

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council - Commissioner's Court Meeting	Item ID	34499	Agenda Number	31.
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Meeting Date:	8/28/2014	Department:	Health and Human Services
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Subject

Approve negotiation and execution of a contract with Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Inc. for homeless planning services and coordination, for a 12-month term beginning on October 1, 2014 and ending on September 30, 2015, in an amount not to exceed \$159,500, with five 12-month renewal options, each in an amount not to exceed \$159,500, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$957,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$159,500 for the initial contract term is contingent upon availability of funding in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Operating Budget of Health and Human Services Department. Funding for the renewal options is contingent upon the availability of funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	On September 9, 2013, Council approved the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget, Special Revenue Fund Ordinance No. 20130909-001.
For More Information:	Stephanie Hayden, Asst. Director, Community Services, 972-5017; Robert Kingham, HHSD Manager, 972-5026; Elena Shemilina, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5010.
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Inc. (ECHO) is dedicated to planning, prioritizing, and developing strategies to end homelessness in Austin/Travis County, Texas. The overall role of ECHO is to identify specific strategies to end homelessness and to oversee ongoing planning efforts and implementation of the Plan to End Community Homelessness.

Since 1994, the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) requires each funding application to be submitted as a part of a single community-wide or regional plan. ECHO is HUD's designated Continuum of Care (CoC) for Austin & Travis County. CoCs are most commonly organized around two main priorities, coordinating the housing and service systems in a community, and applying for funding from HUD's competitive McKinney-Vento Act/HEARTH Act programs. ECHO is charged with providing dynamic proactive leadership that engages policy makers and the community in ending homelessness. The City of Austin has contracted with ECHO since 2011, when the coalition obtained IRS 501(c) (3) organizational status.

As the Austin/Travis County designated CoC agency, ECHO is spearheading the planning, design and implementation of a new coordinated assessment system. Coordinated Assessment is a new requirement by HUD for the Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding. The City of Austin Neighborhood Housing

and Community Development Department (NHCD) and Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) administer ESG funding. This coordinated assessment system will improve local intake and referral processes and lead to more efficient use of resources and increased ability of service providers to house homeless individuals and families more quickly.

Related Departmental Goal: Provision: Social Services – Promote and foster increased self-sufficiency, healthy behaviors, and lifestyle among targeted populations.