

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	14205	Agenda Number	13.
Meeting Date:	4/26/2012		Department:	Health and Human Services
Subject				
<p>Authorize negotiation and execution of a 30-month contract with FRONT STEPS, INC. to provide permanent supportive housing services beginning April 1, 2012, in an amount not to exceed \$376,409, with two twelve-month extension options in the amount of \$100,000 per extension option for a total contract amount not to exceed \$576,409.</p>				
Amount and Source of Funding				
<p>Funding in the amount of \$100,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Operating Budget for the Health and Human Services Department and funding in the amount of \$76,409 is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department Special Revenue Fund, Texas Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) Grant. Funding for future fiscal years is contingent on available funding.</p>				
Fiscal Note				
<p>There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.</p>				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:	<p>City Council approved Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Health and Human Services Operating Budget on September 12, 2011.</p> <p>On January 12, 2012, City Council amended the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund Ordinance No. 20110912-005 to appropriate \$408,235 for homeless services under the Texas Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP).</p>			
For More Information:	<p>Stephanie Hayden, Acting Assistant Director for Community Services, 972-5017; Susan Gehring, HHSD Manager, 972-5026; Chris Crookham, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5010.</p>			
Boards and Commission Action:				
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				
Additional Backup Information				

On September 30, 2010 the City of Austin adopted the Permanent Supportive Housing Strategy for both the construction and operation of 350 permanent supportive housing units by 2015.

To that end, the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department (City HHSD) conducted a competition with a Request for Application (RFA) for the provision of social services for homeless individuals in permanent supportive housing units due on March 21, 2012. There were two applicants, and FRONT STEPS, INC. is being recommended for funding.

This request is to create a new contract with FRONT STEPS, INC. to provide permanent supportive housing services to frequent users of the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless and Downtown Austin Community Court beginning April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2014.

The new program includes 18 new units of Permanent Supportive Housing provided by Housing Authority of Travis County's Tenant Based Rental Assistance funds. It will provide supportive services to clients in these 18 units and to clients in 36 existing units funded through HUD Continuum of Care grants. The program will use a Housing First model to house clients as quickly as possible and will work to reduce barriers to finding housing.

The new program will also provide housing placement, case management, skills training, weekly support groups, psychiatric services, employment services, health care and/or substance abuse services. Subcontractors include Austin/Travis County Integral Care and Family Eldercare. ATCIC ACCESS/PATH program and Front Steps case managers will conduct outreach and referrals to potential applicants identified from the ARCH frequent user list, bringing treatment options to homeless who have behavioral health disorders. Sub-contracted services funded in this proposal include case managers at Front Steps and ATCIC; access to an ATCIC psychiatrist; the ATCIC Health Integrated Program; substance abuse services at Austin Recover Center or ATCIC; and Family Eldercare's in-home aide program. Participants will also have access to Goodwill Industries of Central Texas for vocational rehab and employment assistance.

Front Steps will also be utilizing Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) funds from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) funding, to provide rental assistance to eligible ARCH and Foundation for the Homeless clients, and other community referrals on a first-come, first-served basis. This funding must be expended by August 31, 2012 in accordance with the HHSP agreements.

30-Month Program Funding

\$100,000 on-going funding from the City of Austin Health and Human Services Operating Budget with \$300,000 for the total contract term.

\$11,842 One-time funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) Below Market Interest Rate (BMIR) Program available until August 31, 2012.

\$64,567 One-time funding from TDHCA HHSP Housing Trust Fund program available until August 31, 2012.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

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

Unduplicated number of adult residents provided Permanent Supportive Housing services: 54

Unduplicated number of adult residents who exit Permanent Supportive Housing to safe and stable housing: 50%

Percentage of individuals obtaining or maintaining public benefits: 80%