



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 19-2272, **Agenda Item #:** 38.

6/19/2019

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with four social services agencies to provide African American mental health and wellness services for a 12-month term beginning July 1, 2019 and two 12-month extension options, each in an amount not to exceed \$500,000, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.

### **Lead Department**

Austin Public Health

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$500,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Austin Public Health Operating Budget.

### **Prior Council Action:**

September 11, 2018 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20180911-001, adopting the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Austin Public Health Operating Budget that included \$500,000 additional ongoing funding for African American mental health and healthcare outreach services, on a vote of 10-1, with Council Member Troxclair voting no.

### **For More Information:**

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### **Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

May 16, 2018 - the African American Resource Advisory Commission recommended the following regarding the City's Fiscal Year 2019 budget: "The AA Commission recommends that two million dollars be allocated to provide mental healthcare outreach and services within the African American community in Austin. A portion of the allocated funds [to] be specifically earmarked for partnerships with community organizations or entities providing mental health services in African American communities at no cost or sliding scale to residents," on an 8-0 vote.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute separate agreements with Sickle Cell Association of Texas Marc Thomas Foundation, Amala Foundation, University of Texas Austin School of Nursing, and Austin Child Guidance Center, for the provision of African American mental health and wellness services for individuals and families in Austin/Travis County.

On March 5, 2019, Austin Public Health issued a Request for Grant Applications with a deadline of April 3, 2019, and received thirteen applications. The objective of this competitive solicitation was to establish multiple agreements with qualified nonprofits or government entities for the provision of mental and physical healthcare outreach, and services within the African American community and others in Austin, per the approved Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget direction.

According to 2015-2016 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, rates of chronic disease such as cancer, heart disease, and stroke are significantly higher among Black residents of Travis County than among White and Hispanic residents. Additionally, 23.3% of Black Travis County residents reported *5+ Days per month Mental Health not Good*, in comparison to 18.7% of White Travis County residents and 16.9% of Hispanic Travis County residents (Source: Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data, 2012-2016). Aligning with recommendations from the African American Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission, Austin Public Health seeks to invest in targeted interventions that intentionally address health disparities and promote wellness in African American communities.

Recommended Agencies:

Sickle Cell Association of Texas Marc Thomas Foundation will provide sickle cell services, including 1) case management and mental health counseling; 2) education and sickle cell testing; and 3) and social support services for African Americans and the Austin/Travis County community. This agreement will be negotiated for an initial 12-month term in an amount not to exceed \$184,950, with up to two 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$184,950 per extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$554,850.

Amala Foundation will provide social-emotional learning and wellness practices to school communities that want to build a culture of wellness, belonging, equity, and inclusion on their campus through a nine-month preventative and holistic wellness program offering culturally responsive, healing centered, and social-emotional learning opportunities to students, parents, teachers, and administrators. The agreement will be negotiated for an initial 12-month term in an amount not to exceed \$72,500, with up to two 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$72,500 per extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$217,500.

University of Texas Austin School of Nursing will provide a comprehensive, community-based health program to improve both mental health and physical wellness outcomes for African Americans, through church-based holistic wellness services. The agreement will be negotiated for an initial 12-month term in an amount not to exceed \$178,685, with up to two 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$178,685 per extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$536,055.

Austin Child Guidance Center will provide access to high-quality mental health services to increase the mental and emotional well-being of African American children and their families. The agreement will be negotiated for an initial 12-month term in an amount not to exceed \$63,865, with up to two 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$63,865 per extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$191,595.