

AGENDA



Thursday, April 12, 2007

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**
Item No. 3

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with PUSH UP FOUNDATIONS, INC., Austin, TX to provide men's shelter services, on a month-to-month contract basis from April 1, 2007 – July 31, 2007, for a monthly amount of \$14,166.66, and a total contract amount not to exceed \$56,666.64.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is included in the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director, Human Services, 972-5011; Susan Gehring, Manager Community-Based Resources, 972-5026; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Prior Council Action: Approved contract to provide transitional housing for men and women, December 16, 2004; Extended contract to provide transitional housing services, February 2, 2006; Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Operating Budget approved September 11, 2006.

Push-Up Foundations, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that has provided short-term housing for homeless men under a contract with the Health and Human Services Department (HHSD). Push-Up Foundations, Inc. has a separate contract through Austin/Travis County MHMR in which they also provide substance abuse services for these clients.

In the past, HHSD contracted with Push-Up Foundations, Inc. to provide transitional housing services to men and women (including women with children). In June 2006, Push-Up decided to discontinue the services for women and sell their building on Chalmers, which was used for transitional housing and substance abuse services for homeless women. HHSD reduced their total funding and issued a solicitation for other providers of shelter and transitional housing for women and their children.

In 2005, Push-Up was awarded a six-month contract with a six-month renewal option (Amendment 1). The contract was held over for two months (Amendment 2), then Council approved a four-month contract with one six-month renewal option (Amendments 4, 5 6). Council approved a cost of living increase in Fiscal Year 2006-2007 (Amendment 7) and the contract has been held over through March 2007 (Amendment 8).

As a result of the special conditions provisions of the contract, Push-Up Foundations' internal control systems and client files are reviewed before the initiation or renewal of contracts. Although we have found that their efforts have met with some success, HHSD made the decision to change their funding program from a Transitional Housing Program to a Men's Shelter Program effective Fall 2006, which more accurately reflects their program focus.

Under this proposed four-month contract, Push-Up will receive equal monthly funding in the amount of \$14,166.66 to provide 15 beds for homeless men who are receiving substance abuse counseling services. Eighty percent of these beds must be filled by eligible men each month. Funding for the substance abuse services is provided under a separate agreement with MHMR (Substance Abuse MSO Interlocal).

Recent building inspections identified certain building code violations that must be resolved. In order to continue services, HHSD recommends that the City contract with Push-Ups on a month-to-month basis through July 31, 2007. This four-month contract authorization will allow HHSD to identify other potential providers and issue a solicitation to continue these services.

PERFORMANCE:

These services support the Health & Human Services Department's goal of promoting and fostering increased self-sufficiency, healthy behaviors and lifestyle among targeted populations.

Output

60 unduplicated homeless clients will be served between April 1-July 31, 2007.

Outcome

100% of the unduplicated homeless clients served between April 1-July 31, 2007, will enter the substance abuse program.