

2018-2019 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT: Emergency Medical Services and Municipal Court

REQUEST NO.: 87

REQUESTED BY: Alter

DATE REQUESTED: 8/25/18

DATE POSTED: 9/6/18

REQUEST: Please clarify the dollar amount added for the Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST) program in the FY 2019 proposed budget. Please explain if these funds are for new activities and/or positions or if this funding is for the same activities occurring in FY 2018 for the HOST team.

RESPONSE: In the FY 2019 proposed budget, a total of \$1.0 million was added to expand the HOST team and services provided. This funding and positions are all new for FY 2019.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is adding two administrative support positions to enhance HOST services for \$139,000 for new activities: a new administrative assistant will coordinate follow-up services and referrals with partner organizations and set up initial appointments for the HOST team; and a new administrative specialist will focus on reporting and data gathering for the team to meet reporting and data requirements. The investment in these two positions will make the existing HOST sustainable, with the ability to refer an estimated 30% more individuals in need of services as a result of (1) reducing the burden for APD/EMS sworn staff to fill out administrative reports; and (2) conducting data analysis for identifying and closing gaps between individuals in need and available services. In addition, these positions will collect and report on associated metrics identified in Strategic Direction 2023.

HOST as it exists today has created a backlog of individuals waiting for services; increasing their ability to refer more individuals will exacerbate the backlog. The Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) is adding three new case managers for \$267,000 to provide comprehensive wrap-around services to include bio-psycho-social assessment, outreach, case monitoring, crisis intervention, employment assistance, and linkage to social service contracts (i.e. Plan of Central Texas, A New Entry, Front Steps and Integral Care's Road to Recovery, & Substance Abuse Manages Services Organization contracts). In FY 2018-19, funding for rehabilitative services is increasing by \$573,000, which is an additional \$191,000 each for three case managers to provide greater client support by connecting HOST referrals to the afore mentioned social service contracts. Currently, through the Substance Abuse Manages Services Organization contract, DACC has been able to fund some Rapid Rehousing costs. If the \$573,000 is approved, DACC will have the potential to fund more Rapid Rehousing costs. The new vehicle is for DACC case managers, who do assist the HOST team, but the vehicle is not specifically for HOST.