

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: December 7, 2017

Item Number: **038**

Public Health

Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$249,091 in additional grant funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Emergency Solutions Grants Program and amending the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20170913-001) to appropriate \$249,091 for the delivery of homeless services.

Lead Department	Austin Public Health
Fiscal Note	Funding is available from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). The ESG grant period for these funds is October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. A fiscal note is attached.
Prior Council Action	On September 13, 2017 Council approved Ordinance No. 20170913-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Operating Budget.
For More Information	Stephanie Hayden, Interim Director, 512-972-5010; Adrienne Sturup, Acting Assistant Director, 512-972-5167; Vella Karman, Social Services Policy Manager, 512-972-5064; Estella Kirscht, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5039.

Additional Backup Information:

The Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program provides funds for emergency shelters, rapid

rehousing services, administration costs and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database costs. The City utilizes the ESG allocation for the maintenance and operation of the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, operated by Front Steps, Inc., and for rapid rehousing services provided at the Communicable Disease Unit within the Austin Public Health Department, Downtown Austin Community Court, and Front Steps.

The Fiscal Year 2017-2018 allocation was \$637,196 and the City was informed that there would be an additional \$249,091 in funding available for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. The additional funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development will be used to assist the Continuum of Care services that lost capacity in recent years, and is considered one-time funding with an allocation period of two years from 2017-2019. Funds will be awarded to Front Steps to increase rapid rehousing capacity to support local initiatives that address homelessness in the downtown area.

The total allocation of \$886,287 for the City's ESG grant will be divided into four eligible categories: \$495,091 for rapid rehousing; \$313,922 for emergency shelter; \$29,484 for HMIS; and \$47,790 for administration services.

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

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, Austin Public Health's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.