

AGENDA



Thursday, July 26, 2007

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 17**

Subject: Approve negotiation and execution of a 17-month contract between the City and CARITAS OF AUSTIN, Austin, TX to provide men's transitional housing and substance abuse services in an amount not to exceed \$272,839 with one 12-month renewal option in the amount of \$182,000, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$454,839.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$45,334 is available in the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department. Funding for the remaining 12 months of the initial contract and renewal option is contingent upon available funding in future budgets. The initial contract period is August 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008.

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

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

Prior Council Action: Council approved Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Operating Budget, September 11, 2006.

In April 2007, City Council authorized a month-to-month contract with Push-Up Foundations, Inc. for homeless services. The contract expires July 31, 2007. In addition, this action authorized Health and Human Services Department to identify other potential providers and issue a solicitation to continue these services. Caritas of Austin is recommended to provide homeless men's transitional services as a result of this solicitation. Caritas has experience providing transitional housing and comprehensive case management to homeless and chronically homeless.

Caritas' "Make your Path, Leave Addiction and Choose Excellence" (MyPlace) will provide transitional housing and substance abuse counseling for thirty homeless adult men using the Oxford House group housing recovery model. MyPlace will provide twenty beds for homeless men at scattered sites through the community. The average length of stay in the program will be approximately eight months, but the actual length of stay will depend on the client's specific needs. MyPlace addresses the most important goals of this solicitation, to expand comprehensive services for transitional housing and substance abuse treatment in a safe, secure, and drug-free environment for homeless and chronically homeless individuals.

At least 25% of program clients will fit the HUD definition of chronically homeless. In addition to Caritas, partners providing comprehensive long-term case management to clients in the program include: Salvation Army, Goodwill, AIDS Services of Austin, and Front Steps.

Caritas will provide substance abuse treatment services through a subcontract with a licensed substance abuse provider (ABLE.) All clients will participate in substance abuse treatment weekly, including individual and group counseling. Substance abuse services will be provided on site and at the treatment provider's offices.

Caritas will be provided \$15,000 in one-time funding to purchase necessary household items (refrigerators, furnishings, etc.) and provide direct financial assistance to support the client's movement from transitional housing into permanent housing. Performance Measures:

Output:

Number of unduplicated clients who will be provided transitional housing

30

Number of beds in the transitional housing program 20

Number of clients entering substance abuse treatment 30 Outcome:

Percentage of unduplicated clients who will exit transitional housing and move into documented safe and stable housing as a result of receiving services (outcome rate)

66%