Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting   : February 15, 2018   Item Number: **028**

Public Health

Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 5 to the agreement with Worksource Greater Austin Area Workforce Development Board, dba Workforce Solutions - Capital Area Workforce Board to increase funding for workforce development and education services in an amount not to exceed $67,963 for the 37-month term ending September 30, 2018, and increase funding for the three extension options in an amount not to exceed $67,963 per extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed $16,576,900.

Lead Department	Austin Public Health.
Fiscal Note	Funding in the amount of $67,963 is included in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Operating Budget of Austin Public Health. Funding for extension options is contingent upon availability of funding in future budgets.
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 March 31, 2016, Council approved Amendment No. 1, which included a 6% increase to existing social services agreements. On September 14, 2016 Council approved Ordinance No. 20160914-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Operating Budget, which included a 2.3% increase to existing social services contracts. On September 13, 2017, Council approved Ordinance No. 20170913-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Operating Budget, which included a 2.5% increase to existing social services contracts.
For More Information	Stephanie Hayden, Interim Director, 512-972-5010; Adrienne Sturrup, Acting Assistant Director, 512-972-5167, Vella Karman, Social Services Policy Manager, 512-972-5064; Estella Kirscht, Agenda Coordinator,

	972-5039.

Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to complete Amendment No. 5 to add funding to the Workforce and Education Readiness Continuum (WERC) contract based on the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget adoption process in which Council approved funding for a 2.5% increase to existing social services contracts. This annual increase is $67,963 for the WERC agreement.

For future contract negotiations, the results of a review of the City's Workforce development efforts will be included to ensure that new contracts are designed and implemented to train individuals in high need areas. This process will meet the goals and objectives of the City's Strategic Plan.

Previously, Amendment No. 4 incorporated a transfer from the Economic Development Department of $55,000 into the WERC agreement for expanded data and evaluation work associated with the services provided by this agreement and other related work implementing the Master Community Workforce Plan. Amendment No. 3 added the funding Council approved during the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget adoption process for a 2.3% cost of living increase. 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. Amendment No. 2 included an administrative change to the contract language that did not alter the funding level or program delivery. 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.

The original social service agreement with Workforce Solutions - Capital Area Workforce Board was awarded through the 2014 Health and Human Services Department's 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.

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 also mitigates barriers and challenges to client access, making it easier 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 Austin by utilizing Empowered Case Management or 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.

Related Departmental Goal:

Provision: Social Services - Promote and foster increased self-sufficiency and healthy behaviors and lifestyle among targeted populations. Future performance measures will be reflective of the Workforce Plan as well as the City's Strategic Plan.

Performance Measures (still to be finalized):

1300	Total Number of Unduplicated Clients Served
48	Total number of unduplicated clients served in Adult Basic Education
365	Total number of unduplicated clients served in English-as-a-Second Language
284	Total number of unduplicated clients served in Occupational Training
67%	Percent of individuals obtaining employment
80%	Percent of individuals who complete an educational program and demonstrate improved knowledge
65%	Percent of individuals who complete an adult literacy program and demonstrate improved knowledge