



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-3071, Agenda Item #: 36.

9/29/2022

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with Court Appointed Special Advocates of Travis County d/b/a CASA of Travis County to provide emergency financial assistance for victims/survivors of violence, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

(Note: This procurement 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 procurement, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Client Department(s)

Austin Police Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget of the Austin Police Department.

Purchasing Language:

Professional Service.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to Bartley Tyler, at 512-974-2023 or Bartley.Tyler@austintexas.gov [<mailto:Bartley.Tyler@austintexas.gov>](mailto:Bartley.Tyler@austintexas.gov).

Additional Backup Information:

Immediate cash assistance is a primary need identified by survivors of violence when trying to get safe and heal. Providing multiple avenues for survivors to access low barriers, flexible, emergency financial assistance is very important in order to reach those most vulnerable and most marginalized. The contractor will manage the direct client assistance fund program to provide direct financial assistance to persons most affected by violence in the community, specifically child victims of neglect and abuse and their relatives and caregivers. This will increase safety and stability and reduce the risk of future victimization.

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Travis County (CASA of Travis County) qualifies as a professional service exemption due to their over 10 years of experience administering direct client assistance funds to families and caregivers of children in the child welfare system. This is done through rigorous auditing by CASA of Travis County to ensure applicable standards of services are followed.

This program is being proposed in response to a recommendation of the Services for Survivors of Violence Prevention Working Group of the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force, to expand funding to emergency financial assistance projects. If a contract is not secured with this contractor, the City will not be able to use

already budgeted funds. These one-time funds were added to the Fiscal Year 2022 budget for obligation by September 30, 2022.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment, Safety.