

AGENDA



Thursday, November 18, 2010

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 20

Subject: Approve negotiation and execution of a contract with THE SALVATION ARMY, Austin, TX to provide social services for homeless women and their dependent children in an amount not to exceed \$4,638,466 for the period January 1, 2011 through September 30, 2013, with two 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$1,686,715 each, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$8,011,896.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$1,265,036 is available in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department.

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

For More Information: Vince Cobalis, Assistant Director, 972-5011; Susan Gehring, Community Based Resources Manager, 972-5026; Charles Kemp, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Prior Council Action: September 13, 2010 - Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Operating Budget approval.

HHSD published a "Notice of Interest" on December 7, 2009 for the provision of homeless services at the Women and Children's Shelter (WCS). The Salvation Army was the only respondent to the Notice of Interest and is recommended to receive the contract award for the period January 1, 2011 through September 30, 2013. Two (2) 12-month renewal option is requested.

The City of Austin has contracted with The Salvation Army for WCS operations since October 8, 2001. The shelter, located at 4523 Tannehill Lane in Austin, is owned by the County and provided at no charge to the City through an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Travis County. The initial 10-year term of this ILA ends March 31, 2011. A separate RCA requests Council authorization to negotiate and execute the five-year Renewal Option No. 1 provided for in the ILA, extending the term of the ILA (March 31, 2016) through approximately the same time frame as this contract and renewal option (September 30, 2015).

The WCS goals are to aid homeless women and their children in transitioning out of homelessness and into attaining and maintaining self-sufficiency. The shelter operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Objectives focus on obtaining safe and stable housing with income necessary to support personal stability. A high priority is placed on children's services which include on-site licensed and certified child care, child/family therapy, specialized school aged children's groups and after-school tutoring and transportation to local schools.

The WCS offers the following major program components:

Emergency Shelter: Sixty-bed emergency shelter for up to ninety days on a first come, first serve basis.

Basic Needs: Hygiene supplies, clothing, diapers and formula, school supplies, child care, and meals help stabilize clients. Direct financial assistance helps remove barriers to housing.

Case Management: Case managers assist clients in forming a self-sufficiency plan and linking clients to support services.

Specialized Counseling Services: Counselors help clients stabilize their lives, improve coping skills and engage in longer-term interventions to address mental health and substance abuse issues.

Education: Life skills training and GED or other training programs are provided. Children work with the shelter's certified teacher to improve completion of homework and school projects.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

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

OUTPUTS

Number of shelter bed-nights provided during the contract period: 20,805

Unduplicated number clients provided shelter during the contract period: 315

Unduplicated number of clients who exit shelter to safe and stable housing: 236

OUTCOMES

Percent of clients that exit shelter to safe and stable housing : 75%

Percent of clients whose financial stability improves: 65%