



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1964, **Agenda Item #:** 7.

5/7/2020

Posting Language

Approve ratification of an agreement with Sustainable Food Center to provide food access points to low-income households in an amount not to exceed \$112,541 for an eight-week term beginning April 5, 2020, with two, two-week extension options.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$112,541 is included in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Austin Public Health Department's Operating Budget.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

This action authorizes the ratification of an agreement with Sustainable Food Center for an initial eight-week term in an amount not to exceed \$112,541 for a total contract amount of \$112,541 with two, two-week extension options. Sustainable Food Center will utilize current restaurant infrastructure to establish a micro-food-distribution model, where boxes of fresh produce would be presold, using online or over the phone payment methods. This model utilizes currently idle restaurants, with a focus on restaurants of cultural and economic importance in the communities they serve, to provide fresh food access on a neighborhood basis, therefore reducing the need to gather in large numbers and allowing for better execution of current best practices regarding the COVID-19 virus with the ability to "bring food access to where the most vulnerable live." Between three and ten micro-food sites will be established at restaurants through this contract in neighborhoods facing multiple barriers to food access. Restaurants will be selected for participation based on 1) the ability of restaurants to undertake the transition to a food retail operation, and 2) the ability of restaurants to serve priority communities.

This project will have the following intended outcomes:

- Open new market sales opportunities for Central Texas farmers and ranchers that are losing a significant portion of their sales during the COVID-19 crisis
- Provide revenue to locally-owned restaurants and keep Austinites' food dollars in the local food economy at a time when that is critically important
- Increase food shopping options, particularly for low-income families, in Austin that are less crowded and require less travel than traditional full-service grocery stores

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment; Economic Opportunity and Affordability.