

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council		Item ID	18418	Agenda Number	31.
Meeting Date:	9/27/2012			Department:	Health and Human Services
Subject					
Approve negotiation and execution of a 12-month contract with FRONT STEPS, INC., Austin, TX, for the provision of homeless social services at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) in an amount not to exceed \$2,247,416 for the period of October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013 for a total contract not to exceed \$2,247,416.					
Amount and Source of Funding					
Funding in the amount of \$1,933,494 is available in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department; funding in the amount of \$313,922 is available in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Special Revenue Fund.					
Fiscal Note					
There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.					
Purchasing Language:					
Prior Council Action:	On September 12, 2012, Austin City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Special Revenue Fund.				
For More Information:	Stephanie Hayden, Assistant Director of Community Services, 972-5855; Susan Gehring, Manager Community Based Resources, 972-5026; Chris Crookham, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5010.				
Boards and Commission Action:					
MBE / WBE:					
Related Items:					
Additional Backup Information					

HHSD released a Request for Applications in 2009 for the provision of homeless social services at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH). Front Steps, Inc. was the only applicant for the Request for Application and was recommended to receive the contract award for Fiscal Year 2010 – 2011. This contract had renewal options that ended September 30, 2012.

Council is requested to approve negotiation and execution of a 12-month contract with FRONT STEPS, INC., Austin, TX. for ARCH operations. ARCH operations will be competed for contracts in future years.

ARCH offers clients a menu of services from which to select, depending on their individual needs. There is an increased focus on flexible case management to help move more clients into safe and stable housing. Collaboration with co-located and mainstream agencies is a key component of ARCH enabling it to serve as an entry point to homeless services.

Under the contract with Front Steps, Inc. services at the ARCH consist of three major program components:

Day Resource Center (DRC). This component serves homeless men, women, and families with centralized intake, information and referral, and basic services including: showers, telephones, voice mail boxes, mailing address, laundry facilities, clothing, and lockers. Front Steps collaborates with eight co-located community agencies that help homeless persons reach self-sufficiency by providing mental health outreach and counseling, legal aid, benefits eligibility, employment services, housing assistance, case management and access to substance abuse treatment. The case management program includes assessments of clients in the Day Resource Center, walk-in access to entry-level case management, and classes covering topics such as Housing Options and Self-Care Resources.

Day Sleeping. This component serves homeless men and women daily by providing 50 beds for daytime sleeping. It serves people who have night-time jobs and those who require rest for medical reasons. Case management is available for those who choose to participate.

Overnight Shelter. This component serves homeless single adult men seven (7) nights a week with 100 beds and 115 mats for overnight sleeping. Services for overnight shelter clients include on-site breakfast, dinner (for clients in beds), showers and lockers, and case management. Clients obtain a reserved bed through participation in case management, or if they are receiving case management from a co-located agency or a service provider that is coordinating with Front Steps staff.

As operator of the ARCH, Front Steps is responsible for overall operations, maintenance, and oversight of the facility and the activities located therein.