



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-2791, **Agenda Item #:** 40.

8/27/2020

Posting Language

Approve ratification of an agreement with Sysco to provide shelf-stable food, drinking water, and hygiene items for people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic in an amount not to exceed \$516,600 for an initial three month term beginning August 1, 2020, with two one-month extension options each in an amount not to exceed \$172,200, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$861,000.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$861,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Public Health Operating Budget.

For More Information:

Stephanie Hayden, Director, 512-972-5010; Vella Karman, Interim Homeless Services Officer, 512-972-5064; Lucy Thompson, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5045.

Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute an agreement with Sysco to provide shelf-stable food, water, and hygiene items for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The Eating Apart Together (EAT) Initiative was created as part of the Homelessness Task Force of the Austin/Travis County Emergency Operations Center as an emergency response to COVID-19. EAT is a partnership between public and private organizations developed to ensure individuals experiencing homelessness have ongoing access to food, water, and hygiene items when normal service delivery providers have either ceased operations or scaled back due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19. Providing basic needs such as nutrition, hydration and hygiene resources promotes health and reduces mobility, which are important components of the strategy to prevent and mitigate the spread of disease.

The priority population for this project is unsheltered persons in Austin/Travis County. Shelf-stable food, water, and hygiene items are provided by City staff and community partners who conduct outreach to unsheltered persons on a weekly basis. Persons experiencing homelessness have been identified as high-risk for severe complications and hospitalization if they are exposed to or contract COVID-19. EAT helps these individuals maintain a basic level of nutrition and provides necessary hygiene items to help reduce the need for emergency medical care or hospitalization during the pandemic.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.