

AGENDA



Thursday, December 13, 2007

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 21

Subject: Approve execution of 12-month contracts between the City and 35 social service agencies at a total not to exceed of \$4,910,886.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$3,594,938 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department; Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Approved Certification funds totaling \$117, 639 are included. The term of each contract is for the period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. Funding for the balance of each contract is contingent on available funding in a future budget.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact.

For More Information: Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director, Human Services, 972-5011; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023; Stephanie Connell, Human Services Administration Manager, 972-5126.

Prior Council Action: On December 14, 2006, Council approved 40 Social Services contracts with one 12-month renewal option. Council approved the 2007-2008 Operating Budget on September 10, 2007.

BACKGROUND

In 2003, City and County staff began making a concerted effort to address concerns regarding the City/County social services investment process that were brought forward during the Community Action Network (CAN) Funding Forum in May 2003, and other CAN meetings, and at various community planning meetings over the last several years. A summary of the Social Services Investment Process (SSIP) was presented to the Healthcare Subcommittee on May 25, 2004 and to Travis County Commissioners around the same time. This feedback resulted in a comprehensive framework that increases flexibility and maintains critical services. The framework consists of three categories of investments: safety net/infrastructure, coordinated/integrated delivery systems, and component services of continuums of care. This RCA addresses the coordinated/integrated delivery systems and component services of continuums of care. Proposed contract investments under safety net/infrastructure are addressed in a separate RCA.

On November 18, 2004, Council approved Social Services contracts for these services, with three (3) renewal options, for a total of four years, but budget changes in FY07 and FY08 made Council reauthorization of these contracts helpful for staff in assuring the contracts are properly authorized. On December 14, 2006, Council approved the calendar year 2007 contracts with one renewal option. For FY08, a 3.5 percent increase was approved for these contracts as well.

In FY 08, during the budget process, Council approved \$122,148 in funding for the Salvation Army for additional overnight staff to increase safety and security for their clients. That amount is included in this RCA. Literacy Austin is merging with Lifeworks effective 1/01/08, therefore is not in this current list of contracts, however, Literacy Austin's amount is included in the Lifeworks contract amount.

Council awarded additional funding to Capital IDEA, American Youthworks, and Communities in Schools during budget deliberations. Their contracts are awarded in separate RCAs on the same Council agenda.

Sickle Cell's contract is currently on a different funding cycle and will be awarded their first renewal administratively.

Contracts are negotiated to match available funding and address, to the extent possible, the strategies that were developed by City and County staff for each issue area. Some contracts include special conditions to ensure accountability, collaboration and documentation.

Renewals are negotiated each year at the option of the City. Renewal options are contingent upon performance, available funding, and the City's continued need for these services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on available funds, staff recommends that the City continue to purchase social services by entering into contracts for Calendar Year 2008 in the following service areas:

- Basic Needs
 - Early Education and Child Care
 - Homeless Services
 - Mental Health/Mental Retardation /Developmental Disabilities
 - Substance Abuse
 - Victims Services
 - Workforce Development
 - Youth Development
- The term for the 35 social services contracts will begin on January 1, 2008 and end on December 31, 2008. Attachment A lists each agency and identifies the of the 35 social services contractors and the Calendar Year 2008 City contract amounts.