

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	7944	Agenda Number	15.
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Meeting Date:	8/18/2011	Department:	Health and Human Services
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 2 to the social services contract between the City of Austin and Caritas of Austin for the Best Single Source Program to provide funding for rent, utility assistance, and training to prevent homelessness in an amount not to exceed \$131,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$993,909.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$131,000 is available in the FY 2010-2011 Operating Budget for the Health and Human Services Department.

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	September 13, 2010 - Council approved FY 2010-2011 Operating Budget.
For More Information:	Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director for Human Services, 972-5011; Susan Gehring, Manager, Community Based Resources Unit, 972-5026; Charles Kemp, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

CARITAS OF AUSTIN is the fiscal and administrative agent for Best Single Source (BSS), a collaborative program providing basic needs services (rent, mortgage, and utility assistance) to eligible constituents in the Austin area. The program's purpose is to establish housing stability and prevent homeless. The program's collaborators include nine members: AIDS Services of Austin, Any Baby Can, Arc of the Capital Area, Caritas of Austin, Catholic Charities of Central Texas, Family Eldercare, Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, Meals on Wheels and More, SafePlace, and Wright House Wellness Center. Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service is an unfunded partner.

BSS clients receive the amount of financial assistance needed to stabilize their housing and resolve their financial crisis (up to \$1500). They participate in case management at the agency best suited to meet their needs. This amendment covers direct financial assistance (rent and utilities) needed to stabilize housing for the clients. Administrative and case management expenses will not be included in this funding.

Case managers from BSS partners and other agencies in the community will also be able to take part in Stepping Stones to Recovery (SOAR) training funded through this Amendment. SOAR trains case managers how to best assist their clients to apply for and receive SSI and SSDI benefits. SSI and SSDI will help increase client's income, further stabilizing their housing situation.

All services funded under this Amendment are designed to help stabilize housing for individuals and households at risk of homelessness.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Related Goals – Promotion/Prevention/Protection: Social Services Promote and foster increased self-sufficiency, healthy behaviors and lifestyle among targeted populations.

Approximately 80 households will receive up to \$1500 in rent and/or utility assistance.

Approximately 30 case managers will participate in the two-day SOAR training.

Specific performance measures to be negotiated for the contract.