Thursday, January 14, 2010

Health and Human Services   **Item No. 19**
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 1 to the social service contract with CARITAS OF AUSTIN to increase funding by $28,410, for a total contract amount not to exceed $482,282 for the period October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department Special Revenue Fund, Community Services Block Grant. Grant period is January 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010.

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

For More Information: Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director, Human Services, 972-5011; Cathleen Rodriguez, HHS Manager, Healthy Neighborhood Unit, 972-5092; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Prior Council Action: September 24, 2009 - Council approved the original contract.

The Caritas of Austin (Caritas) contract supports activities designed to remove obstacles and solve problems that block the achievement of self-sufficiency and to obtain emergency assistance to meet immediate and urgent family needs. Caritas serves as the Fiscal Agent for the entire Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Direct Financial Assistance component, processing and tracking financial assistance payments to landlords and utility companies on behalf of CSBG clients.

The Caritas contract is being amended to add $28,410 due to an increase in funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, allowing for additional direct financial assistance for CSBG clients.

Statement Required by Corporate Budget Office: All department grant application requests are reviewed by the Budget Office prior to submission to ensure that the grant minimizes the financial impact to the City.

PERFORMANCE
The amendment to the Caritas contract will allow for an additional 159 individuals to be assisted with rent/utility payments.