



## **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

### **AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

#### **Recommendation Number: 20130807-007: Budget Recommendation-MEEELJ**

**WHEREAS**, the African American Resource Advisory Commission (the “Commission”) is authorized by Austin City Ordinance 20071129-011 to advise the city council on issues related to the quality of life for the City’s African American community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission is specifically authorized to recommend programs designed to alleviate any inequities that may confront African Americans in social, economic, and vocational pursuits, including (1) health care; (2) housing, including affordable housing, home ownership, and homelessness; (3) entertainment opportunities for professionals and students; (4) employment; and (5) cultural venues, including museums, theaters, art galleries, and music venues; and

**WHEREAS**, Minorities for Equality in Employment, Education, Liberty, and Justice, Inc. (MEEELJ) made a presentation to the African American Resource Advisory Commission on August 7, 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, MEEELJ’s mission is to effect change and opportunity for formally incarcerated persons, inmates, and disadvantaged youth and MEEELJ’s vision is to eliminate the barriers this population faces in being successful, employable, educated, and empowered members of society; and

**WHEREAS**, at this time, MEEELJ serves at-risk youth and formerly incarcerated persons in Bastrop and Caldwell Counties, Del Valle, and portions of Eastern Travis County by providing state approved alcohol awareness classes for minors, anger management groups, assistance in locating legal counsel for participants, job readiness training, adult basic education, GED proficiency preparation, assistance in securing stable housing; and

**WHEREAS**, in May 2011 MEEELJ entered into a co-sponsorship with the City of Austin to implement a program, Iron Sharpens Iron (ISI), with the purpose to empower individuals so that they may fully realize their inherent and unlimited potential—in spite of a felony—to make a difference in their lives and in the Austin community; and

**WHEREAS**, this program provides up to 36 clients per year a 16-week peer-to-peer counseling and training session designed to successfully remove the barriers that restrict services for individuals who have criminal backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the ISI system starts with an in-depth self-assessment which is used to develop the client's individualized 16-week training plan, specifically designed by MEEELJ to address the challenging conditions the city of Austin presents individuals with criminal histories trying to get reestablished within the general community; and

**WHEREAS**, the ISI system provides each client with a weekly stipend as a financial incentive to participate in the program, to eliminate the largest barrier preventing participation of any potential client in completing the 16-week training plan, as a recruiting tool and the payment of the stipend depends on the weekly completion of the individualized 16-week training plan by both client and peer partner; and

**WHEREAS**, the training provided is sufficient to start each client down a path that leads to earning a legitimate living, in addition to equipping each client with the skills required to train one of their friends or family members who may or may not have a criminal background.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,**

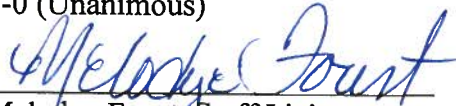
**THAT THE AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
HEREBY RECOMMENDS AS FOLLOWS:**

That the Austin City Council continue funding for MEEELJ in fiscal year 2013-14 in the amount of \$441,000.

Date of approval: August 7, 2013

Record of the vote: 7-0 (Unanimous)

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melodye Foust, Staff Liaison

Program's Line Item Budget	Requested CITY OF AUSTIN Amount	Amount Funded by ALL OTHER Sources	TOTAL Budget (ALL funding sources)
<b>PERSONNEL</b>			
1. Salaries and Benefits	190,000	0	190,000
<b>A. Subtotals: PERSONNEL</b>	190,000	0	190,000
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
2. General Operating Expenses	74,000	0	74,000
3. Consultants/ Contractuals	30,000	0	30,000
4. Staff Travel - <u>Out of Travis County</u>	1,600	0	1,600
5. Conferences/Seminars - <u>Out of Travis County</u>	1,000	0	1,000
<b>B. Subtotals: OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	106,000	0	106,000
<b>DIRECT ASSISTANCE for PROGRAM CLIENTS</b>			
6. Food/Beverage for Clients	3,000	0	3,000

7. Financial Assistance for Clients	90,000	0	90,000
8. Other (Substance abuse counsel)	24,000	0	24,000
<b>C. Subtotals: DIRECT ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>117,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>117,000</b>
<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY (with per Unit Cost greater than \$1,000 ONLY)</b>			
9. Capital Outlay	28,000	0	28,000
<b>D. Subtotals: CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28,000</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>			
<b>GRAND TOTALS (A + B + C + D)</b>	<b>441,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>441,000</b>
<b>PERCENT SHARE of Total for Funding Sources:</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>

FORM # 5: Program Budget NARRATIVE

Date prepared: 5/12/2012

PERSONNEL	NARRATIVE/ Descriptions
1. Salaries and Benefits	This item includes compensation for a program director, two program coordinators and one administrative assistant.
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
2. General Operating Expenses	The item includes funding for rent and utilities, insurance, financial audit, internet, wireless and phone services, copier and printer services, maintenance and supplies.
3. Consultants/ Contractuals	The item includes cost of obtaining professional business management and financial assistance.
4. Staff Travel - <u>OUT of Travis County</u>	This item includes staff travel cost for one annual industry training event.
5. Conferences/Seminars/ Training - <u>OUT of Travis County</u>	This item include staff cost for one annual industry training event.
<b>DIRECT ASSISTANCE</b>	
6. Food/Beverage for Clients	This item includes refreshment cost for program participants during regular schedule training sessions.
7. Financial Assistance for Clients	The item includes cost of providing program participant cash incentives for excellent performance in completing program activities.

8. Other (specify)	This item includes cost of providing specialize counseling for program participants, such as substance abuse, financial planning and behavioral modification.
<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	
9. <u>Capital Outlay</u>	This item includes cost of obtaining office furniture and computer equipment for the program.

**Form # 6: Total Program STAFF POSITIONS & FTEs**

Date prepared:

**TOTAL PROGRAM STAFF: POSITIONS & Full-Time Equivalent (FTE's)**

List Program Positions by Title	FTE's for this Program
Program Director	1
Program Coordinator	2
Administrative Assistant	1
TOTAL FTEs =	4