

AGENDA



Recommendation for Board Action

AUSTIN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION (AHFC)

AHFC Meeting: April 12, 2018

Item Number: AHFC002

Consent

Authorize the negotiation and execution of a multi-term contract with the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Inc. to fund and administer the Low Barrier Permanent Supportive Housing Voucher Program, which provides housing subsidies to homeless families, in an amount not to exceed \$122,760, with one 12-month extension option in an amount not to exceed \$294,624, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$417,384.

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| Lead Department | Neighborhood Housing and Community Development. |
| Fiscal Note | This item has no fiscal impact. |
| Prior Council Action | November 09, 2017 - Council approved resolution relating to the expenditure of the Downtown Density Bonus Program's funds for low-barrier permanent supportive vouchers. Resolution 20171109-089. |
| For More Information | Rosie Truelove, Treasurer, Austin Housing Finance Corporation, 512-974-3064; or Fernando Hernandez-Garza, Neighborhood Development Program Manager, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, 512-974-3114. |

Additional Backup Information:

The intent of the Low Barrier Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Voucher Program is to test

the design and initial operations of an innovative program that will house and support individuals experiencing homelessness and severe mental health issues who are frequent users of the criminal justice and emergency healthcare system in Austin/Travis County. This model will use private capital funding to scale and clearly establish the efficacy of service interventions, such as a PSH, with the ultimate goal of government sustaining the services if the services prove effective.

If approved, funding will be provided for an initial five-month contract (through September 30, 2018) to the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Inc. (ECHO), with one 12-month extension option subject to the approval of the Subrecipient and the AHFC Officer or their designee. Continuation of the contract beyond the initial five-month term is specifically contingent upon the availability and allocation of funding by AHFC Board, as well as program evaluation and demonstrated success. In addition, annual performance measures will be negotiated as part of the extension option. This program will serve up to 24 individuals experiencing homeless. Fair Market Rent for a one-bedroom apartment is \$1,023/month x 17 months x 24 clients = \$417,384.

| Contract Details | Contract Term | Contract Authorization |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Initial Term | 5 months | \$122,760.00 |
| Option Extension 1 | 12 months | \$294,624.00 |
| Total | 17 months | \$417,384.00 |

ECHO is a non-profit that plans, develops, prioritizes, and implements systemic, community-wide strategies to end homelessness in Austin and Travis County, Texas. ECHO is elected locally and recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as the Continuum of Care lead agency, the local leader in coordinating the system of housing and services for persons experiencing homelessness. ECHO is also designated as the lead agency for the Homeless Management Information System, a system-wide database that tracks the needs of households experiencing homelessness, services received across the community, and their outcomes.

ECHO anticipates partnering with property owners to cluster units on 1-2 properties that have enough units so that program participants will blend in with other residents. All payments made by the ECHO are paid directly to the landlord. PSH intends to support the client as long as needed provided the client maintains a housing lease.

Additionally, the Subrecipient will partner with Caritas of Austin, which will provide the support services based on the Assertive Community Treatment model, which is designed to support clients with mental illness living in the community.