

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	38090	Agenda Number	41.
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Meeting Date:	12/11/2014	Department:	Health and Human Services
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Subject

Approve negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement with Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Inc. to increase funding for community coordination activities related to homeless services system improvements via the implementation of a new coordinated assessment system, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$219,500 for the period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015, with five 12-month renewal options, each in an amount not to exceed \$219,500, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,317,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$60,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department. Funding for the renewal options is contingent upon the availability of funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	On August 28, 2014, Council approved a twelve-month agreement beginning on October 1, 2014 with five 12-month renewal options. On September 8, 2014, Council approved Ordinance No. 20140908-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Operating Budget.
For More Information:	Stephanie Hayden, Asst. Director, Community Services, 972-5017; Robert Kingham, Manager, 972-5026; Elena Shemilina, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5010.
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Inc. (ECHO) is dedicated to planning, prioritizing, and developing strategies to end homelessness in Austin/Travis County, Texas. The overall role of ECHO is to identify specific strategies to end homelessness and to oversee ongoing planning efforts and implementation of the Plan to End Community Homelessness.

Since 1994, the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) requires each funding application to be submitted as a part of a single community-wide or regional plan. ECHO is HUD's designated Continuum of Care (CoC) for Austin & Travis County. CoCs are most commonly organized around two main priorities: coordinating the housing and service systems in a community, and applying for funding from HUD's competitive McKinney-Vento Act/HEARTH Act programs. ECHO provides dynamic proactive leadership that engages policy makers and the community in ending homelessness. The City of Austin has contracted with ECHO since 2011, when the coalition obtained IRS 501(c)(3) organizational status.

As the Austin/Travis County designated CoC agency, ECHO is spearheading the planning, design and implementation of a new coordinated assessment system. Coordinated Assessment is a new requirement by HUD for the Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding. The City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department and Health and Human Services Department administer ESG funding. This coordinated assessment system will improve local intake and referral processes, and lead to a more efficient use of resources and increased ability of service providers to house homeless individuals and families more quickly. This amendment will allow ECHO to hire two staff members: one staff member will lead community coordination activities related to homeless services system improvements via the implementation of a new coordinated assessment system, and the other staff member will serve as a Community Housing Liaison to help develop relationships between local housing providers and homeless services providers.

Performance Measures, as well as contract exhibits, will be negotiated with the ECHO staff.

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