



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 23-1389, **Agenda Item #:** 48.

3/23/2023

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 1 to the 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, to add funding in an amount not to exceed \$83,720, for a revised total contract amount not to exceed \$248,764.

### **Lead Department**

Austin Public Health.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$83,720 is available from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Homeless Housing and Services Program Youth Set-Aside Fund.

### **Prior Council Action:**

December 8, 2022 - Council authorized negotiation and execution of an agreement with Youth and Family Alliance d/b/a LifeWorks, on an 11-0 vote.

### **For More Information:**

Adrienne Sturup, Director, 512-972-5010; Laura LaFuente, Assistant Director, 512-972-5077; Akeshia Johnson Smothers, Social Services Agreements Administration Manager, 512-972-5567; Estella Kirscht, Administrative Specialist, 512-972-4423.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

On January 17, 2023, the City received notification of additional funding by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the Youth Set-Aside Program in the amount of \$83,720 for the period of December 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023.

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 period 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 conducted on April 12, 2022 and May 3, 2022. Applications were due March 12, 2022. Over 650 vendors were solicited, resulting in the submission of fifteen proposals, which included eight proposals for emergency shelter, resulting in three awards.

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, Homeless Youth Set-Aside fund was authorized by the Texas Legislature in House Bill 1 (HB1) of the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. The Governor signed HB1 on June 15, 2019. Rider 16 provides direction regarding the new funding and stated: "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):**

Economic Opportunity and Affordability, Health and Environment.