



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-3718, Agenda Item #: 49.

12/8/2022

Posting Language:

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Youth and Family Alliance d/b/a LifeWorks to provide services to unaccompanied homeless youth and homeless young adults 24 years of age and younger, for a 12-month term beginning September 1, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$165,044.

Lead Department:

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note:

Funding in the amount of \$165,044 is available from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Homeless Housing and Services Program Youth Set-Aside Fund, with a term of September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

On July 13, 2022, the City received notification of the 2023 allocation of funding for Austin in the amount of \$165,044 for the program term of September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023.

This agreement was awarded through the Request for Proposal (RFP) 2022-004 Homeless Crisis Response Services. The RFP was informed by the Homeless Strategy Division and released on March 31, 2022. Two optional virtual pre-bid meetings were conducted on April 4, 2022 and April 5, 2022. In addition, two optional virtual office hours meetings were also conducted on April 12, 2022 and May 3, 2022. Applications were due on March 12, 2022. Over 650 vendors were solicited, resulting in fifteen proposals being submitted. Of those submitted, one proposal was submitted for the Youth Set-Aside crisis response and one was awarded.

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 the 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.

The Homeless Housing and Services Program Youth Set-Aside fund was authorized by the Texas Legislature in House Bill 1 (HB1) of the 86th Legislative Session. The Governor signed HB1 on June 15, 2019.

Rider 16 provides direction regarding the new funding by stating: "Funding to Address Youth Homelessness. From funds appropriated in Strategy C.1.1. Poverty-Related Funds, the Department of Housing and Community Affairs shall designate \$1,500,000 in each fiscal year to assist regional urban areas with a

population of 285,000 or more, in providing services to unaccompanied homeless youth and homeless young adults 24 years of age and younger. Eligible services may include case management, emergency shelter, street outreach, and transitional living. The agency shall distribute these funds through the Homeless Housing and Services Program.”

The General Fund will not be required to contribute to this grant.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.