

## AGENDA



Thursday, December 13, 2007

**Health and Human Services  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 22**

**Subject:** Approve execution of a 12-month contract between the City and AMERICAN YOUTHWORKS, Austin, TX for January 1-December 31, 2008 to provide workforce development services for a not-to-exceed amount of \$464,248.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding in the amount of \$201,374 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department; Funding in the amount \$60,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department; Funding in the amount of \$50,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department; Funding in the amount of \$60,750 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Austin Water Utility; and Funding in the amount of \$25,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 CIP Budget of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department. The term of the contract is for the period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. Funding for the balance of this contract is contingent on available funding in future budgets.

**Fiscal Note:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact, fiscal notes attached.

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

**Prior Council Action:** On December 14, 2006 Council approved a 12-month contract with American YouthWorks including one 12-month renewal option. On September 10, 2007, Council approved the 2007-2008 Operating Budget.

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**BACKGROUND**

American YouthWorks (AYW) provides educational services in the area of workforce development to youth ages 16 to 25 enrolled in all AYW programs including the AYW Charter High School, GED, Casa Verde Builders, Environmental Corps and Computer Corps. These services include high school and GED courses, intensive case management, job readiness workshops, career exploration, occupational training and job placement. The goal of AYW is for youth who experience barriers to high school completion and employment to earn a high school diploma or GED and then enroll in post-secondary education or occupational/vocational training. AYW's target population are male and female youth between the ages of 16 and 25 years old, ethnically diverse from low income families at or below 200% of the U.S. HHS Federal Poverty Income guidelines (regardless of immigration or ethnic background). Clients include homeless youth, youth who are pregnant or parenting, persons with disabilities, victims of abuse, neglect, or violence, ex-offenders, and those in need of basic educational services.

A participant achieves success in the program through graduating from any AYW program (e.g. Charter High School, Casa Verde Builders, E-Corps, Computer Corps, etc.) or continuing in AYW for further education and job training. The objective of this program is to decrease the number of uneducated and unemployable youth in the City of Austin.

The AYW contract includes both social services funding and the Environmental Corps funding from the Parks and Recreation Department, Austin Water Utility and the Austin Watershed Protection and Development Review Department.

On September 10, 2007, during budget deliberations, Council approved increasing the Social Services appropriation for all social services contracts by 3.5% and an additional increase for American YouthWorks in the amount of \$166,000. The \$166,000 increase and the 3.5% increase are reflected in this RCA. The workforce issue area is being reviewed by staff this year to determine how to approach funding recommendations for 2009.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

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

The Council addition of \$166,000 translates to a 171% increase in the HHSD Social Services portion of the American YouthWorks contract. The performance measures for 2008 have been expanded to account for the full range of services provided by this agency including education and retention. AYW's re-designed program for 2008 is "Preparing At-Risk Youth for the Workforce." No comparison data from 2007 is available because standard workforce measures, which are designed primarily for the adult workforce, have been used. In 2008, AYW's measures reflect their primary client base which is at-risk youth.

### 2008 City Goals

Output--Number of unduplicated clients served: 39

Output--Number of participants retained in the program: 31

Output--Number of participants who graduate from the program: 6

Outcome--Percent of participants who successfully complete the program: 89%