

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	51766	Agenda Number	19.
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Meeting Date:	11/12/2015	Department:	Health and Human Services
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Subject

Approve negotiation and execution of a contract with SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER to support electronic benefits transfer technology and produce purchase incentives for farmers markets, for a 12-month term beginning on October 1, 2015 and ending on September 30, 2016, in an amount not to exceed \$69,280, with four 12-month renewal options, each in an amount not to exceed \$69,280, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$346,400.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$69,280 is included in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating Budget of the 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 8, 2015, Council approved Ordinance No. 20150908-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating Budget.

For More Information: Stephanie Hayden, Deputy Director, 972-5017; Robert Kingham, Health and Human Services Manager, 972-5026; Elena Shemilina, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5033.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

MBE / WBE:

Related Items:

Additional Backup Information

Eighteen percent of Travis County residents and 25.5% of Travis County children live in a food insecure household. Food insecurity is often a directly result of and results in increased health care costs, lower educational success, and decreased workforce productivity. Many food insecure residents have limited access to highly nutritious foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, and are at greater risk of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, is a federal nutrition program that effectively lifts many people out of poverty and by enabling participants to access healthier food. For example, farmers' market incentive programs have successfully increased the purchase of fresh produce by SNAP benefit recipients.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER (SFC) is an Austin-based non-profit organization that cultivates a healthy community by strengthening the local food system and improving access to nutritious, affordable food. SFC operates the Double Dollar Incentive Program (DDIP), which allows recipients of SNAP benefits, Women, Infants, and Children Electronic Benefits Transfer fruit and vegetable benefits, or Farmers' Market Nutrition Program vouchers, to manage the amount they can spend on fruits and vegetables at SFC farmers' markets. Eligible shoppers are matched dollar for dollar up to a certain level each week for each program. DDIP is only valid for the purchase of

fruits and vegetables.

Approval of the additional funding for this agreement is time sensitive to ensure that the services are provided to the community. A delay will negatively impact services provided to vulnerable populations.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES, as well as contract exhibits, will be negotiated with the SFC staff.

RELATED DEPARTMENTAL GOAL: Provision: Social Services – Promote a healthy community by addressing the needs of vulnerable households.