



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-2975, **Agenda Item #:** 9.

10/1/2020

Posting Language

Authorize the negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 5 to the interlocal agreement with Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center dba Integral Care for the Homeless Outreach Street Team, to connect homeless individuals and families with services necessary to begin their process of stability and recovery, by increasing funding for the remaining 12-month renewal option in the amount of \$137,000, beginning October 1, 2020, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$1,583,770.

Lead Department

Downtown Austin Community Court

Fiscal Note

Funding for this amendment is included in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budget of the Downtown Austin Community Court.

Prior Council Action:

August 12, 2020 - City Council approved Ordinance No. 20200812-001 adopting the City of Austin Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, which included an increase of \$137,000 for this interlocal agreement.

August 8, 2019 - Council approved additional funding to the interlocal agreement.

August 30, 2018 - Council approved an amendment adding funds to the interlocal agreement.

October 17, 2017 - Council approved an amendment adding renewal options and funding to the interlocal agreement.

May 18, 2017 - Council approved the negotiation and execution of a 12-month interlocal agreement with Integral Care.

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:

The Homelessness Outreach Street Team, known as HOST, is a partnership between the Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC), Austin Police Department (APD), Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Integral Care (IC), and the Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA). Together, these organizations are proactively reaching out to individuals living on the streets to help them connect to the services they need to successfully transition from homelessness to housing.

Integral Care provides four (4) full time employees to the HOST team: one (1) Program Lead, two (2) Qualified Mental Health Professional, and one (1) Peer Recovery Support Specialist. IC also provides access to one (1) relief Advance Practice Psychiatric Clinical Nurse.

HOST is one piece of the larger effort to move individuals from homelessness to improved well-being and housing stability. The purpose and goal of HOST is to identify individuals who are experiencing homelessness, learn what challenges they face and work to connect them to services such as medical and behavioral health care, case management, and housing.

In Fiscal Year 2020, Integral Care used one-time funding from the state for one of the assigned Qualified Mental Health Professionals to provide direct outreach as part of the HOST team. This funding from the state is no longer available. Approval of this item will authorize DACC to negotiate and execute Amendment #5 to the agreement with Integral Care with additional funding to cover the costs associated with the Qualified Mental Health professional to ensure continuation of services at the same level as the previous year, as well as necessary costs associated with direct assistance to clients and programmatic expenses.

Amendment #4 exercised the third 12-month renewal option beginning October 1, 2019 for \$262,354, which included \$20,000 additional funding for expenses related to an increase to a staffing licensure and client transportation costs.

Amendment #3 exercised the second 12-month renewal option beginning October 1, 2018 for \$242,354. Amendment #2 added funding for a Peer Recovery Support Specialist through the end of all remaining renewal options for \$195,000. Amendment #1 exercised the first 12-month renewal option beginning October 1, 2017 for \$242,354. The original 12-month agreement was approved by Council for \$242,354 beginning October 1, 2016.

Outcomes expected from HOST include reduced EMS transports, emergency room visits, and jail bookings, generating significant savings for the community. Austin Travis County Integral Care will work on increasing connection to case management, social services, medical care, behavioral health services, and housing, which will help individuals improve their well-being and work toward reaching their full potential.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability