

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	49212	Agenda Number	27.
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Meeting Date:	9/17/2015	Department:	Health and Human Services
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Subject

Approve the negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 1 to a contract with FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES INC., for insurance enrollment educational outreach and navigation services of the Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Marketplace, to increase funding in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 and extend the contract period to June 30, 2016, and add three 12-month renewal options in amounts not to exceed \$100,000 per renewal option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$500,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$100,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	On September 9, 2014, Council approved the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget, Special Revenue Fund Ordinance No. 20140909-001.
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

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) was signed into law on March 23, 2010 to reform health care in America. The new health care law includes reforms to the affordability, quality, and availability of health insurance, along with new cost cutting measures, rules, and regulations for both public and private health insurance companies and the health care industry. The ACA aims to increase the amount of Americans who have access to affordable health insurance. This is done, in part, by providing tax credits to individuals who need help paying for insurance and opening up competitive, regulated, online health insurance exchanges (also known as marketplaces) where individuals can buy insurance and receive cost-assistance. The Open Enrollment Period for coverage that will begin in 2016 extends from November 15, 2015 through February 15, 2016.

More than 6.3 million Texans, including 1.2 million children, lack health insurance. Texas uninsurance rates are 1.5 to 2 times higher than the national average and create significant problems in the finance and delivery of health care to Texans. Racial and ethnic minorities are significantly less likely than the rest of the population to have health insurance. In Texas, 39% of Hispanics/Latinos, 22% of African Americans, and 20% of other races are uninsured. In Travis County, it is estimated that over 200,000 individuals do not have health insurance.

FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES INC. provides affordable homes and free onsite support services for thousands of working families with children, as well as veterans, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. They offer a model that empowers both their residents and non-residents to achieve educational success, financial stability, and healthier lifestyles. In October 2013, FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES INC. began assisting the City's uninsured and underinsured seeking to obtain coverage through the ACA by a program called Insure Central Texas. Insure Central Texas is free and open to the community at two locations, Highland Mall and the Community Financial Center. During the initial contract period, Foundation Communities served 10,678 households and assisted the enrollment of 5,911 individuals in qualified health plans through the Health Insurance Marketplace. Through these enrollments, a total of \$14 million in federal Premium Tax Credits were obtained by the enrollees to subsidize the cost of their health insurance.

Contract exhibits will be negotiated with the FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES INC. staff. This council item is time sensitive and must be approved in order to ensure that health insurance services are provided to the community. A delay in amending this contract may prevent the service-provider from providing health insurance services.

Related Departmental Goal: Provision: Social Services – Promote a healthy community by addressing the needs of vulnerable households.