

## AGENDA



Thursday, April 10, 2008

**Health and Human Services  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 25**

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**Subject:** Approve negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, Austin, TX, for the development, implementation, and analysis of a survey regarding solicitation/panhandling on roadways, in the amount of \$48,000.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding in the amount of \$24,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department and funding in the amount of \$24,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Austin Police Department. The term of the agreement is April 14, 2008 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 Division, 972-5011; Susan Gehring, Community Based Resources Unit Manager, 972-5026; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

**Boards and Commission Action:** Recommended by the Public Health and Human Services Subcommittee.

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On the March 6, 2008, the Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) and Austin Police Department (APD) presented the Solicitation Survey Plan to Council as requested by their action on December 6, 2007. The purpose of the survey is to develop baseline data regarding solicitation of work and/or money on roadways. The baseline information will provide a foundation for data-driven decisions for City management and Council to address roadside solicitation.

HHSD has engaged in preliminary discussions with APD and the UT School of Social Work regarding a survey to be conducted with a sample of the population soliciting money and/or work along roadways. The goals established to date are to gather—at a minimum—the following data about those engaged in solicitation: demographic and family information; living situation (i.e., homeless, residing in shelter or other non-permanent locale, or domiciled); reasons for solicitation; and duration/frequency of solicitation.

Key aspects of the interlocal agreement with UT include coordination with stakeholders and planning groups; the identification of survey locations (in conjunction with APD); the development of a population sample; the development of a survey tool and methodology; hiring and training of the interviewers; supervision of the survey activity; data analysis; and production of a final project report. A team of interviewers will work through APD to locate and survey a representative sample of persons engaged in different types of roadway solicitation throughout the City. The final report will address the research methodology, an analysis of the data (to include respondents' life trajectories as well as identified service needs), and potential options for intervention.

The target for delivering an intermediate project report to Council is September 1, 2008, with a final report to be delivered to Council by December 31, 2008.