



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1303, **Agenda Item #:** 13.

2/20/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Front Steps, Inc. to provide permanent supportive housing services, for an initial seven month term ending September 30, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000, with four 12-month renewal options not to exceed \$500,000 per option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,250,000.

Lead Department

Community Court

Fiscal Note

Funding for the initial term of this agreement is included in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget of the Downtown Austin Community Court.

Prior Council Action:

September 10, 2019 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20190910-001 adopting the City's Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget.

For More Information:

Peter Valdez, Court Administrator, Downtown Austin Community Court, (512) 974-4873; Robert Kingham, Operations Manager, Downtown Austin Community Court, (512) 974-1394

Additional Backup Information:

Long-term homelessness, physical and mental health issues, and substance use disorders are among the common challenges of the clients of the Intensive Case Management (ICM) program at Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC). ICM staff connects clients with supportive services and permanent housing. Council approved funding for expansion of social service agreements to address these community needs during the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget process.

On November 15, 2019, the DACC issued a Request for Applications, which included a deadline of January 6, 2020. The DACC received ten applications during the application period. The objective for this competitive solicitation was to establish one or more agreements with qualified nonprofits or governmental entities to provide permanent supportive housing and/or transitional housing to clients of DACC's ICM program. Applicants were required to have successful experience providing the proposed service(s) and/or experience working with the target population. The solicitation was advertised through One Voice Central Texas, which is a coalition comprised of over 100 local health and human services organizations and through Collaboration Technologies for Organizations Serving the Homeless (CTOSH). CTOSH is a primary method of communication for local planning groups, services providers for people experiencing homelessness, and individuals interested in matters related to homelessness in Austin and Travis County.

During the competitive solicitation process, the DACC requested feedback from the Austin Homeless Advisory Council (AHAC). AHAC is a group of individuals who have experienced homelessness in Austin, who meet bi-weekly to provide input on policies and services that affect people experiencing homelessness.

Approval of this item will authorize DACC to negotiate and execute an agreement with Front Steps, Inc. to provide 27 scattered site units of permanent supportive housing, financial assistance to obtain housing, and case management for persons experiencing chronic homelessness referred by DACC. Front Step's Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program offers a comprehensive array of supportive services that promote long-term housing stability, independence, recovery, and improved health with a client to case manager ratio of 10:1.