

AGENDA



Thursday, June 24, 2010

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

Item No. 25

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 2 to the social service contract with CARITAS OF AUSTIN to reallocate the existing Community Services Block Grant Direct Financial Assistance services and increase funding from other contractors not scheduled to expend entire grant award, up to \$294,038 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$776,320 for the period October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department Special Revenue Fund, Community Services Block Grant.

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; Cathleen Rodriguez, HHS Manager, Healthy Neighborhood Unit, 972-5092; Laura Polio, Interim Agenda Coordinator, 972-5010.

Prior Council Action: September 24, 2009 - Council approved original contract; January 14, 2010 - Amendment #1 to Caritas social service contract.

The Caritas of Austin (Caritas) contract supports activities designed to remove obstacles and solve problems that block the achievement of self-sufficiency and to obtain emergency assistance to meet immediate and urgent family needs. Caritas serves as the Fiscal Agent for the entire Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Direct Financial Assistance component, processing and tracking financial assistance payments to landlords and utility companies on behalf of CSBG clients.

The Caritas contract is being amended to potentially add \$201,038 due to a reallocation of funds from the CSBG ARRA workforce development and child care contracts that is not scheduled to be expended by other CSBG contractors by September 30, 2010. More than 88% of the current Caritas contract is already committed and there continues to be a high demand for emergency assistance. An additional \$93,000 is included in case future unexpended funds are identified in the CSBG ARRA program. All funds under this grant must be expended by September 30, 2010 and the additional \$93,000 provides the flexibility to fully spend the grant. This increase is for contract period October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010. The reallocation of funds will allow for additional emergency financial assistance with rent and utilities for CSBG clients. No funds will be committed beyond the total approved grant amount.

PERFORMANCE

The amendment to the Caritas of Austin contract will allow for an additional 354 to 517 individuals to be assisted with rent/utility payments about the current contract level of 849 individuals.