

AGENDA



Thursday, June 24, 2010

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**
Item No. 24

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of Agreement for Social Services with YOUTH AND FAMILY ALLIANCE d/b/a LIFEWORKS, Austin, TX, to provide child care voucher services in an amount not to exceed \$106,554 for the initial term, July 1-September 30, 2010, with four 12-month renewal options in an amount not to exceed \$308,272 per renewal term, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,389,642.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$89,760 is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Budget of the Neighborhood Housing and Community Services Office through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and \$16,794 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department Special Revenue Fund, Certification. The initial period of the contract is July 1 through September 30, 2010. Funding for the renewal options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

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

For More Information: Vince Cobalis, Assistant Director Human Services Division, 972-5011; Ron Hubbard, Early Childhood Coordinator, 972-5028; Laura Polio, Interim Agenda Coordinator, 972-5010.

Prior Council Action: September 14, 2009 - Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Budget approval.

BACKGROUND

Approval of this Recommendation for Council Action (RCA) will authorize Youth and Family Alliance d/b/a LifeWorks to operate the Bridge Child Care Voucher Program and the Gap Child Care Voucher Program, child care voucher services for low-income families. The initial contract period completes the current Fiscal Year and the first renewal period will begin October 1, 2010 for Fiscal Year 2010-2011. The Bridge Program provides short-term child care to families in crisis for up to six months to allow time for the family to stabilize their situation and find child care with long-term funding. The majority of families served by the Bridge Program are homeless or near-homeless. Clients are referred to the Bridge Program by case managers at social service agencies. Families being served by City-funded programs, such as shelters or basic needs services, are given priority. Usually Bridge Program families are not eligible for or cannot access other subsidized child care. The Gap Program provides very short-term child care, typically for a few weeks to two months, to prevent the child and family from losing child care while they return to Workforce Solutions eligibility for subsidized child care through the City/County Child Care Program.

Gap funding for the initial period is \$16,794 and for the 12-month period is \$25,000 and is used only as needed.

The original provider for the Bridge and Gap Programs, FamilyConnections, ceased operations on April 13, 2010. A temporary contract with Child, Inc. has been providing services since May 1 and is anticipated to end on June 30, 2010, and clients will be immediately transferred to the new contractor. The temporary contract allowed the City time to issue an expedited Request for Applications (RFA) to find a long-term contractor for the Bridge and Gap Programs. Applications deadline was May 13, 2010. LifeWorks is the only agency that submitted an application to provide this ongoing service.

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 MEASURES

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

Output: Number of children provided direct child care services (unduplicated)

Three month initial term: 46

Annual term: 188