

AGENDA

**Recommendation for Council Action**

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting: June 28, 2018

Item Number: **043**

Public Health

Approve negotiation and execution of an agreement with The Salvation Army, a Georgia Corporation for the provision of homeless services to women and children in an amount not to exceed \$1,939,765 for the 12-month period beginning October 1, 2018, with up to four 12-month extension options not to exceed \$1,939,765 per extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$9,698,825.

Lead Department	Austin Public Health.
Fiscal Note	Funding for the contract is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.
For More Information	Stephanie Hayden, Director, 512-972-5010; Adrienne Sturup, Interim Assistant Director, 512-972-5167; Vella Karman, Social Services Policy Manager, 512-972-5064; Estella Kirscht, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5039.

Additional Backup Information:

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 age 17 or younger. The property is located at 4523 Tannehill Lane in Austin, owned by Travis County and leased at no charge to the City.

Council authorization is being sought prior to adoption of the Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019 budget to allow time for agreement negotiation and execution for a start date of October 1, 2018, ensuring an

uninterrupted continuation of services.

In 2012, voters approved \$3.8 million in bond funding to improve the existing shelter located at 4523 Tannehill Lane. Included in the bond construction is a child care center and new wing of the shelter with 34 beds. The construction also converted an existing wing of the shelter into ADA-compliant offices, resulting in a loss of 13 beds, resulting in a net of 21 new beds, for a new total of 81 beds.

The goal of the ASWC is 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. 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 an 81-bed emergency shelter to homeless women and children on a first come, first served basis. A call back list is maintained 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for all persons who seek shelter.

Basic Needs: ASWC provides hygiene supplies, clothing, diapers and formula, school supplies and three meals a day to help clients stabilize their living situation. On-site childcare is provided for eligible shelter residents with children ages 18 - 60 months. Outside childcare is provided while clients participate in self-sufficiency activities and/or look for work. Direct financial assistance is provided to eligible clients to remove 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 initial assessment, and recommendations for ongoing individual, group or family counseling are coordinated with the case manager. ASWC collaborates with State Protective Services for children and adults, 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. The shelter's certified teacher works with school-age children to support homework completion 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.