

AGENDA



Thursday, December 13, 2007

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 23**

Subject: Approve execution of the 12-month contract renewal option between the City and CAPITAL IDEA, Austin, TX, from January 1-December 31, 2008, to provide workforce development services for an amount not to exceed \$1,049,370.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$787,028 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department. The term of the contract is for the period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. Funding for the remaining three months of the 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; Susan Gehring, Community Based Resources Manager, 972-5026; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Prior Council Action: On December 14, 2006 Council approved a 12-month contract with Capital IDEA with one 12-month renewal option. On September 10, 2007, Council approved additional funding for this contract in the Fiscal Year the 2007-2008 Approved Operating Budget.

BACKGROUND

Capital IDEA provides workforce development services including outreach, assessment, counseling, case management, adult basic education, English as a second language, GED preparation, specialized training for entry into employer-sponsored training, THEA (Texas Higher Education Assessment) preparation, long-term high skills training for targeted occupations, wrap around social services, job placement and retention. Capital IDEA counselors regularly refer students to a wide variety of social service agencies including Austin Community College, Skillpoint Alliance, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Caritas of Austin, Literacy Austin, St. Vincent de Paul, Goodwill Industries, Travis County Health and Human Services, SafePlace, and Seton Healthcare Network. Capital IDEA has a Memorandum of Understanding with WorkSource to co-enroll participants to receive help through WIA (Workforce Investment Act) funding. Half of Capital IDEA participants have accessed some form of public assistance, including TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), food stamps, emergency assistance, and other support. On September 10, 2007, during budget deliberations, Council approved increasing the social services appropriation for Capital IDEA in the amount of \$275,000. The \$275,000 increase and the 3.5% increase (\$26,186) approved for all social services contracts 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.