

## AGENDA



Thursday, December 13, 2007

**Health and Human Services  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 20**

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**Subject:** Approve execution of the third 12-month renewals between the City and eight social service agencies (one agency has two contracts) for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$2,194,071 for Fiscal Year 2007-2008, with three 12-month renewal options, in a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$8,776,284. Attachment A sets forth the names of the contractors and the funds authorized for each.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding in the amount of \$1,645,554 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department. The term of each contract is for the period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. Funding for the balance of the contracts and renewal options is contingent on available funding in future budgets

**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; Stephnie Connell, Human Services Administration Manager, 972-5126.

**Prior Council Action:** On December 14, 2006 Council approved nine (9) Social Services contracts with four annual renewal options. Council approved the 2007-2008 Operating Budget on September 10, 2007.

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**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 City Council 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 safety net/infrastructure category of the investment framework.

On November 18, 2004, Council approved Social Services contracts for these services with six renewal options for a total of seven years. On December 15, 2005, Council approved adding the Best Single Source Project, managed by Caritas, to this group. In FY 06, a cost of living adjustment and a restoration of previous cuts were added to these contracts. For FY 07 and FY 08, a 3.5% increase was approved for these Social Services contracts. Contract year 2008 would be the third renewal option for these contracts, but budget changes in FY07 and FY08 makes Council reauthorization of these contracts helpful for staff in assuring the contracts are properly authorized.

Safety net/infrastructure agencies provide services that stabilize or provide acute treatment/intervention services to meet urgent health, safety and subsistence needs of individuals who have the fewest resources or are least able to secure services or to persons who are victims of violence, abuse or neglect. The City has contracted with these agencies for many years and the infrastructure investment makes it unlikely that other agencies will be providing these services in the near future. Renewals, however, are

not guaranteed and the City could decide not to renew a contract if alternative resources become available.

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. Renewals will be negotiated each year at the option of the City. Renewal options are contingent upon performance, available funding in future budgets, 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
- Homeless Services
- Mental Health/Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities
- Victims Services

The term for these social services contracts will begin on January 1, 2008 and end on December 31, 2008, with three remaining renewals. Attachment A is the list of nine (9) contracts with eight (8) agencies (two contracts with Caritas of Austin), the Calendar Year 2008 City contract amounts, and amounts authorized for each agency during renewal terms.