



Justin Elicker | *Mayor*

Gwendolyn B. Williams | *Director*

CITY OF NEW HAVEN YOUTH and RECREATION DEPARTMENT

September 1st, 2023

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers
President, Board of Alders
City of New Haven
165 Church Street New Haven,
CT 06510

Dear Honorable Walker-Myers,

The Department of Youth and Recreation Department requests approval to enter a multi-year contract with Connecticut Violence Intervention Program to continue its work in deploying Violence Prevention Professionals (VPPs) to act as peer- life coaches for high-risk youth referred to the City's Youth Connect Program. The contract will allow for VPPs to serve as an additional resource to individuals involved in the Youth Connect Program for 1 year with a total cost of \$250,000 and two, one-year options to renew. The start date is July 1, 2023, and the end date is June 30, 2024. There was a request for proposal published in July of this year, which a selection committee reviewed and resolved to award the contract to the community-based non-profit.

The proposed contract seeks to build on the success of work commenced in the previous fiscal year to continue to deploy trusted community members to key neighborhoods of need in the City. The team will serve as credible messengers and life coaches to individuals identified by law enforcement to be at risk for involvement in gun violence that would benefit from more individualized attention beyond case management. Main activities will include:

1. Conduct both proactive and emergency outreach in key neighborhoods and hotspots
2. Peer support and life coaching for assigned Youth Connect clients
3. Participate in all required violence prevention meetings/activities related to Youth Connect
4. Track and monitor case plan progress and serve as advocate for client, where feasible

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please contact me at 203-946-7582 if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Gwendolyn B. Williams
Director, Youth and Recreation Department