specialist receives referrals from MPS staff and determines family interest and eligibility.
- LSS Case Workers assists families in identifying community resources, obtaining new housing and stabilizing in the new neighborhood.
- LSS representatives provide updates on Program progress, operational issues and reports Program progress to LSS executives according to agency practice.

Ongoing strategic, operating, and fundraising decisions are made by the organizational representatives by consensus.

The foregoing constitutes the understandings of the organizations that are party to the Program and responsible for its operations.

Minneapolis Public Schools
Authority

Minneapolis Public Housing

By: _____

By: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

City of Minneapolis

Lutheran Social Service
of Minnesota

By _____
Mayor

By: _____

Title: _____

Attest _____
City Clerk

Countersigned _____
Finance Officer

Department Head Responsible for
Monitoring Contract:

Lee Paul Xiong,

Approved as to form:

Assistant City Attorney