

CITY OF ROCHESTER
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION GRANT

Distribution: Malik D. Evans, Mayor
Patrick Cunningham, Deputy Mayor
Dr. Shirley J. A. Green, DRHS Commissioner
Linda Kingsley, Corporation Counsel

Office of Public Integrity
Date: September 15, 2023
Contact: Tony Grugnale
Phone: 428-7246

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this review, the Office of Public Integrity (OPI) examined the agreement with the Center for Youth Services, Inc. to provide the necessary equipment, personnel and expertise to perform Replication of Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs to Scale in Communities with the Greatest Need from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health. In general, the results of the review indicate that the Center for Youth Services, Inc. is operating the program in accordance with the requirements. We noted that The Center for Youth Services, Inc. utilized grant funding in full compliance with the terms of the agreement. All participant records were complete and accurate. The invoices paid were for allowable expenses and supported with proper documentation without exception.

II. BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES, AND SCOPE

A. Assignment

The Office of Public Integrity routinely conducts reviews of grants awarded to the City of Rochester. As part of our annual work program, we selected the Teen Pregnancy Prevention grant funded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health.

B. Background

The Department of Recreation and Human Services, Youth Services unit provides education, employment training, job development and life skills training services for Rochester's youth. The RISE Education team works to implement two NYS Evidence-Based education programs, "Be Proud!" "Be Responsible!" (BPBR) and "Making Proud Choices" (MPC). MPC is an eight-part curriculum for youth ages 11-13 that helps to provide the knowledge, confidence, and skills necessary to reduce their risk of sexually transmitted disease, HIV and pregnancy. BPBR is a six-part curriculum that provides adolescents ages 13-18 with the knowledge, motivation, and skills necessary to choose the best behaviors to reduce their risk of pregnancy or contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Both curriculums are based in a foundation of building positive self-image, developing leadership skills and mapping out a course for a successful future through planning and healthy choices. The curriculum is

delivered by trained health educators within Rochester City School District classrooms, as well as through groups, teams and partnering agencies.

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) program is a national, evidence-based grant program that funds diverse organizations working to prevent teen pregnancy across the United States. DHHS invests in the implementation of effective TPP programs and provides funding to develop and evaluate new and innovative approaches to prevent teen pregnancy, prevent sexually transmitted infections among adolescents, and promote optimal health.

C. Objectives and Scope

The purpose of the review was to determine that The Center for Youth Services, Inc. utilized the grant funding in compliance with the terms of the agreement, to determine that all expenses submitted for reimbursement are valid and substantiated by supporting documentation, and to determine that participants were eligible and met all requirements of the program. We performed detailed testing of participant files, invoices paid, and required reporting.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal accounting and administrative control. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of control procedures. The objectives of a system are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of accurate, informative reports that are fairly stated.

Because of inherent limitations in any system of internal accounting and administrative control, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any system evaluation to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the degree of compliance with procedures may deteriorate.

We conducted this audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) and the International Standards

for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

III. RESULTS OF REVIEW

In general, the results of the review indicate that DRHS is in compliance with the terms of the agreement between the City of Rochester and The Center for Youth Services Inc. During the contract period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, The Center for Youth Services Inc. received grant funding in the amount of \$57,341. OPI verified that files maintained by The Center for Youth Services Inc. are complete and accurate. We noted that DRHS ensured that The Center for Youth Services Inc. met the recruitment and enrollment requirements of the agreement and ensured that all staff involved in the program are properly trained and certified to facilitate the curricula. OPI verified that The Center for Youth Services Inc. maintained records to substantiate services and provided DRHS with monthly reports of participants served, activities and accomplishment as well as expenses. We noted that DRHS maintains adequate administrative and internal controls to monitor the program.

IV. DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE

The response of the Department of Recreation and Human Services to this report begins on the next page.



To: Timothy Weir, Director of OPI

From: Sarah Fletcher, Acting Commissioner, DRHS

Date: September 14, 2023

Subject: C.A.P.P. Grant

SHF

On August 24, 2023, OPI delivered findings from a review of the C.A.P.P. grant. That review presented no recommendations.

The Department of Recreation and Human Services acknowledges the receipt of the findings and will continue to operate the C.A.P.P. grant funded program in full compliance with the policies set forth by the funder and the City.