



## Recommendation for Action

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**File #:** 22-3605, **Agenda Item #:** 11.

12/8/2022

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### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an 11-month contract with the Housing Authority of the City of Austin to fund and administer the Homeless Assistance/Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program, which provides housing opportunities through subsidies to individuals experiencing homelessness, in an amount not to exceed \$1,264,779.

### **Lead Department:**

Austin Housing Finance Corporation.

### **Fiscal Note:**

\$1,264,779 HOME Funds. Funding in the amount of \$1,264,779 is available in the Housing & Planning Department's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Operating Budget.

### **For More Information:**

Rosie Truelove, Treasurer, Austin Housing Finance Corporation, 512-974-3064; James May, Community Development Administrator, Housing and Planning Department, 512-974-3192.

### **Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

December 9, 2021: The Board approved an 11-month contract with the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) in the amount of \$1,133,205.

December 10, 2020: The Board approved a 10-month contract with HACA in the amount of \$1,140,849.

September 19, 2019: The Board approved a one-year contract with HACA in the amount of \$626,954.

September 19, 2019: The Board approved a one-year contract with HACA in the amount of \$508,411.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

If approved, the Austin Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) will be authorized to execute an agreement with the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) to administer the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program. The TBRA Program provides rental housing subsidies and security deposits to eligible families who would otherwise be homeless. To be eligible for the TBRA Program, households must be working towards self-sufficiency with a case manager and have a total household income at or below 50 percent of the Austin Area Median Family Income (currently \$55,150 for a family of four). Families can receive assistance through the TBRA Program for up to 24 months. Each household will pay no more than 30 percent of its monthly income towards rent. The TBRA Program will pay the difference between what the household can afford and the actual rent amount. As a family's income increases, the amounts paid by the TBRA Program decrease accordingly. All payments made by the TBRA Program are paid directly to the landlord. The contract term will be from November 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023.

HACA has more than 23 years of experience with providing TBRA services. HACA verifies client and property eligibility, manages leasing terms, and makes rental subsidy payments directly to landlords each month. HACA

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also serves as a liaison between clients and landlords to ensure that landlords understand clients are only eligible for TBRA as long as the household meets regulatory and program requirements. The TBRA Program will serve up to 100 households.

In 2019, AHFC executed two separate agreements with HACA to administer the TBRA Program. One relied on referrals from the Salvation Army and the other from the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) Coordinated Entry (CE) assessment referral system. In 2020, it was determined that these contracts should be combined into one, with referrals coming from ECHO's CE system, and continued partnerships with organizations such as the Salvation Army and Caritas, among others.