RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

That the Mayor be authorized to submit a Grant Application to the Brown Foundation, Inc. to request funding in the amount of $50,000.00, for the purpose of paying a portion of the salary and benefits for two full time Multi Agency Referral System (MARS) coordinators at the Police Department, who provide early intervention services to minority and at-risk youth. No matching funds required.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of June 2004.

CITY OF EL PASO

_____
Joe Wardy, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Elaine S. Hengen
Assistant City Attorney

THE BROWN FOUNDATION, INC. PROPOSAL SUMMARY

1. Name of Organization (*including prior names if applicable*):

El Paso Police Department - Crimes Against Children Section - Multi Agency Referral System

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Physical address:

9600 Dyer St. – El Paso, Texas 79924

Telephone number: 915-298-9600 Fax number: 915-298-9805

E-mail address: Web address:

Contact person for inquiries regarding this proposal:

*Lieutenant Joe Molinar – *responsible for receipt of official correspondence.*

2. Name of specific Program/Project for which funding is requested:

Multi Agency Referral System

3. Funds Requested (*must specify amount*):.....$ 50,000

4. Brief History and Mission Statement of the Organization:

The Multi Agency Referral System (MARS) is an initiative of the El Paso Police Department's (EPPD)-Crimes Against Children Section and an expansion of their Youth Initiative Program (YIP). MARS provides early intervention to at-risk youth, facilitates education, fosters long-lasting partnerships, and instills values in youth. The MARS program works to identify and address root problems (financial, social, mental health, academic, etc.) of at-risk youth that if left without real problem solving intervention could lead to an immediate or long-term public safety threat or increase the number of school dropouts. The MARS paradigm brings together educators, public and private community agencies, law enforcement, and families to provide solutions for minority and at-risk youth issues.

5. Description of the Program/Project for which funding is requested:

Key collaborative members of the MARS Program are from law enforcement, Child Protective Services, Texas Department of Human Service, Life Management Center/Children-Adolescent Mental Health, El Paso Center for Children Services to At-Risk Youth, and the YWCA Project Redirection. MARS operates at 100% in El Paso area School Districts (165 schools) with collaboration and support from 160 public and private agencies and businesses (mostly non-profit) **(Please See Attachment).**

MARS uses a two-team approach in identifying at-risk youth. Team One is comprised of school counselors from each high school along with counselors from their feeder schools. The high school becomes the team leader, where meetings are hosted, and provides a person to facilitate the meeting, keep referral records, and fax reminders to team members. The meeting is held on a monthly basis where each team representative (counselor) presents referral(s) to be staffed.

Team Two is comprised of community agencies and law enforcement staff that meet with Team One during scheduled meeting times to provide services, guidance, information and intervention for identified students and their family (as required). Law enforcement will provide investigation information by the Juvenile Investigation Officer and Community Policing information by the Police Area Representative (law enforcement officers are a resource only). Some Team Two members attend monthly YIP meetings, where much of the 160 support agencies and businesses meet to discuss referrals, and programs and services that are offered. This provides Team Two members with knowledge of the services and interventions that are available when issues arise in the monthly MARS meetings. Since the MARS program is a natural expansion of the YIP program, Team Two members are able to route referrals to the proper source and receive helpful support and guidance. **(Please See Attached Flow Chart).**

A tracking mechanism is in place so that no case goes without real intervention. Any negative youth or youth family issue is

representative initiating a referral is advised which agency accepted the referral and receives updates. Schools are made aware of family related problems and often times, during MARS meetings, a case is discussed that is already familiar to team members because of unique family history. A student and/or their siblings can be tracked from school to school or from school district to school district. No minority or at-risk youth will be excluded from access to systematic early intervention assistance.

6. If this is a unique project, please explain why such is the case. If it is of an ongoing nature, provide justification for its worth/value:

El Paso's standing was recently upgraded from 3rd to 2nd safest large city in the United States. The MARS and YIP Programs were given accolades for their contribution to this ranking. Because of the Program's uniqueness and success, staff members receive calls from all across the U.S. asking for guidance and support in order to develop or improve upon existing at-risk youth intervention programs. MARS is a proven at-risk and minority youth intervention program model.

The current MARS program has helped 750 youth with a myriad of services, even tattoo removal and the provision of free eyeglasses. With every youth reached, an educational process occurs and mutual understanding is experienced between the youth, law enforcement, and support agencies. The Program benefits the community because of a reduced public safety threat and unique because it fosters a more open, positive public/police relationship, brings together a broad range of varied resources and strives to keep at-risk youth focused and in school. **(Please See Attachments For Some Success Stories)**.

7. Describe plans for administration and operation of the proposed project, including dates for implementation and conclusion:

The success of the MARS Program created workloads far beyond law enforcement staff's ability to complete. In 2002, because of an increase in school participation and more than 160 community support organizations to interact with, two civilian coordinators were hired (all other members provide their time in-kind). The coordinators assure that meetings take place as planned and that timely notification reminders to team representatives are given, assure referrals are maintained within the support/remediation system, assure methodology modification as needed, communicate methodological issues relating to MARS and obtain year-end statistical data from the host facilitator for evaluation. The coordinators will continue with their plan of maintaining 100% school participation, and continue to collaborate with agencies that can foster support or remediation for minority and at-risk youth.

8. Financial Support Information: Amounts *only* listed here.
(Detailed budgets and lists of sources should confirm these figures.)

a.	Current organizational operating budget:.....$	$94,940,449
b.	Budget for specific program/project to be funded:.....$	$71,560
c.	Sources of support/amounts already committed to project:.....$	$0
d.	Sources of support/amounts requested/pending for project:.....$	$50,000

9. Describe the proposed method by which this program/project will be evaluated:

EPPD- Crimes Against Children staff members evaluate the MARS Program. Documentation is maintained on each referral arranged through the Program. Outcomes to be evaluated are: the number of resolved referrals, the number of partner agencies added to the collaboration, the number of participating core group community social service agencies attending monthly meetings and the number of youth reached through school educational presentations. The MARS program goal is to increase the number of participants in each category. To date, the project has expanded annually and has provided services to over 750 minority or at-risk youth.

Signature of Chief Administrator

Joe Wardy, Mayor
Print Name & Title

Signature of Board Officer

Print Name & Title

Approved as to form: Elaine S. Hengen
Elaine S. Hengen, Asst. City Attorney

JOE WARDY
MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL

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June 4, 2004

The Brown Foundation, Inc.
Ms. Nancy Pittman, Executive Director

Houston, TX

Dear Ms. Pittman:

On behalf of the El Paso Police Department, I respectfully request $50,000 from the Brown Foundation, Inc. to implement the Multi-Agency Referral System (MARS) Program.

Brown Foundation funds will pay the partial salary and benefits of two current full-time MARS coordinators. The Program works to provide early intervention for minority, at-risk youth within the El Paso area School Districts (165 schools) and has support and collaboration from 160 public and private agencies and businesses (mostly non-profit).

El Paso is the 22nd largest city in the U.S., and approximately 30% of the population lives below the Federal Poverty Level, making it one of the four poorest metropolitan areas in the nation. El Paso reports Texas' highest percentage of first time referrals to a juvenile probation department (65%), the highest proportion of violent offences (28%) and 33% of the population is under the age of 18. Single-parent households, homelessness, poverty, suicide, and gang violence are issues that affect El Paso's youth and often times positions them to participate in an array of negative behaviors.

MARS provides a means by which school counselors, law enforcement, community social service agencies, and businesses unite to positively impact at-risk youth, by facilitating mutual understanding, building trust, and instilling values. The idea is that direct and early intervention into a youth's life will have an immediate positive impact, and reduce the likelihood of participation in negative behaviors or school dropout. To date, MARS has provided real problem solving intervention services to over 750 at-risk youth in the El Paso area.

MARS is at a point in its development where full-time dedicated staff support is required. In order to continue to offer real outreach and remediation services for minority and at-risk youth, funds will be sought from various sources to pay the salary and benefits of the two MARS coordinators. Because of the interest expressed by schools, agencies and families, mostly school district and some community funding will be sought in the future in order to assure the Program's sustainability. If you have any questions please contact Sergeant Miguel Zamora @ 915-298-9613, 9600 Dyer, El Paso, Texas 79924. Thank you for your kind consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Joe Wardy
Mayor