



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-2988, **Agenda Item #:** 7.

9/19/2019

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Inc. to fund and administer the Low Barrier Permanent Supportive Housing Voucher Program, which provides housing subsidies to homeless individuals, in an amount not to exceed \$950,000.

Lead Department

Neighborhood Housing and Community Development.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Grant Operating Budget of the Austin Housing Finance Corporation.

Prior Council Action:

November 09, 2017 - Council approved resolution relating to the expenditure of the Downtown Density Bonus Program funds for low-barrier permanent supportive housing vouchers. Resolution 20171109-089.

May 10, 2018 - AHFC Board authorized the negotiation and execution of a multi-term contract with the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Inc. to fund and administer the Low Barrier Permanent Supportive Housing Voucher Program, in an amount not to exceed \$98,208 with one 12-month extension option in an amount not to exceed \$294,624 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$392,832.

For More Information:

Rosie Truelove, Treasurer, Austin Housing Finance Corporation, 512-974-3064; or Fernando Hernandez-Garza, Neighborhood Development Program Manager, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, 512-974-3114.

Additional Backup Information:

The intent of the Low Barrier Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Voucher Program is to continue to fund the operations of an innovative program that houses and supports individuals experiencing homelessness and severe mental health issues who are frequent users of the criminal justice and emergency healthcare system in Austin/Travis County. This model uses private capital funding to increase resources specifically for service interventions, such as a PSH.

If approved, funding will be provided for a contract from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. This program will serve up to 96 individuals experiencing homeless. Ending Community Homelessness Coalition's (ECHO) plan is to add 6-8 clients per month, on top of their existing program clients.

ECHO is a non-profit that plans, develops, prioritizes, and implements systemic, community-wide strategies to end homelessness in Austin and Travis County, Texas. ECHO is elected locally and recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as the Continuum of Care lead agency, the local leader in coordinating the system of housing and services for persons experiencing homelessness. ECHO is also designated as the lead agency for the Homeless Management Information System, a system-wide

database that tracks the needs of households experiencing homelessness, services received across the community, and their outcomes.

ECHO anticipates partnering with property owners to cluster units on 1-2 properties with enough units that will allow program participants to blend in with other residents. All payments made by the ECHO are paid directly to the landlord. PSH intends to support the client as long as needed provided the client maintains a housing lease.

Additionally, as part of this contract, Caritas of Austin will provide the support services based on the Assertive Community Treatment model, which is designed to support clients with mental illness living in the community.