



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** K-1718-21, **Version:** 1

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CONSIDERATION OF A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SOCIAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMISSION TO APPROVE A REQUEST FOR FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,500 AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT K-1718-21 WITH AMONG FRIENDS ACTIVITY CENTER, INC.

**BACKGROUND:** The Social and Voluntary Services Commission (SVSC) was founded in 1973 as an advisory body to the Norman City Council regarding the evaluation of social services. The SVSC Commission consists of nine members each serving a three year term. The current members are: Aisha Ali, Kay Antorio, Teresa Capps, Krystal Hamm, Victoria Harrison, Loida Salmond, Angela Steinle, Ann Way and current Chair Pamela Normile. Within the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 City of Norman General Fund budget, funding for social service agencies in the amount of \$175,000 was provided. A formal application process was held in which qualified interested agencies were required to submit an application that included information regarding the overall mission of the agency, specific project for which funding was being requested, financial information including budget summary and projected budget, copy of most recent audit and 990 filing, and a copy of IRS tax exempt status letter. The application also required a list of the current board members and staff members of the agency.

Agency project funding will be on a reimbursement basis. Payment will be made as invoices with appropriate documentation of project execution and receipts are received.

**DISCUSSION:** On June 19, 2017, the Social and Voluntary Services Commission heard presentations from 24 social service agencies who had submitted applications for funding. These requests totaled over \$267,000. The Commission held a subsequent meeting on June 26, 2017 to discuss the applications received and to determine their funding recommendations.

After the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and prior to the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, each Commission member evaluated each of the applications and determined an appropriate funding level within the allowable total of \$175,000. These results were provided to staff and compiled into a spreadsheet. At the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting the Commission reviewed the compilation of budgets and discussed the criteria that the Commission members applied to each funding proposal. The Commission evaluated multiple subjects including but not limited to: possibilities of duplications of efforts, past performance of the agency and potential for other funding sources. After consideration of each application, the SVSC Commission determined that 22 of the agencies would be recommended for funding to the Norman City Council at the August 22, 2017 meeting. Attachment A is a spreadsheet that details the \$175,000 of funding being recommended for award.

Each of these listed agencies, if funded, will be visited a minimum of once during the fiscal year by Commission members. The members will visit each workplace and meet with agency staff. They inquire about future trends, what special challenges are ahead for the organization and how partnerships with others doing work in this field can be established. They evaluate and form an overall impression of the organization as well as determine contract compliance.

Among Friends Activity Center, Inc., founded in 2003 is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, United Way agency. Their mission is to provide a safe and friendly place for adults with special needs and disabilities for fun, learning, friendships; offering opportunities and hope for a better life. The proposed funding will be utilized for two activities. To offset the rental cost of the Health and Wellness Center a total of \$6,000 will be provided and an additional \$6,500 will be funded for participant scholarships.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Social and Voluntary Services Commission recommends approval of the proposed contracts. Funds are available in Contributions (account 010-1087-411.47-41).

