

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	49098	Agenda Number	26.
---------------------	---------	-------	---------------	-----

Meeting Date:	9/17/2015	Department:	Health and Human Services
---------------	-----------	-------------	---------------------------

Subject

Authorize the negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 6 to the Austin Shelter for Women and Children Agreement with THE SALVATION ARMY, INC. to add two additional twelve-month renewal options beginning October 1, 2015, in an amount not to exceed \$1,686,715 per renewal option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$11,646,776.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$1,686,715 is contingent upon availability of funding in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department. Funding for the additional renewal option is contingent upon the availability of funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	On November 18, 2010, Council approved the initial contract. On January 26, 2012, Council approved an amendment to add state Housing and Homeless Services funds for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20110912-005).
For More Information:	Shannon Jones, Director, Health and Human Services Department, 972-5010; Stephanie Hayden, Asst. Director, Community Services, 972-5017; Robert Kingham, Unit Manager, Community Based Resources 972-5026; Elena Shemilina, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5033.
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

Since October 8, 2001, the City has contracted with The Salvation Army for the operation of the Austin Shelter for Women and Children (ASWC), a comprehensive emergency shelter that serves homeless adult women including those with dependent children under the age of 17. The shelter, located at 4523 Tannehill Lane in Austin, is owned by Travis County and leased at no charge to the City.

The goal of the ASWC is to aid homeless women and their children in transitioning out of homelessness and into attaining and maintaining self-sufficiency. The shelter operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Comprehensive services are provided in a caring, supporting, and encouraging environment. Objectives focus on obtaining safe and stable housing with income necessary to support personal stability. A high priority is placed on children's services that include licensed childcare, child/family therapy, specialized school aged children's groups, and after-school tutoring and transportation to local schools. This council item is time-sensitive to ensure that the services are provided to the community. A delay in amending this contract may negatively affect this vulnerable population receiving essential services provided by this funding.

The goals of ASWC are designed to effectively transition shelter residents out of homelessness by providing:

- 1.) Emergency Shelter (30 to 90 days)
- 2.) Case Management Services (3-18 months)
- 3.) Assistance in accessing coordinated, mainstream resources
- 4.) Exit to transitional, permanent, or subsidized housing

The ASWC offers the following major program components:

Emergency Shelter: ASWC provides a 60 bed emergency shelter to homeless women and children on a first come, first serve basis. A call back list is maintained 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for all persons who seek shelter.

Basic Needs: ASWC provides hygiene supplies, clothing, diapers, formula, school supplies, and three meals a day to help clients stabilize their living situation. On-site childcare is provided for eligible shelter residents with children ages 18 to 60 months. Outside childcare is provided while clients go to self-sufficiency activities and/or look for work. Direct financial assistance is provided to eligible clients to remove barriers to housing.

Case Management: Case managers assist clients in forming a self-sufficiency plan. This involves assessing barriers to self-sufficiency and linking clients to support services.

Specialized Counseling Services: ASWC assists clients in crisis to stabilize their lives, improve coping skills, and engage in longer-term interventions to address mental health and substance abuse issues. All adult residents are referred to the Child and Family Therapist for initial assessment, and recommendations for ongoing individual, group, or family counseling are coordinated with the case manager. ASWC collaborates with State Protective Services for children and adults, Austin/Travis County Integral Care, and other providers to find solutions that enable the client to move into safe and stable housing.

Education: ASWC provides life-skills training and encourages adults to work on completing a General Equivalency Diploma or other training programs. Children work with a certified teacher at the shelter to improve completion of homework and school projects. Parents are able to meet with the teacher and participate in the learning center with their child in order to foster a positive relationship and improve parent involvement in their child's educational goals.

In 2012, Austin voters approved \$3.8 million in bond funding to improve the ASWC. Construction on the shelter will likely start in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and last until the following year. The Health and Human Services Department is requesting to add renewal options to the contract in order to keep the current operator for the next two years during construction. A solicitation would not be required as this contract would fall under an exemption from Chapter 252 of the Local Government Code for the following reason: management services provided by a non-profit organization to a municipal museum, park, zoo, or other facility to which the organization has provided significant financial or other benefits.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: Performance Measures will be determined as the contract is developed with The Salvation Army.

RELATED DEPARTMENTAL GOAL: Provision: Social Services – Promote and foster increased self-sufficiency, healthy behaviors, and lifestyle among targeted populations.