

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	19182	Agenda Number	19.
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Meeting Date:	10/18/2012	Department:	Health and Human Services
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Subject

Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$495,865 in grant funds from the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, HOMELESS HOUSING AND SERVICES PROGRAM, and amending the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20120910-001) to appropriate \$495,865 for the delivery of services for the homeless. Related to Items # 20 and 21.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) Funds. The grant period is October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Stephanie Hayden, Assistant Director, 972-5017; Susan Gehring, HHSD Manager, 972-5026; Chris Crookham, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5010.
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 was divided among the eight largest cities in Texas according to population. Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) was assigned as manager. On August 28, 2012, Austin was informed that it would receive an additional \$495,865 in one-time funding from the HHSP Bonds and Housing Trust Fund for the grant period October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013.

HHSP Bond: The HHSP Bond funding (\$202,764) is available for construction and rehabilitation, operations of direct services, case management, housing retention, homelessness prevention, rental assistance or other homeless related activity. Bond funds allow up to 5% of the allocation to be utilized for administration costs related to staff performing management, reporting and accounting of program activities and funds.

This funding will be used to renovate the Salvation Army's downtown shelter in order to provide an additional 32 beds for single homeless women, increasing the total beds for single women to 91. The single men's dorm will be divided to create a separate dorm for 32 working men. The reduction in single men's beds would be 20 which will be offset by the additional beds at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH). Salvation Army will provide case management to single homeless women at the Downtown Shelter.

Housing Trust Fund: The Housing Trust Fund (HTF) funding (\$293,101) is available for housing staff; maintenance, operations and furniture; construction and rehabilitation; and financial assistance. HTF funds allow up to 5% of the allocation to be utilized for administration costs related to staff performing management, reporting and accounting of program activities and funds.

This funding will support the ARCH expansion of 15 beds for men to expand the nightly capacity of the men's shelter to 230. The funding will also support updating the building and replacement of furniture, and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) scan card initiative between Salvation Army and Front Steps.

All department grant application requests are reviewed by the Budget Office prior to submission to ensure that the grant minimizes the financial impact to the City. The General Fund will not be required to contribute to this grant.