

AGENDA



Thursday, September 24, 2009

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

Item No. 41

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of four contracts effective September 30, 2009 for the provision of homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing services under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) with the following providers: CARITAS OF AUSTIN in an amount not to exceed \$480,000 for HPRP Outreach/Intake Specialists; YOUTH AND FAMILY ALLIANCE (DBA LIFEWORKS) in an amount not to exceed \$1,967,840 as the HPRP fiscal agent; AUSTIN TENANT'S COUNCIL in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 for tenant mediation and legal services; and CARITAS OF AUSTIN in an amount not to exceed \$240,000 for Housing Locators/Inspectors.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$2,807,840 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department Special Revenue Fund Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). The grant period is July 15, 2009 through July 15, 2012.

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; Susan Gehring, HS Manager Community Based Resources, 972-5026; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

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

Prior Council Action: Council approved the Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan, May 14, 2009.

The Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), as authorized under Title XII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), provides financial assistance and services to prevent individuals and families in danger of becoming homeless and help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized.

The City of Austin will receive \$3,062,820 in direct funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Program.

HPRP has three primary goals: (1) Prevention: Prevent people from becoming homeless (HPRP Homelessness Prevention); (2) Diversion: Intervene when people enter shelters and divert them into housing (HPRP Homeless Assistance); and (3) Rapid Re-Housing: Move people who become homeless into permanent housing as quickly as possible (HPRP Homeless Assistance)

The recommended contracts expand the capacity and reach of our existing homeless prevention and rapid re-housing programs. The contracts also broaden outreach to the school system, the faith communities and the community at large for households experiencing impacts of the recession. The program includes funding for administrative expenses and data management. HHSD will expend the majority of these funds in two years from the sub-grantee obligation date of September 30, 2009.

Legislation allows expenditures for up to three years, but there are penalties for failure to expend in a timely manner.

The City of Austin HPRP program is coordinating with the State-funded HPRP programs and will hold quarterly meetings to review/revise goals and reallocate funding as necessary. Some State-funded programs will be relying on the City HPRP funds to support their client's financial assistance needs (primarily rent and utilities). They may also rely on the City's HPRP Housing Locators and Inspectors as well as the City's HPRP Tenant Mediation and Legal Services contractors. The City HPRP program will also coordinate with other community programs, some of which are funded through Stimulus activities. Examples of these include weatherization, employment services, and training.

Request for Applications (RFA) were released for two components of the HPRP program. Two additional HPRP components will be awarded as an expansion of existing programs.

The following contracts will be negotiated:

HPRP Outreach and Intake Specialists –\$480,000 (for a two-year contract period)

Caritas of Austin will provide up to four specialists (including a coordinator) to conduct community outreach and intake for HPRP, and serve as liaisons to AISD, the faith community and other homeless service providers. This component was competed in RFA 2009-02. An estimated 2,000 individuals will be served over 2 years.

HPRP Fiscal Agent – \$1,967,840 (for a two-year contract period)

Youth and Family Alliance (dba LifeWorks) will serve as the Fiscal Agent for the HPRP Financial Assistance component, processing and tracking financial assistance payments to a large number of vendors. This component was competed in RFA 2009-01. An estimated 2,000 individuals will be served over 2 years.

HPRP Tenant Mediation and Legal Services – \$120,000 (for a two-year contract period) Austin Tenant's Council will expand existing mediation services for HPRP clients to resolve tenant/landlord disputes and will secure allowable legal services in administrative court proceedings. The City has other contracts with this agency for these services and similar services are not available from other agencies. An estimated 400 households will be served over 2 years.

HPRP Housing Locators and Inspectors Services – \$240,000 (for a two-year contract period)

Caritas of Austin will expand the existing City-funded Rapid Re-Housing Pilot Project with two new housing locators. Since there is an existing contract, this contract will be with the same agency. The locators will serve as the liaison between the landlord and the HPRP clients and will conduct the required housing inspections. An estimated 800 households will be served. **PERFORMANCE MEASURES REQUIRED BY HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR THE HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM (across all contracts).**

Outputs

Total number of persons served in the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP Homelessness Prevention and HPRP Homeless Assistance.) 2000

Total number of households served in the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP Homelessness Prevention and HPRP Homeless Assistance.) 800

Outcomes

Homelessness Prevention: Percent of unduplicated persons at risk of homelessness who have maintained housing as a result of receiving HPRP Homelessness Prevention services. 85%

Homeless Assistance: Percent of unduplicated homeless persons who become housed as a result of receiving HPRP Homeless Assistance services. 75%