

A G E N D A



RCA	Austin City Council	Item ID	6498
Meeting Date:	5/26/2011	Department:	Health and Human Services
Subject			
Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Sustainability Fund (Ordinance No. 20100913-002) to transfer \$685,000 to the Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20100913-003); and amending the HHSD Capital Budget to appropriate \$685,000 for repairs and improvements to the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless.			
Amount and Source of Funding			
Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 of the Sustainability Fund.			
Fiscal Note			
A fiscal note is attached.			
Purchasing Language:			
Prior Council Action:	Council approved Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Operating Budget September 13, 2010.		
For More Information:	Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director, Human Services, 972-5011; Susan Gehring, Community Based Resources Manager, 972-5026; Charles Kemp, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023; Eric Stockton, Director, Building Services, 974-7948.		
Boards and Commission Action:			
MBE / WBE:			
Related Items:			
Additional Backup Information			
The Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) is a multi-purpose facility that opened in 2004 as a resource for the homeless. It is a 26,820 square foot facility located at Seventh and Neches Streets in downtown Austin. The facility includes a day resource center, health clinic, co-located agencies and 100 bunks and 115 mats available for shelter.			
Since 2004, the City of Austin has contracted with Front Steps, Inc. for the maintenance, operation and provision of homeless social services at the ARCH. Since the facility opened, there have been significant changes to its original design capacity and operation, including: Added mat sleeping for an additional 100 plus persons (currently average 193 persons) Added day sleeping in the bunk area (men and women); Added weekends to Day Resource Center (initially open only five days per week); and Repurposed the garage area to allow additional gathering space for clients			

Repurposed the area for clients to recover from alcohol or drug intoxication to offices

The ARCH is currently providing day resource center services to approximately 575 individuals per day (210,764 duplicated clients over a year) and overnight shelter to more than 200 individuals per night (74,171 shelter nights). This is approximately double the number of clients that were initially projected to use the facility's services on a daily basis. The significant increase in the number of individuals at ARCH has had a detrimental effect on the facility's condition, causing systems in the facility to deteriorate at a much faster rate than anticipated. This has resulted in the need to repair and/or improve a number of systems in order to meet basic public health and safety needs.

Building Services has completed a Facility Condition Assessment (January 31, 2011) and identified needed repairs, prioritized repair issues and developed a plan and timeframe for addressing them.

Council is requested to approve the funding needed for these repairs and some minor enhancements identified in the Facility Condition Assessment. The repairs will address inadequacies in the mechanical system for bathrooms and showers, mold abatement, plumbing systems, and roofing issues as well as enhancements for water fountains, and screening and ventilation for some outdoor areas (rear parking and front entrance) that will assist in managing the crowded conditions and improve safety. Building Services staff will work with Front Steps, Inc. and Health and Human Services Department staff to complete this work.

The Sustainability Fund provides limited funding each year to help support the City's housing programs and social services, and is an appropriate source of funds for repairs to the ARCH.