

Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council Item ID 65073 Agenda Number 15.

Meeting Date: 12/1/2016 Department: Health and Human Services

Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a 24-month agreement with Capital Area Food Bank, Inc. beginning on January 1, 2017, for the provision of Supplemental Nutrition Food Assistance Program outreach and enrollment services in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$200,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

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Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	On September 14, 2015, Council approved Ordinance No. 20150914-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating Budget.
For More Information:	Shannon Jones, Director, 512-972-5010; Stephanie Hayden, Assistant Director for HHSD Community Services, 972-5017, Robert Kingham, Social Services Policy Manager, 512-972-5026, Elena Lloyd, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5033.
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	The item was reviewed by the Austin Travis County Food Policy Board on November 14, 2016. No action was taken.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

As outlined in the Austin Travis County Food Policy Board recommendation number 20150608-5AIC, 18% of Travis County residents and 25.5% of Travis County children live in a food insecure household, which is directly tied to poverty and results in increased health care costs, lower education success, and decreased workforce readiness. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federal nutrition program that allows participants to purchase healthy food. SNAP has effectively lifted many persons out of poverty, but only 58% of eligible persons in Travis County are enrolled in SNAP.

The Capital Area Food Bank, Inc. (CAFB) is the front line of hunger relief with the help of roughly 250 partner agencies in 21 counties across Central Texas. CAFB is the largest hunger relief organization in Central Texas, and brings more than 30 years of experience and industry knowledge. CAFB staff provide phone and in-person consultations in English and Spanish free of charge, that include the following:

- explaining how the SNAP application process works and what to expect;
- completing the SNAP application packet completely and correctly, and submitting it to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission;
- providing information on additional community resources as needed.

During the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget adoption process, Council allocated \$200,000 for direct SNAP outreach and enrollment services to individuals who have not historically participated in SNAP. The Health and Human Services Department currently partners with CAFB to provide SNAP direct outreach and enrollment services. This additional funding will be allocated to CAFB, which will enable them to expand their ability to provide these services and focus efforts in communities who have been historically underserved by SNAP. In addition, CAFB will utilize coordinated messaging and outreach materials developed through the use of best practices and local market research to inform eligible individuals of the benefits of SNAP. This additional funding may be eligible for matching funds, such as SNAP application assistance matching funds.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Output Measure:

Number of Unduplicated Clients Served

1216

Outcome Measure:

Percent of individuals who obtain or maintain public benefits

22%

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