



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1461, **Agenda Item #:** 16.

3/26/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Family Eldercare to provide housing-focused support services for individuals experiencing homelessness, for an initial six-month term ending September 30, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$63,717, with four 12-month renewal options not to exceed \$127,434 per option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$573,453.

Lead Department

Community Court

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$63,717 is available in the FY 2019-2020 Downtown Austin Community Court's Operating Budget. Funding for the remaining years of the contract/agreement is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

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 four 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 housing-focused support services 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, service 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

biweekly 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 Family Eldercare to provide representative payee services and SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) application assistance for persons experiencing homelessness referred by DACC. Representative payee services will serve individuals who are unable to manage their finances and may include establishing a bank account within Social Security guidelines, developing a budget, paying bills on behalf of the client, making referrals for services or resources, applying for all local and governmental benefits and entitlements, and advocating and negotiating on behalf of the client. Representative payee services have proven effective in retaining housing for those with substance use disorder, persistent mental illness, experiences of homelessness, and/or frequent or long-term hospitalization. Family Eldercare will also provide SOAR caseworkers to assist with applications for Social Security Disability benefits, which is a process that can range from twenty to forty hours over a two-month period for each individual client. Many individuals served by DACC have tri-occurring issues including physical health, mental health and substance use; having assistance with SOAR applications will help to expedite the process and increase DACC's capacity to connect these individuals to public benefits.

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.