



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-2828, **Agenda Item #:** 45.

9/19/2019

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Casa Marianella for the provision of naturalization services for permanent residents for a 25-month term beginning September 1, 2019, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$115,000.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$115,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget.

For More Information:

Stephanie Hayden, Director, 512-972-5010; Adrienne Sturup, Assistant Director, 512-972-5167; Vella Karman, Social Services Policy Manager, 512-972-5064; Lucy Thompson, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5045.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

April 29, 2019 - the Commission on Immigrant Affairs approved Recommendation Number 20190429-5AIV to fund citizenship clinics as a City budget recommendation, on a 9-0 vote, with Samuel Adair, Walid Kobrosly, and Nasario Jaimes not present.

Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute an agreement with Casa Marianella to work with other agencies to provide naturalization clinics and scholarships for application fees to permanent residents eligible to become U.S. citizens.

According to the American Community Survey, Texas has 1.1 million eligible permanent residents that qualify to apply to become U.S. Citizens. In Austin alone, approximately 57,153 residents may be eligible.

Casa Marianella will work with the Equal Justice Center and the Texas AFL-CIO to provide citizenship clinics in the spring, summer and fall, with a goal of serving 100 people per clinic. These clinics will be coordinated with other immigrant organizations, such as American Gateways, Catholic Charities, Workers Defense, and the multiple unions affiliated to the Texas AFL-CIO, such as Plumbers Local 236, IBEW Local 520, Carpenters Local 1266, the Texas Retired Alliance Americans, and Austin Young Active Labor Leaders. Monthly educational forums will also be offered to educate the community about the process and requirements to apply to become U.S. citizens.

Partner organizations will likely include the University of Texas Law School immigration clinic, United We Dream-Austin, and the Mexican Consulate to recruit and train scores of volunteers. Reliable and well-trained volunteers have been key to the successful naturalization clinics provided over the past several years.