



## Recommendation for Action

**File #: 24-3729, Agenda Item #: 25.**

**1/18/2024**

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Austin Area Urban League, Inc., to manage and provide shelter and homeless services at the Southbridge Shelter, located at 2711 S. I-35 Frontage Road, Austin, Texas 78741, for an initial 13-month term beginning March 1, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$4,004,900, and four 12-month extension options each in an amount not to exceed \$4,004,900, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$20,024,500.

### **Lead Department**

Homeless Strategy Office.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$4,004,900 is included in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget. Funding for the extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

### **For More Information:**

David Gray, Homeless Strategy Officer, 512-974-7836; Kele Anyanwu, Program Manager III, 512-972-5064; Estella Kirscht, Administrative Specialist, 512-972-4423.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

This action will authorize negotiation and execution of a new agreement with Austin Area Urban League, Inc., to manage and provide shelter and homeless services at the Southbridge Shelter.

This agreement was awarded through the Request for Proposal (RFP) 2023-010 COA Bridge Shelters, which solicited operations of both the Northbridge and Southbridge shelters. More than 650 vendors were solicited, and four proposals were submitted. Three proposals were submitted for Northbridge and one for Southbridge. Of those submitted, two proposals are recommended for award - one for Southbridge and another for Northbridge. The Northbridge award will be submitted in a separate Recommendation for Council Action. Each is awarded a 13-month term, with up to four 12-month extension options.

The RFP evaluation process used set criteria for uniform review of all applications by a separate and independent panel. An evaluation 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 fiscal and administrative capacity; experience and cultural competence/racial equity; program design and performance metrics; data-informed program management; and cost effectiveness.

Southbridge has 75 double-occupancy rooms, with a minimum capacity for 140 clients. Five rooms may be reserved for single occupancy. This shelter is equipped with hygiene facilities in each room and sufficient laundry facilities to support participants. Homeless Strategy Office staff will have frequent engagement with the Austin Area Urban League to monitor bed utilization, coordinate shelter referrals, ensure efficient operations, and monitor client outcomes.

