



## Recommendation for Action

**File #: 22-2434, Agenda Item #: 58.**

**7/28/2022**

### **Posting Language**

Authorize an amendment to a contract with Blue Sky Incubators LLC d/b/a Blue Sky Partners to provide continued capacity assessment, technical assistance, and an accelerator program for homelessness service providers, to increase the amount by \$27,900, for a revised total contract amount not to exceed \$90,900.

(Note: This contract was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the services required for this contract, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

### **Lead Department**

Financial Services Department.

### **Client Department(s)**

Management Services - Innovation Office.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget of Austin Public Health.

### **Purchasing Language:**

Contract Amendment.

### **For More Information:**

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### **Additional Backup Information:**

The contract provides capacity-building activities with targeted technical assistance to ensure homelessness services organizations understand and communicate their needs, build capacity in the ways that have the greatest impact, can successfully operate with increased funding and resources, and invest in an ecosystem of service providers that are able to help achieve the City's homelessness goals now and in the future.

This proposed amendment adds an accelerator program component to the original scope of work. Initial analysis and feedback from the needs assessment program suggest that while some organizations do need technical assistance in specific areas to build capacity, others would benefit from a more comprehensive accelerator program to build capacity across their organizations.

The City has conducted listening sessions with homelessness services organizations in Austin, which highlighted their capacity shortfalls and needs. Without dedicated capacity-building programs, many organizations may not be able to meet the demands and increased levels of service required by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding available through Austin Public Health's 2022 solicitations. Furthermore, many small and lesser-known organizations that could be especially helpful to subsets of the population of unhoused people in Austin may be excluded from being able to compete for the ARPA solicitations without

significant capacity-building beforehand.

The contractor was selected to provide these program services because they are the only incubator, accelerator, capacity-building provider in Austin which has established programming that focuses on developing social service organizations, and that uses a business model that does not require a membership from the organizations it serves. Blue Sky Partners have provided incubator, accelerator, capacity-building programs in the past for a range of service provider types, including homelessness services providers.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.