



COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

CITY COUNCIL of SALT LAKE CITY
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TO: City Council Members

FROM: Sylvia Richards, Budget Analyst

DATE: October 18, 2022

**RE: PUBLIC HEARING FOR GRANT
APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

PROJECT TIMELINE:

Briefing: Not required.
Set Date: Not required.
Public Hearing: Oct. 18, 2022
Potential Action: TBD

ISSUE AT-A-GLANCE

The Administration has submitted one grant application. In an effort to ensure that the City Council, Council staff and the public has adequate opportunity to see and comment on them, the grant application notifications will be included in the Council meeting agendas under Public Hearings. There won't be a set date since this is not a required hearing.

1. **2022 Know Your Neighbor / Open Society Foundation / Operation Afghan Resettlement Support (OARS) Grant**

Purpose/Goal of the Grant: If awarded, the grant monies will be used to fund the salary of a new part-time Volunteer Coordinator position in the Mayor's Office of Equity & Inclusion. The City, through its Know Your Neighbor Program, will assist the County in integrating Afghan Refugees subject to the Operation Afghan Resettlement Support (OARS) program.

Grant Amount: \$61,000

Requested by: Mayor's Office of Equity & Inclusion

Funding Agency: Salt Lake County Open Society Foundation in collaboration with Operation Afghan Resettlement Support (OARS)

Match Requirement: \$ -0-

Additional information provided by the Administration: The grant funding is one-time, and the position is part-time with no benefits. As a follow up to the Council's recent straw poll and vote on state funding for the Know Your Neighbor (KYN) Volunteer



Coordinator full time position, this County funded part-time position (if approved) would work closely with the KYN Volunteer Coordinator and report to the Policy Advisor for Refugees and New Americans. Their role would help build capacity for support of and more efficient collaboration with partners (state, county, community, etc.) to expand access to services for Refugees and New Americans citywide.

Additionally, this Know Your Neighbor part-time Volunteer Coordinator position is separate from the Volunteer Coordinator position that was initially requested in the Mayor's budget for the Community Outreach team. This is the first volunteer coordinator position of this kind to specifically support our efforts related to Refugees and New Americans. This position will primarily support the Know Your Neighbor Program, in collaboration with the State of Utah. <https://www.slc.gov/equity/know-your-neighbor/> Part of the metrics goal for the KYN Volunteer Coordinator is to recruit and place 300 volunteers per year.

In response to Council Chair Dugan's question about duplication, there are no plans at this time for the County to fund additional volunteer coordinators in support of Know Your Neighbor efforts. The state funded position, which Council recently voted on, is the only volunteer coordinator position in support of the Know Your Neighbor Program. The County currently only has two staff members managing all of their DEI efforts. This includes a Diversity & Inclusion Officer, and a New Americans and Refugee Liaison.

The State, County and City are working in collaboration with community partners to help meet urgent resettlement needs of an increasing number of refugees arriving in Utah. One of the issues which has at times lead to backlog of processing volunteer pairing requests, completing background checks, and maintaining the Know Your Neighbor volunteer portal is limited staff capacity. Federal funding for the current Vista position will expire in October 2022. The Administration has exhausted the term limits to reapply for the federal funded Vista position, as the position has been approved for the last five years (in coordination with the State). The new state funded position for the Know Your Neighbor Volunteer Coordinator will replace the Vista position and assume all duties previously assigned to the Vista. This will help to ensure that there are no gaps in our service to Refugee communities via the Know Your Neighbor Program. Please let the Council Chair know that while the Know Your Neighbor Volunteer Coordinator is a one-time funded position from the State, Asha Parekh (Utah Refugee State Coordinator & Refugee Services Office Director) indicates that she hopes to get approval for additional funding again during the State's next budget cycle.

The new funding opportunity for the part-time Volunteer Coordinator is based on an application that Salt Lake County applied for and was awarded through the Open Society Foundation at the height of Operation Afghan Resettlement Support (OARS). The Administration is currently following up with the County to see if the scope of this funding can be expanded to support additional refugee communities in direct collaboration with the Know Your Neighbor program or if the scope is only designated for OARS. These positions are vital to build capacity for sustainability of the Know Your Neighbor Program, in conjunction with other entities' programs, to ensure a steady source of support for all

refugees.

Staff Recommendation: Please refer to motion sheet.