

AGENDA



Thursday, December 11, 2008

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

Item No. 30

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of fifty-one social service contracts between the City and forty-eight social service agencies for one-year terms beginning on January 1, 2009, in an amount not to exceed \$10,063,140, with options to renew each contract for one year in an amount not to exceed \$10,063,140 for the renewal term, for a total amount not to exceed \$20,126,280.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$7,280,813 is included in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Approved Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department. Funding in the amount of \$104,639 is included in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Approved Certification Fund. Funding in the amount of \$110,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department. Funding in the amount of \$60,750 is included in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of the Austin Water Utility. Funding in the amount of \$80,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of Watershed Protection Development Review. The term of each contract is for the period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 with one year renewal option. Funding for the balance of the contracts is contingent on available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

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

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

Prior Council Action: Council approved Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget, September 8, 2008.

Each year, the Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) staff focuses on outcomes and performance measures for social services contracts. For the calendar year 2009, each of the proposed contracts were reviewed and negotiated to improve the services provided and move toward more client-focused services. Wherever possible agencies have incorporated best practices and have focused on clients participating in other programs in order to improve their chance of success. During 2008, staff analyzed performance measures utilizing other assessment documents and site visits to improve the effectiveness of contracted services.

Conversations with community members were held in June and July of 2008 to help identify gaps in services that cut across issue areas. This is part of the ongoing collaborative planning efforts among the City, Travis County and United Way. These conversations included planners, direct service providers, community partners, the CAN Administrative Team members, the CAN Community Council and the Austin Area Human Services Association (AAHSA) members. These conversations and planning processes helped to shape the services the City is purchasing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on available funds, staff recommends that the City continue to purchase social services by entering into one-year contracts, beginning January 1, 2009, with the forty-eight agencies listed on Attachment A. This RCA also authorizes a one-year renewal term for each contract. As recommended by

the Public Health and Human Services Subcommittee, funding includes a 3.5% across-the-board increase for these contracts and a \$160,000 increase in Caritas Best Single Source funding, with the balance of \$74,675 earmarked for Best Single Source unless needed to meet an emergency need. If the earmarked amount is not used for an emergency, then it will be rolled into Best Single Source. This will provide time to implement the planned competitive process for Social Services. The initial term for the 51 social services contracts and 48 agencies will begin on January 1, 2009 and end on December 31, 2009. Attachment A is a list of the 51 social services contracts and the 2009 annual contract amount calculation.

Some HHSD contracts and agreements are not included on Attachment A. Interlocal agreements are approved separately by City Council. Child care contracts were competed in 2007 and have available renewals. Operation of the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless and the Women and Children's Shelter are also awarded through separate processes.