

**Health and Human Services  
CITY OF AUSTIN**

**AGENDA  
DATE: 4/20/2006**

#9

**RECOMMENDATION FOR  
COUNCIL ACTION**

**Subject:** Authorize negotiation and execution of three 12-month contracts to provide social services to Hurricane Katrina evacuees: CARITAS OF AUSTIN for the Long Term Recovery Project of the Best Single Source, to provide direct client assistance to support evacuees in achieving stabilization and self-sufficiency, in an amount not to exceed \$71,000; TEXAS INTERAGENCY/INTERFAITH DISASTER RESPONSE to support their operation as the coordinating agency of the Long Term Recovery Committee, providing support for resource coordination staff, and direct client assistance needs (such as medication and food), in an amount not to exceed \$60,000; and YOUTH AND FAMILY ALLIANCE (aka LifeWorks) to provide home-based mental health services, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding in the amount of \$181,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Katrina Disaster Relief Special Revenue Fund. The contract period is May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007.

**Fiscal Note:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**Requesting Department:** HHSD

**For More Information:** Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director, Human Services, 972-5011; Susan Gehring, Community Based Resources, 972-5026; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

**Prior Council Action:** Approved 2005-2006 Operating Budget, September 12, 2005.

**Boards and Commission Action:**

## ***Disaster Relief – 3 Contracts***

### **Background**

The City received \$256,000 in donations to assist with the needs of Hurricane Katrina evacuees. Through a collaborative planning process, the community has identified specific needs deemed essential to support evacuees in their efforts to stabilize their circumstances and to become self-sustaining.

The Long Term Recovery Project of the Best Single Source (LTRBSS) uses Caritas of Austin as the fiscal agent. LTRBSS is a collaboration of eight community-based organizations that has simplified client access to services, and has centralized project administration with a shared client data management system. Partner agencies in the Long Term Recovery Project have secured other grant funding for comprehensive case management services to evacuees. The LTRBSS partner agencies would use the structure and project administration mechanism of the Basic Needs Best Single Source system to address disaster relief. Services would be tailored to meet the unique needs of the evacuees, and would be in keeping with long-term recovery plans. Funds requested in this RCA would be used to provide direct client assistance, addressing needs such as: transportation assistance for job search, medical/health visits, and one-way relocation expenses; co-pays on medications, eye glasses, dentures, and mental health sessions; and, rental assistance when there is no other source of funding.

Texas Interagency/Interfaith Disaster Response (TIDR) has been identified by FEMA as the coordinating agency for the Long Term Recovery Committee; however, FEMA did not provide any financial support to TIDR for the operation. TIDR found funding from other sources to support their operations for awhile, but those funds are running out. TIDR would use the funds requested in this RCA to support the resource coordination staff (who also field calls in the Communication Center) and to provide direct client assistance to address immediate needs (such as medication and food).

The need for mental health services among evacuees is significant, particularly for certain circumstances that are not addressed by MHMR, such as post-traumatic stress disorder. Given that many evacuees struggle with transportation barriers, home-based mental health services are warranted. Youth and Family Alliance (aka LifeWorks) would utilize the funding to hire one full-time licensed counselor to provide in-home counseling services to evacuees.

Three other organizations will be administratively funded to provide evacuee assistance:

- HHSD will execute an administrative contract with Samaritan Center, in the amount of \$30,000, to provide additional home-based mental health services. Samaritan Center has already received \$95,000 from other sources, but needs an additional \$30,000 to fully fund their proposal.
- HHSD will contract with Community Action Development & Assistance (C.A.D.A.) in the amount of \$15,000 to augment their proposal to FEMA to provide assistance to 640 evacuees.
- GMSA Management Services, Inc., has already been awarded a \$30,000 contract to deliver community-based employment readiness services. GMSA will help prepare evacuees to be employment ready and connect them with WorkSource for employment and training opportunities. Services will be located at apartment complexes where evacuees are living and will employ a group format, enabling evacuees to develop relationships with others and to build a support system.

### **Performance Measures**

#### **Related Goals**

Prevention/Provision: Social Services – Promote and foster increased self-sufficiency, healthy behaviors and lifestyle among targeted populations

#### **Outputs**

Number of unduplicated clients provided direct assistance	218
Number of Communication Center calls answered	10,000
Number of unduplicated families provided counseling/mental health services	42

### Outcomes

Percentage of unduplicated clients satisfied with the services provided	75%
Percentage of unduplicated clients for whom direct assistance contributed to stable affordable housing	75%
Percentage of unduplicated clients for whom direct assistance contributed to stable income	80%
Percentage of unduplicated families reporting improvement of presenting problem at case closure	80%

### Requested Council Action

Council is requested to authorize negotiation and execution of three 12-month contracts to provide social services to Hurricane Katrina evacuees: CARITAS OF AUSTIN for the Long Term Recovery Project of the Best Single Source, to provide direct client assistance to support evacuees in achieving stabilization and self-sufficiency, in an amount not to exceed \$71,000; TEXAS INTERAGENCY/INTERFAITH DISASTER RESPONSE to support their operation as the coordinating agency of the Long Term Recovery Committee, providing support for resource coordination staff, and direct client assistance needs (such as medication and food), in an amount not to exceed \$60,000; and YOUTH AND FAMILY ALLIANCE (aka LifeWorks) to provide home-based mental health services, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000. All three contracts would be one-time only, with no renewal options.