

2019-2020 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Austin Public Health

REQUEST NO.: 54

REQUESTED BY: Tovo

DATE REQUESTED: 8/29/19

DATE POSTED: 9/5/19

REQUEST: Regarding the Workforce First Program, how many people are helped with the \$50,000 included in the FY 2019-20 Proposed Budget? Was this a pilot program that expanded or a stand-alone program?

RESPONSE:

In the FY 2019-20 Proposed Budget, Austin Public Health and Parks and Recreation have allocated \$100,000 and \$105,000, respectively, towards the Workforce First program. Parks and Recreation is allocating an additional \$50,000 in FY 2019-20, which could pay for approximately 50 workers. This will be an expansion of a year-long pilot program that began in September 2018. Individuals experiencing homelessness are paid \$15/hour for a five-hour work day and also receive case management that can include assistance in getting IDs, setting up a bank account, and connection to other services and housing programs. The expansion of this program for FY 2019-20 and the total number of people to be served is still being negotiated at this time; however, as of August 31, 2019, the pilot program has served 100 unduplicated clients and has provided 5,840 work hours.