



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 19-2543, **Agenda Item #:** 142.

8/8/2019

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with The Salvation Army, a Georgia Corporation, for one-time funding for provision of homeless services to individuals and families with children at the Rathgeber Center in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

### **Lead Department**

Austin Public Health.

### **Fiscal Note**

One-time funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 is proposed to be included in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund Operating Budget

### **Prior Council Action:**

April 11, 2019 - Council approved Resolution No. 20190411-026, directing the City Manager to identify potential sources of funding that would assist the Salvation Army Rathgeber Center in becoming fully operational, on an 11-0 vote.

### **For More Information:**

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### **Additional Backup Information:**

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute an agreement with The Salvation Army for homeless services at the new Rathgeber Center located at 4613 Tannehill Lane in Austin. The City will provide one-time funding, enabling private donors to provide funds necessary to keep the Rathgeber Center fully operational for the subsequent years after the agreement expires on September 30, 2020. At full capacity, the new 212-bed center is designed to provide emergency shelter, meals, clothing, basic needs, case management, connection to housing resources, employment services, child care, child/family therapy, and assistance with life skills.

On April 11, 2019 Council approved Resolution No. 20190411-026, directing the City Manager to identify potential sources of funding that would assist the Salvation Army Rathgeber Center in becoming fully operational. The Salvation Army has nearly 200 women and children on their wait list for shelter at the Austin Shelter for Women and Children.

Since October 8, 2001, the City of Austin has contracted with The Salvation Army for the operation of the Austin Shelter for Women and Children, a comprehensive emergency shelter that serves homeless adult women including those with dependent children age 17 or younger. The property, located at 4523 Tannehill Lane in Austin, is owned by Travis County and leased at no charge to the City.

Additionally, the Council directed re-design of the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH), which will reduce bed capacity from 190 to 130 in 2019. New capacity for serving families with children at the

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Rathgeber Center, in conjunction with moving families out of the downtown Salvation Army shelter, will open up beds for adults no longer staying at the ARCH. This coordinated shifting of services and housing-focused design of case management and supports will transition individuals and families out of homelessness and into stable housing more quickly and effectively.