

## AGENDA



Thursday, September 30, 2010

**Health and Human Services  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**
**Item No. 10**

**Subject:** Approve the proposed Request for Proposals (RFP) process and timeline for Social Services contracts.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is contingent upon Council action on the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department. The contract period is October 1, 2011 - September 30, 2012.

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

**For More Information:** David Lurie, Director, HHSD, 972-5010; Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director, Human Services, 972-5011; Charles Kemp, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Although some social services contracts have been competitively awarded over the years, it has been more than a decade since the City of Austin has had a comprehensive competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process to award social service contracts. Roughly \$13 million in current social service contracts have been awarded on a status quo, annual renewal basis since the 1990s. Existing contracts have resulted in valuable services to the community, but a new process opens up the potential for the City to be more focused on current priorities, and it gives all social service providers in the community the chance to propose new ideas, form new collaboratives, and/or leverage their strengths in new ways. All existing social service contractors will be eligible and encouraged to submit proposals in the new RFP process.

Staff have worked with the Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) Subcommittee and stakeholders in developing recommendations for a competitive RFP process that will impact funding for social service contracts that commence in October of 2011. That is 12 months from now, but the PHHS Subcommittee and staff want to be sure everyone is as well-informed as possible and has ample time to ensure a smooth a transition.

The PHHS Subcommittee has recommended that social service contracts: promote self-sufficiency, target populations at or below 200% poverty level, be 3-year contracts with two 1-year renewal options, and be awarded based on addressing one or more of the five social service goals identified and prioritized in the Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan as follows:

1. Safety net/infrastructure services - Ensure that no person is without basic necessities such as food, clothing, health, shelter, and mental health care, or constitutionally-guaranteed legal rights.
2. Transition out of poverty - Ensure educational, employment and other special opportunities for disadvantaged persons to further self-reliance.
3. Problem prevention - Deter the growth of problem conditions at the individual and community level through education, preventative physical and mental health programs, crime prevention and other preventative programs.
4. Universal support services - Provide family and societal support services in response to new problems created by urbanization and technological advances. These include education, child care, counseling and assistance for the aging, youth, homeless and unemployed, rehabilitation services and other support rehabilitation services.

5. Enrichment - Encourage personal development and community enrichment through cultural and educational programs.

The recommended Request for Proposals (RFP) process would take place during Fiscal Year 2010-2011 for social services contracts starting October 1, 2011. The proposed timeline for the process is as follows:

- RFP Issued (October 2010 – January 2011);
- RFP Evaluation and Recommendations (January 2011 – April 2011);
- Evaluation Matrix and transition plan reviewed by PHHS Subcommittee (April 19, 2011);
- Council consideration of contract recommendations (RCA) and transition plans based on PHHS recommendations (May 2011); and
- Contracts start (October 2011).

A transition plan will be provided by staff with the contract recommendations in April 2011. Stakeholders will be kept informed throughout the process.