

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	68140	Agenda Number	17.
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Meeting Date:	3/2/2017	Department:	Public Health
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of the third amendment to the 37-month agreement with WORKSOURCE GREATER AUSTIN AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD d/b/a WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS - CAPITAL AREA WORKFORCE BOARD to increase funding for workforce development and education services in an amount not to exceed \$122,240 for the current contract period ending September 30, 2018, and increase funding for the three remaining 12-month renewal options in an amount not to exceed \$61,120 per renewal option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$16,250,048.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$61,120 is included in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Operating Budget of Austin Public Health. 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 November 20, 2014, Council approved agenda item 20141120-071 approving award, negotiation and execution of this agreement in response to Request for Proposal No. EAD0116 for self-sufficiency social services. On September 14, 2016 Council approved Ordinance No. 20160914-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Operating Budget.

For More Information: Shannon Jones, Director, 512-972-5010; Stephanie Hayden, Deputy Director, 512-972-5017; Vella Karman, Acting Social Services Policy Manager, 512-972-5064; Elena Lloyd, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5033.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

MBE / WBE:

Related Items:

Additional Backup Information

Workforce and Education Readiness Continuum (WERC) helps Austin and Travis County adults and families transition out of poverty. WERC prepares Austin and Travis County residents with the skills and support they need to increase their economic prosperity and achieve self-sufficiency by providing wrap-around education and workforce development services tailored to their current needs and long-term goals.

WERC works to remove cultural and language barriers and is committed to serving clients no matter their level of education and work-ready progression. This includes limited English proficiency and/or other communications needs.

WERC mitigates barriers and challenges to client access, making it easy for Austin and Travis County residents to find the services they need. Career counselors are able to provide a “one-stop shop” to eligible clients at service locations all over the city by utilizing ECM, a shared client database system used by all WERC partners.

Austin or Travis County residents eligible for these services must be ages 16 years or older, living at or below 200% of poverty, and demonstrating one or more barriers to self-sufficiency, such as low literacy, low English proficiency, lack

of basic education, and/or limited work skills.

The current social service agreement with Workforce Solutions – Capital Area Workforce Board was awarded through the 2014 Health and Human Services Department Self-Sufficiency Request for Applications, with services beginning on September 1, 2015 for an initial 37-month term ending on September 30, 2018 in the amount of \$7,520,967, with three 12-month extension options in the amount of \$2,506,989 per extension option. Amendment No. 1 included a 6% increase of \$451,257, for a total contract amount of \$7,972,224 for the period September 1, 2015 through September 30, 2018, and a total amount of \$2,657,408 per extension option, which was included in additional funding approved by Council on March 31, 2016 (Item 20160331-019). Amendment No. 2 included an administrative change to the contract language that did not alter the funding level or program delivery.

During the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget adoption process, Council approved \$600,000 in funding for current social service providers for a cost of living increase, which resulted in a 2.3% increase for most social service contracts. This resulted in an increase to the WERC program of \$122,240, for a total contract amount of \$8,094,464 for the period September 1, 2015 through September 30, 2018, and a total amount of \$2,718,528 per extension option. This RCA action will allow staff to complete Amendment No. 3 to add this additional funding to the WERC contract.

Performance Measures:

Output per 12-month period:

Number of unduplicated individuals served: 1570 clients

Outcome per 12-month period:

Percent of individuals obtaining employment: Goal - 67%

Percent of individuals who complete an educational program and demonstrate improved knowledge: Goal – 65%

Related Departmental Goal:

Assist people in achieving safety, stability, and long-term self-sufficiency.