



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-2829, **Agenda Item #:** 13.

10/3/2019

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Family Eldercare, Inc. for provision of temporary employment opportunities for individuals experiencing homelessness in an amount not to exceed \$720,000 for a twelve-month period beginning October 1, 2019.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$720,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budgets of the Austin Resource Recovery, Austin Public Health, Parks and Recreation, and Watershed Protection Departments.

Prior Council Action:

On September 10, 2019, Council approved Ordinance No. 20190910-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget, which includes \$720,000 for temporary work opportunities for individuals experiencing homelessness through the Workforce First program on a 10-1 vote, with Council Member Flannigan voting no.

On February 12, 2019, Council authorized negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 1 with Family Eldercare to extend the Workforce First pilot term by 7 months and add \$150,000 in funding on an 11-0 vote.

On September 11, 2018, Council approved Ordinance No. 20180911-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Operating Budget, which included \$100,000 in new funding for alternatives to panhandling on a 10-1 vote, with Council Member Troxclair voting no.

On August 31, 2017, Council passed Resolution 20170831-054 directing the City Manager to explore temporary work opportunities for those experiencing homelessness and/or panhandling 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 Family Eldercare for the Workforce First program offering temporary work opportunities and supportive services to individuals experiencing homelessness. The 13-month pilot program exceeded initial goals and this program will be expanded from one work crew to three work crews for an additional twelve months.

Family Eldercare serves as the administrative and fiscal agent, subcontracting with The Other One's Foundation (TOOF) to provide outreach, daily paid employment opportunities and supportive services to individuals experiencing homelessness, as an alternative to panhandling. TOOF's mission is to transition Austin's homeless neighbors into an engaged community, through shelter, support, nourishment and love.

The initial pilot was a collaboration between the Parks and Recreation Department, Austin Public Health, Watershed Protection Department, Family Eldercare and TOOF. The ongoing purpose of this project is to provide temporary work opportunities within Austin to those experiencing homelessness, living on the streets, and to those who may be utilizing unsafe or illegal methods of obtaining income to meet basic needs. Services include mobile outreach, identification of individual needs, job training, connection to banking services and opportunities for saving, connection to social services, and assistance addressing obstacles to obtaining employment for workers of all abilities. Several past program participants have been connected to housing programs, mainstream benefits, and additional work opportunities to increase income and maintain housing stability.

Additional City Departments are participating in the expansion of this program in Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Funding for this program will be used for eligible clean-up activities specific to the requirements of various funding sources, broken out by department and funding source below.

Department	Funding Source	Amount
Austin Resource Recovery	Clean Community Fee	\$300,000
Austin Public Health	General Fund	\$245,000
Parks and Recreation	General Fund	\$105,000
Watershed Protection	Drainage Utility Charge	\$70,000
Total		\$720,000