

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	19446	Agenda Number	20.
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Meeting Date:	11/8/2012	Department:	Health and Human Services
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN-RAY MARSHALL CENTER to evaluate the Federal Stimulus Grant Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program for an 11-month term from November 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013 in a total amount not to exceed \$50,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$50,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Operating Budget of 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:	
For More Information:	Stephanie Hayden, Assistant Director, Community Services, 972-5017; 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

The City wishes to conduct an evaluation of the Federal Stimulus Grant Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) to better understand its outcomes. Specifically, the City is interested in identifying any patterns in the use of other public services by program participants, as well as, to the extent possible, labor market outcomes. This comprehensive approach to evaluating the impacts of housing services and workforce development is unprecedented in our community. Report findings will help the City further refine investments in the Best Single Source Plus collaborative, a \$3.1 million annual initiative designed to help stabilize disadvantaged families in Austin through services similar to those of HPRP. Data for the HPRP program have been captured in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database and provide a foundation for this evaluation. The evaluation process and final report will inform opportunities for maximizing investments in current and future City contracts through collaborations and service linkages. It will also provide information necessary to determine if there are long term impacts from the HPRP grant.

Under this agreement, the Ray Marshall Center will:

Examine two years of prior data on HPRP participants to identify patterns of use of public services;

Match participants with employment and earnings data to gain a better sense of labor market outcomes for this population;

Prepare draft and final reports detailing evaluation findings;

Present findings to City officials/administrators and other stakeholders;

Work with City and County staff to identify other possible funders, public and private, to expand the evaluation of HPRP and, potentially, Best Single Source Plus.

The Ray Marshall Center is uniquely qualified to conduct this evaluation. The Ray Marshall Center, a research institute of the University of Texas at Austin's LBJ School of Public Affairs, began, in 2006, working with the City of Austin, Travis County and Workforce Solutions (the Capital Area Workforce Board) to document the outcomes and estimate the impacts of local workforce investments in an array of services ranging from adult literacy and job search assistance to intensive longer-term skills training. Since that time, the Center has evaluated these services, published a series of evaluation reports and conducted numerous briefings for staff, policymakers and board members from all of these organizations. The findings from this effort have provided useful guidance to policymakers and other stakeholders as they have sought to get the most out of their increasingly scarce public dollars. They have also given the providers themselves invaluable information as they have worked to improve their effectiveness and leverage additional public and private funds over time. The Ray Marshall Center's access to federal sources of data such as TANF and Unemployment Insurance offers significant depth/value to this project.

Recommendation:

Based on available funds, staff recommends that the City enter into an interlocal agreement with THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN- RAY MARSHALL CENTER for an 11-month term from November 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.