

AGENDA



Thursday, December 10, 2009

Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 17

Subject: Approve negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 1 to the contract with FRONT STEPS, INC., for case management services at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless for a one-year term beginning October 1, 2009, in an amount not to exceed \$113,400 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,306,980.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Texas Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) Special Revenue Fund. Related to Item #8.

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, HHS Manager Community Based Resources, 972-5026; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Prior Council Action: Approved Front Steps, Inc. contract, September 24, 2009.

During the 81st Legislative Session, the Texas Legislature appropriated \$20,000,000 over the biennium to be administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to fund the Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) in the eight largest cities in Texas. HHSP funds are targeted to serving homeless or at-risk individuals; operations of direct services; case management; housing retention; homelessness prevention; rental assistance; or other homelessness related activity as approved by TDHCA.

The City of Austin has been awarded \$1,922,498 in direct funds from TDHCA for HHSP, of which \$252,000 will be used to support case management services at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, currently managed by Front Steps, Inc. This RCA will authorize adding \$113,400 of the funds to the October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010 contract with Front Steps. The remaining \$138,600 will be included in the October 1, 2010 contract to operate ARCH.

HHSP will support three case managers for ARCH clients. Two of these case managers are funded with General Revenue Funds in the current Front Steps, Inc. contract. HHSP will also expand case management services by funding one additional case manager.

General revenue funds supporting the two existing case management positions will be reallocated to provide a new supervised gathering area during the day at ARCH. This is a needed community service that cannot be funded through HHSP, since the expanded area alone does not result in transition to safe and stable housing. HHSP guidance specifically allows cities to supplant local funding with HHSP funds as long as such funds are re-directed to other homeless activities.