

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	10645	Agenda Number	17.
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Meeting Date:	11/10/2011	Department:	Health and Human Services
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Subject

Approve an ordinance authorizing the acceptance of \$88,598 in grant funds from the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, HOMELESS HOUSING AND SERVICES PROGRAM; and amending the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of (Ordinance No. 20110912-005) to appropriate \$88,598 for the delivery of homeless services.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$88,598 is available from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Homeless Housing and Services Program Funds. The grant period is December 1, 2009 through August 30, 2012.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	On September 12, 2011 the Council approved the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget of Ordinance No. 20110912-005.
For More Information:	Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director for Human Services, 972-5011; Susan Gehring, Manager Community Based Resources, 972-5026; Charles Kemp, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) was initially authorized by the Texas Legislature in the 81st Legislative Session. It was the first program that authorized state funding for homeless services and homelessness prevention. The appropriation in that biennium was \$20,000,000 divided among the eight largest cities in Texas according to population. Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) was assigned as manager. Austin received \$1,922,498 for the two-year period. On September 28, 2011, Austin was informed that it would receive an additional \$88,598, and the grant period extended from August 31, 2011 to August 30, 2012. The additional grant funds bring the total grant amount to \$2,011,096.

Austin provided funding to Front Steps for case management at the ARCH, allowing that agency to utilize City General Funds to expand day resource center services in the garage area. Austin conducted an RFA process for the remaining funds, awarding them to five organizations for permanent supportive housing programs as well as rent/utility assistance to re-house people who were homeless.

As of August 31, 2011 (the end of the initial contract period), all HHSP funds had been expended by the agencies.

HHSP 2012-2013

In the 82nd Legislative Session, the Legislature authorized \$10,000,000 for the biennium (1/2 of the original amount). This was completed during the special session in July. No source of funding was identified, and TDHCA was authorized to continue managing the program.

With the late authorization and lack of identified funding, Austin's subcontractors closed their PSH programs and Front Steps' contract for ARCH has a funding gap of \$138,563 for case management.

On September 28, 2011, the cities were informed that TDHCA had identified \$5,000,000 of the amount needed to fund HHSP from a variety of funding sources, with differing requirements and time frames. A meeting was held October 18, 2011 to discuss requirements, etc.

All department grant application requests are reviewed by the Budget Office prior to submission to ensure that the grant minimizes the financial impact of the City.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute to this grant..

Attachment

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Performance Measures will be determined as the contract is developed with TDHCA.

Related Departmental Goal: Provision: Social Services – Promote and foster increased self-sufficiency, healthy behaviors, and lifestyle among targeted populations.