



Legislation Text

File #: 1962-2016, **Version:** 1

BACKGROUND: This legislation authorizes the Director of the Department of Development to enter into a grant agreement with STAR House to provide services for homeless youth for a twelve-month period for a total amount of \$150,000.00.

The STAR House is a welcoming drop-in center for youth experiencing homelessness between the ages of 14 and 24 and serves as a safe and accepting place where they can connect with a concerned community. STAR House enables the youth to do their laundry, eat, rest, bathe and receive clothing. It also acts as a place to connect to the services available through other agencies that provide educational, health, financial and food subsidies along with job-seeking skills.

There is a void of services available for homeless street-living youth between the ages of 14-24 years in Columbus, Ohio. It is estimated that over 1,500 youth in Columbus are homeless on the streets in any given night. STAR House offers a gateway from the streets to the mainstream.

Founded in 2006, STAR House began as an outgrowth of a federally-funded research program. During the course of the research, it was determined that a drop-in center is necessary in order to engage youth into more intensive services including housing, education, employment and mental/physical health treatment. STAR House uniquely integrates research and community service. Effective engagement, linkage, and treatment strategies are tested and put into practice without the myriad barriers in many other research-to-practice efforts. In this way, STAR House is always testing and implementing state of the art, evidence-based practices.

The funding set forth in this ordinance will authorize and direct the Director of Development to enter into a grant agreement with STAR House to provide funding for critical services, specifically the need for STAR House to maintain 24/7 operations throughout calendar year 2016. Continuous operation is needed so that youth have a safe haven during nighttime hours, which is when youth are most vulnerable to violence, human trafficking and other victimization.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding for this grant is available within the General Fund.

To approve the grant application of STAR House seeking financial assistance to address emergency human service needs; to authorize the Director of Development to execute a grant agreement with STAR House to provide operational funding; to authorize the transfer of \$150,000.00 between Departments within the General Fund; and to authorize the expenditure of \$150,000.00 from the General Fund (\$150,000.00)

WHEREAS, Star House has submitted a grant application seeking financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Development desires to enter into a grant agreement with Star House for the continued provision of services for homeless youth; and

WHEREAS, funding for this grant is available within the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, it has become necessary in the usual daily operation of the Department of Development to authorize the

Director to enter into a grant agreement with STAR House to allow for continuous operation of critical services; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1. That the grant application of Star House seeking financial assistance to address emergency human service needs is hereby approved.

SECTION 2. That the Director of the Department of Development be and is hereby authorized to enter into a grant agreement with Star House for the provision of services for homeless youth for a one-year period.

SECTION 3. That the transfer of \$150,000.00, or so much thereof as may be needed, is hereby authorized between Departments within the General Fund 1000, per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

See Attached File: Ord 1962-2016 Legislation Template.xls

SECTION 4. That the sum of \$150,000.00, or so much thereof as may be necessary pursuant to the actions authorized in Section 2, is hereby authorized to be expended from the General Fund 1000, Department 44-02, per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

See Attached File: Ord 1962-2016 Legislation Template.xls

SECTION 5. That the funds necessary to carry out the purpose of this ordinance are hereby deemed appropriated, and the City Auditor shall establish such accounting codes as necessary.

SECTION 6. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.