

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	27181	Agenda Number	35.
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Meeting Date:	9/26/2013	Department:	Health and Human Services
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 4 to the Agreement with the ENDING COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS COALITION, INC., Austin, to increase funding for community coordination activities related to homeless services system improvements developed by implementing a new coordinated assessment system, for the period of October 12, 2012 to September 30, 2013, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$377,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$60,000 is available from the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Health and Human Services Operating Budget.

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	November 10, 2011 City Council approved Amendment 1 to the contract.
For More Information:	Stephanie Hayden, Asst. Director for Human Services, 972-5011; Robert Kingham, Manager Community Based Resources, 972-5026; Alma Ruiz, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5010.
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The City of Austin has an existing contract with the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) for community coordination activities related to preventing and ending homelessness. This amendment will add an additional \$60,000 to allow ECHO to hire a staff member to lead community coordination activities related to homeless services system improvements via the implementation of a new coordinated assessment system. The coordinated assessment system is a new requirement by the federal Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) for the Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding. The City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department (NHCD) and Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) administer ESG funding. A new coordinated assessment system will improve local intake and referral processes, leading to more efficient use of resources and increasing the ability of service providers to house homeless individuals and families more quickly.

HUD recently awarded ECHO with technical assistance funding to develop a plan for the implementation of the coordinated assessment system. ECHO is currently working with stakeholders to identify game changing, systemic improvements involving coordinated screening and assessment across the community for at-risk and homeless clients. This funding will help ECHO move forward with planning for these system changes, and implementation of portions of the new system in order to satisfy the new HUD requirements.

The new ECHO staff member will lead a community collaboration of healthcare, corrections, City/County, service providers and housing providers to make overall homeless services system improvements and will:

1. Develop/Deploy a Screening & Assessment process and tool shared by all users of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
2. Develop system-wide program definitions and standards
3. Build consensus on prioritization of sub-populations
4. Develop real-time data sharing capabilities
5. Develop specially trained Housing Navigators
6. Host cross training activities among social services, corrections and health professionals

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Related Departmental Goal: Provision: Social Services – Assist People in Achieving Safety, Stability and Long Term Self-Sufficiency.

Deliverables will be determined during contract negotiation.