



City Council Proposed Budget Changes Form

Fiscal Year 2024

Council member name:

Short Title: **Defund the JEDI Program/Fund Afterschool Parks and Recreation Programing at Missoula Title 1 Schools**

Please describe the request and community benefit

The JEDI program in the proposed 2024 Budget is supported with one time American Rescue Plan Act funds in the amount of \$147,180. This funding is split between 1FTE (\$89,930) and training (\$57,250). This program builds on the the LEARN Report which was initiated by City Council in the 2020 budget season. Several years into JEDI, it is still unclear what needs are being addressed, what this program is intended to do, or how success is defined. Program accomplishments to date, such as standardizing pay for city staff, should be addressed through existing Human Resources standards. The JEDI program has instituted and is training staff, administration and elected officials in definitions, processes, and policy change theory synthesized by a single vendor; B-Culture. These definitions are narrow, limited to a single context of a white dominant culture in exclusion of all other historical and cultural contexts, and are also in contrast to current definitions already adopted into city policy. The training provided through the JEDI program simplifies all decisions into relational power dynamics and also applies the grief curve to JEDI-lead systems change. This undermines the basic function of government and creates a framework in which all meaningful discussion and dissenting opinions can be silenced. Diveristy that supresses ideological diveristy is not, and never will be, diversity. The JEDI program does not uphold Missoula's expressly stated ideals of Justice, Equity, Diversity or Inclusion. I request that this one time ARPA funding be re-allocated to fill a current community need and service gap that exists in Missoula today and will create a long-term and clearly defined investment in supporting justice, equity, diveristy and inclusion for marginalized members of our communtity. This year, the Western Montana Mental Health Center discontinued a long standing afterschool care program (Flagship) aimed at reducing substance abuse. This increases the volunerablilty of an already marginalized demographic of Missoula youth. All \$147,180 should be utilized to both provide direct services to students at Missoula's title 1 schools and to identifying and secure funding for long-term operation. The goal of this investment is to provide safe and nurturing spaces that allow Missoula's youth to realize their potential, thus combatting the underlying issues that lead to perpetuating generational povererty, alcohol and substance abuse, and homelessness.

Please prioritize/rank this request in relation to the total number of requests you've submitted (ex. Rank 2 of 4)

1 of 1 (so far)

Does your request involve increasing staffing? (How many FTEs?)

This funding request moves the funding for 1 FTE and JEDI training to Parks and Recreation. I will defer to Parks and Recreation leadership and staff as to how this funding is best use to expand capacity to provide afterschool care/community center programing in Missoula.

Requested budget amount

\$147,180.00

Proposed funding (check one)

- Increase taxes (only available for general fund requests AND must verify if there are available mills to levy)
- Increase Park District Assessments (must be Park eligible expenditure)
- Increase Road District Assessments (must be Road eligible expenditure)
- Reduce Fund Balance (to Approved Policy Level)
- Re-Appropriation/Reduce appropriation elsewhere

If re-appropriation please note department budget from which to reduce appropriation

Central Services - Human Resources

Is this proposed for one time funding or ongoing? (Please check one)

- One-time
- Ongoing