



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-1173, Agenda Item #: 18.

2/21/2019

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Front Steps, Inc. for the operation and management of emergency shelter services at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless for a 12-month period with four 12-month extension options, each in an amount not to exceed \$313,922, for a total amount not to exceed \$1,750,000.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$313,922 is available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Emergency Solutions Grant, and included in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Austin Public Health Operating Budget. Funding for extension options is contingent upon available grant funding in future budgets.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and passes through Neighborhood Housing and Community Development to be administered by Austin Public Health (APH). APH is responsible for the implementation of the ESG grant programming in compliance with the governing regulations of the ESG program. The City allocates ESG funds, the City's General Funds and funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to support shelter operations and management of the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH). The HUD ESG grant requires a 100% match, which is satisfied by the ARCH General Fund agreement, as required by the grant and other federal requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 24, Part 576.

APH has been under contract with Front Steps, Inc. to operate and manage the ARCH since 2004. ESG funding has been used to provide security, food, and shelter maintenance staffing for emergency night shelter provided to adult men experiencing homelessness. ARCH operations will transition to a new service model in conjunction with a new grant agreement between the City and Front Steps in April 2019, following an extensive development process in response to Resolution No. 20171012-015 and a competitive Request for Qualifications.

Front Steps will provide program services, facility management and operations necessary to provide emergency shelter to adult men experiencing homelessness. The shelter's programming will be focused on ending homelessness for guests by housing people as quickly as possible, using the Coordinated Entry system, and connecting households to other resources to help them stabilize once housed. A variety of housing-focused services will be provided with the objective of resolving an individual's housing crisis, and connecting individuals experiencing homelessness to safe, stable housing.

Performance Measures:

Performance measures and contract exhibits will be negotiated with Front Steps staff and will align with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 24, Part 576 requirements and Austin Strategic Direction 2023 strategies and metrics.

Related Departmental Goal:

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