



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-3173, Agenda Item #: 27.

10/27/2022

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of agreements with three social service agencies to provide benefits access services for an initial 12-month term beginning October 1, 2022 in a combined amount not to exceed \$500,000, with one 12-month extension option in a combined amount not to exceed \$500,000, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 divided among the agencies.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 is available from the U.S. Department of Treasury, American Rescue Plan Act. Funding for the remaining term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Prior Council Action:

March 25, 2021 - Council approved Resolution No. 20210325-111 initiating the development of a spending framework for COVID-19 relief, which included homelessness as a funding priority, on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize the Austin Public Health Department to negotiate and execute three agreements with social service agencies to provide benefits access services and Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) services. These services will be targeted to individuals experiencing housing instability.

These agreements were awarded through the Request for Proposal (RFP) 2022-006 Homeless Supportive Services. The RFP was informed by the Homeless Strategy Division and released on May 31, 2022. Two optional pre-bid meetings were conducted on June 2, 2022 and June 7, 2022. In addition, two optional virtual office hours meetings were conducted on June 14, 2022 and June 30, 2022. Applications were due July 7, 2022. Over 650 vendors were solicited, resulting in the submission of twenty-two proposals. Of those submitted, six proposals were submitted for benefits enrollment service and three proposals were awarded with American Rescue Plan Act funding.

The application evaluation process used set criteria to uniformly review all applicants evaluated by a separate and independent panel. A review panel comprised of individuals with education and expertise in the issue-area rated each application. Evaluators agreed upon strengths and weaknesses of each application and each received a resultant score based on this process. The criteria for evaluation included the following: fiscal and administrative capacity, experience and cultural competence/racial equity, program design and performance metrics, data-informed program management, and cost

effectiveness.

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law, establishing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program. The American Rescue Plan Act funds are intended to support ongoing recovery efforts in Austin and Travis County and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency by meeting urgent community needs. The American Rescue Plan Act award funds will be used for activities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including those impacts related to food access and the local food system.

The Austin Public Health Department awarded three proposals, each with an initial base term of 12 months and one 12-month extension option.

Applications Funded in Response to RFP 2022 - 004 Homeless Crisis Response Services

Agency	Services	Initial Base Term Funding Amount	One 12-Month Extension Option Funding Amount	Total Agreement not to exceed Funding Amount
Family Eldercare, Inc. d/b/a Family Eldercare	Benefits Access Services	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$400,000
Central Texas Community Health Centers d/b/a CommUnityCare	Healthcare for the Homeless SOAR Assistance	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$400,000
Austin Travis County Mental Health & Mental Retardation Ctr d/b/a Integral Care aka Austin Travis County Integral Care	SOAR Expansion Team	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
Benefits Services Total		\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.