

**RESOLUTION NO. 20141120-**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin invests a significant portion of the Health and Human Services Department budget in long term social service contracts that provide a wide array of services to Austin's most vulnerable populations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City recently conducted an Request For Application process for social service contracts that will go into effect on September 1, 2015 for a three year period with three one-year extension options, and there could be opportunities to learn from this process to build on successes, identify areas with room for improvement, and improve clarity and predictability in future RFA processes; and

**WHEREAS**, organizations applying for funding vary widely in size and grant writing capacity, and there could be a benefit for the City to contract for grant writing services to assist organizations in future processes; and

**WHEREAS**, recommendations should be made regarding how to weight the need to provide continuing services through high performing organizations with a long partnership with the City while allowing room for new and innovative programs to participate in the process; and

**WHEREAS**, collaborative applications provide high quality services and value to the City, while some organizations are more suited to file individual applications, and every organization in the process would benefit from clarity about any preferential weight given to collaborative or individual applications; and

**WHEREAS**, some organizations are single source providers of essential services, which should be easily identified in the process for the public and future Council Members; and

**WHEREAS**, the City received over \$30 million in requests for funding, demonstrating a need beyond what the current level of funding is able to meet, and it would be beneficial for the future Council to have clearly identified gaps in services to consider during the upcoming budget process; and

**WHEREAS**, a stakeholder group including One Voice, social service contract applicants, and other social service providers could take a comprehensive approach to recommending improvements to the social service RFA process for use during the next contracting period and identify service gaps in the community for Council to consider during the next budget process; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

The City Manager is directed to create a stakeholder process to develop recommendations regarding future social service RFA processes including whether the City should invest in grant writing services for applicants, how to balance prioritizing existing programs and new programs, clarification on any preference given to collaborations versus applications from individual organizations, clear identification of single source providers, and address any other issues the stakeholder group may deem important, and identify existing funding and service gaps for Council consideration during the fiscal year 2015-16 budget process. A report with recommendations should be provided to Council no later than June 1, 2015.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2014

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk