



Item Number: 2

# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

**DATE:** April 15, 2025

**TO:** Mark Washington, City Manager

**COMMITTEE:** Fiscal Committee

**LIAISON:** Scott Saindon, Acting Chief Financial Officer

**FROM:** Connie M. Bohatch, Senior Managing Director of Community Services  
Community Development

**SUBJECT:** **Resolution accepting grants and authorizing various agreements  
for the GRow1000 Summer Youth Employment Program**

Attached is a resolution accepting grants and authorizing execution of various agreements to implement the GRow1000 Summer Youth Employment Program operated by Our Community's Children. Grants and various agreements are necessary to support program operation, youth placement, and professional development. This may include employer host agreements to meet their organizational requirements.

GRow1000 offers youth ages 15 to 24 the opportunity to explore a career and obtain valuable summer work experience. Program participants are matched with employers for a 6-week, 120-hour, paid work experience. Area businesses and organizations introduce youth to real-world work environments, provide mentorship, and create pathways to future careers. Program funding includes payments from employers hosting youth, donations from businesses and individuals, and philanthropic grants.

Although private funding has decreased, the City is committed to the program. In addition to paying for placements within our organization, other funds are used as available. For the 2025 program, the following funds will be used: 1) \$75,000 from the Grand Rapids Children's Fund, and 2) up to \$80,000 of Third Ward Equity funds to support enhanced participation by third-ward small businesses and youth residents.

Over the last five summers, 1,150 youth were employed at more than 70 unique job sites providing work experience at area businesses, colleges and universities, and nonprofit and government organizations. The 2025 goal is to employ 130 youth.

GRow1000 was launched in the summer of 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and community and racial economic disparities. Businesses and community

leaders partnered to mitigate these effects by seeking to employ 1,000 young people during the summer.

Your FISCAL COMMITTEE recommends adoption of the following resolution accepting various grants and authorizing agreements for implementation of the GRow1000 Summer Youth Employment Program.

RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to execute contractual agreements, memoranda of understanding, other documents, and amendments, as necessary, related to implementation of the GRow1000 Summer Youth Program upon approval as to form by the City Attorney for the period of April 16, 2025, through April 30, 2026.

**CORRECT IN FORM**  
  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW**