



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-2450, **Agenda Item #:** 72.

7/29/2020

Posting Language

Approve ratification of an emergency contract with FII-National D/B/A Family Independence Initiative, to provide direct emergency family relief services, in the amount of \$2,683,060.

(Note: This contract is exempt from the City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Purchasing Office.

Client Department(s)

Equity Office.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$2,680,000 was available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 General Fund Emergency Reserve Fund for Relief in a State of Emergency Fund. Funding in the amount of \$3,060 was available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget of the Equity Office.

Purchasing Language:

Ratification.

Prior Council Action:

April 9, 2020 - Council approved Resolution No. 20200409-081 to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$15,000,000 for the Relief in a State of Emergency Fund to support COVID-19 emergency relief, item 81, on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>> or to Claudia Rodriguez, at 512-974-2959 or ClaudiaR.Rodriguez@austintexas.gov <<mailto:ClaudiaR.Rodriguez@austintexas.gov>>.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract provided direct emergency financial relief services to residents impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. On April 9, 2020, Council approved an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 General Fund Emergency Reserve Fund (Ordinance No. 20190910-001) to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$15,000,000 for the Relief in a State of Emergency (RISE) Fund to support COVID-19 emergency relief. On the same day, Council approved Resolution No. 20200409-081, which authorized the City Manager to negotiate and execute new emergency contracts funded from the RISE Fund to offer immediate support services and direct financial assistance to residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis.

The Equity Office determined that the FII-National D/B/A Family Independence Initiative (FII-National) was the organization best suited to distribute the RISE funding because of their long history of providing direct financial

assistance to families, the platform they have developed to administer funds, and the number of other local governments who have been utilizing their platform in order to provide assistance to families.

FII-National has been working with families for 15 years nationally, and locally in Austin for two years after receiving support from the St. David's Foundation, Google, and many other philanthropic organizations. The results they have obtained have been outstanding, showing results that more than double the investment provided. The platform that FII-National utilizes ensures the determination of eligibility, disbursement of funds, and tracking of results meets the standards laid out by Council for RISE funding recipients.

The contractor provides verification of eligibility and the recipient receives funding within the work week. Then, as the money is disbursed, the City can track in real-time the money that is going out, and how it is working to ensure families have financial support.

Without this contract the City would have been delayed in providing families with financial resources needed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Government that Works for All; Health and the Environment; Economic Opportunity and Affordability.