



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 20-1093, **Agenda Item #:** 40.

1/23/2020

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 1 to an agreement with Front Steps, Inc., to expand shelter case management services in an amount not to exceed \$102,056, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$13,602,056.

### **Lead Department**

Austin Public Health.

### **Fiscal Note**

One-time funding in the amount of \$102,056 is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Austin Public Health Department's Operating Budget.

### **Prior Council Action:**

September 11, 2019 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20190911-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget, which included \$1,500,000 in one-time funding for homeless campgrounds or alternatives, on a 10-1 vote with Council Member Flannigan voting no.

January 31, 2019 - Council authorized negotiation and execution of a multi-term contract with Front Steps Inc. to provide shelter operations and services for the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, for up to five years for a total contract amount not to exceed \$13,500,000, on a 10-0 vote with Council Member Flannigan absent.

### **For More Information:**

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### **Additional Backup Information:**

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) agreement with Front Steps, Inc. to expand shelter case management services for the purpose of resourcing Guided Path efforts and future Encampment Resolution strategies.

In October 2019, the Homeless Strategy Office partnered with the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO), Austin Public Health, Downtown Austin Community Court, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, and the Austin Police Department to co-convene the homeless provider community to design a strategy to address the encampments outside of the ARCH. The Guided Path Pilot Project aims to both reduce the health and safety risks for those living in encampments and prevent and end homelessness through long term solutions. Expanded case management services will be coordinated with other rapid re-housing resources to engage participants, locate and facilitate housing placement options, and provide housing stability services once participants exit homelessness into housing.

On January 31, 2019, Council approved the new contract with Front Steps for the provision of shelter services

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at the ARCH. This contract was awarded through the Request for Qualification Statements (also known as an RFQS) 4700 EAD4000REBID issued on October 15, 2018 by the Purchasing Office.

The contract provides for shelter operations and services at the ARCH. On October 12, 2017, Council passed Resolution No. 20171012-015 directing the City Manager to conduct a stakeholder engagement process to redefine the scope of services at the ARCH, with a focus on operating within the intended built capacity. The resolution also directs that the scope consider recommendations from the Bloomberg iTeam, the ECHO Action Plan, the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), and other community partners and stakeholders. The City issued a Request for Information (also known as an RFI) in July 2018, which included a draft scope of work for the redesigned ARCH operations and the NAEH Recommendations report.

At the ARCH, Front Steps provides program services, facility management, and operations necessary to provide emergency shelter to adult men experiencing homelessness. The shelter's programming is focused on ending homelessness for guests by housing people as quickly as possible, using the Coordinated Entry System, and connecting households to other resources to help them stabilize once housed. A variety of housing-focused services are provided with the objective of resolving an individual's housing crisis and connecting individuals experiencing homelessness to safe, stable housing.