

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	58798	Agenda Number	15.
Meeting Date:	6/9/2016		Department:	Health and Human Services
Subject				
<p>Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment (No. 7) to an agreement with The Salvation Army, Inc. to increase funding for the provision of homeless social services at the Austin Shelter for Women and Children in an amount not to exceed \$210,404 (\$109,202 for the current contract period; \$101,202 for the remaining 12-month renewal option).</p>				
Amount and Source of Funding				
<p>Funding in the amount of \$109,202 is included in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department. Funding for the additional renewal option is contingent upon the availability of funding in future budgets.</p>				
Fiscal Note				
A fiscal note is not required.				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:	<p>On November 18, 2010, Council approved the initial contract. On January 26, 2012, Council approved Amendment # 1 adding state Housing and Homeless Services Program (HHSP) funds for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. On September 8, 2015, Council approved Ordinance No. 20150908-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating Budget. On September 17, 2015, Council approved Amendment # 6 adding two 12-month renewal options.</p>			
For More Information:	<p>Shannon Jones, Director, 512-972-5010; Stephanie Hayden, Deputy Director, 512-972-5017; Robert Kingham, Social Services Policy Manager, 512-972-5026; Elena Shemilina, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5010.</p>			
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:				
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				
Additional Backup Information				

On December 11, 2014, Council passed a resolution requiring the City Manager to develop an annual funding increase to existing social service contracts in an amount equal to or greater than the increase in the Consumer Price Index as part of the annual budget process and also adopted a formal policy goal of investing \$15,763,307 of additional funding for social service contracts within three to five years. As a result, Council approved \$1,825,000 in additional funding for social service contracts during the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget adoption process.

In December 2015, the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) requested input regarding the allocation of funding from existing social service providers. Over 35 providers responded to the survey, in which over 75% of those responding indicated a desire for an increase to existing social service contracts by 5% or more. As a result of this feedback, along with that from City leadership and other stakeholders, HHSD developed an allocation strategy that called for an increase of 6% in funding for existing social service contracts with the exception of programs funded with one-time funding, limited-term funding, or grants, which was approved by Council for the Fiscal Year 2015- 2016 budget.

Since October 8, 2001, the City has contracted with The Salvation Army for the operation of the Austin Shelter for Women and Children (ASWC), a comprehensive emergency shelter that serves homeless adult women, including those with dependent children under the age of 17 years. The shelter, located at 4523 Tannehill Lane in Austin, is owned by Travis County and leased at no charge to the City.

The City entered into a \$9,960,061 multiyear agreement on February 2, 2011. The multiyear agreement requires the Salvation Army to provide social services at the ASWC. The City has metrics to measure the outcome of the social services. The current year agreement (October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016) is for \$1,686,715 and the 2016-2017 agreement (October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016) is for \$1,686,715.

With the requested 6% increase in funding, the total contract amount for this year will be \$1,795,917, and the total contract amount for next year (Oct 1, 2016 through Sept 30, 2017) will be \$1,787,917, for the total multi-year agreement not to exceed \$11,857,180. The current increase in funding is needed for general shelter operations. In addition, \$8000 in this year's request is required to purchase a new boiler for the shelter.

ASWC pursues the goal of aiding homeless women and their children in transitioning out of homelessness, and attaining and maintaining self-sufficiency. The shelter operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Comprehensive services are provided in a caring, supporting, and encouraging environment. 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 licensed child care, child/family therapy, specialized school aged children's groups, and after-school tutoring and transportation to local schools.

The goals of ASWC are designed to effectively transition shelter residents out of homelessness by providing:

- 1.) Emergency Shelter (30 to 90 days)
- 2.) Case Management Services (3-18 months)
- 3.) Assistance in accessing coordinated, mainstream resources
- 4.) Exit to transitional, permanent, or subsidized housing

The ASWC offers the following major program components:

Emergency Shelter: ASWC provides a 60 bed emergency shelter to homeless women and children on a first come, first serve basis. A call back list is maintained 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for all persons seeking shelter.

Basic Needs: ASWC provides hygiene supplies, clothing, diapers and formula, school supplies, and three meals a day in order to help clients stabilize their living situation. On-site childcare is provided for eligible shelter residents with children ages 18 to 60 months. Outside childcare is provided while clients go to self-sufficiency activities and/or look for work. Direct financial assistance is provided to eligible clients to aid in removing barriers to housing.

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

Specialized Counseling Services: ASWC assists clients in crisis to stabilize their lives, improve coping skills, and engage in longer-term interventions to address mental health and substance abuse issues. All adult residents are referred to the Child and Family Therapist for an initial assessment, and recommendations for ongoing individual, group, or family counseling are coordinated with the case manager. ASWC collaborates with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin/Travis County Integral Care, and other providers to find solutions that enable the client to move into safe and stable housing.

Education: ASWC provides life skills training and encourages adults to work on completing a GED or other training programs. Children work with the shelter's certified teacher to improve completion of homework and school projects. Parents are able to meet with the teacher and participate in the learning center with their child in order to foster a positive relationship and improve parent involvement in their child's educational goals.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Outputs:

Total number of unduplicated clients served	315
Total number of adults and children who exit to safe and stable housing	236
Total number of client bed-nights of shelter provided to adults and children	20,802

Outcomes:

Percent of case-managed households that transition from homelessness into housing	75%
Percent of adults who improve financial stability	65%
Percent of homeless households residing in HHSD funded shelter programs who receive case management services	100%

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