



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-1744, **Agenda Item #:** 17.

5/23/2019

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Catholic Charities of Central Texas to provide homeless prevention services to refugee families in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the 23-month period ending June 30, 2021 and \$100,000 for one 12-month extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$300,000.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$200,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Austin Public Health Department's Operating Budget. Funding for extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

For More Information:

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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

March 12, 2018 - Commission on Immigrant Affairs passed Recommendation No. 20180212-004B regarding fulfilling refugee housing needs.

Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute an agreement with Catholic Charities of Central Texas to address housing needs of refugees through providing housing-related financial assistance, including rental assistance, utility assistance and arrears, along with case management services.

On March 12, 2018, the City's Commission on Immigrant Affairs (Commission) passed a recommendation regarding refugee housing needs. The City is the largest refugee resettlement site in Central Texas, and many refugees need affordable housing and rental assistance. In development of the resolution, the Commission met with various City Department officials and community agencies to discuss rental assistance resources for refugees living within Austin. Organizations participating in meetings on this topic included: Housing Authority City of Austin (also known as HACA), Caritas of Austin, Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (also known as ECHO), Austin Public Health, and Neighborhood Housing and Community Development. The Commission concluded that there were not enough City resources available to address the need of refugees in the community.

On January 21, 2015 the Commission passed Recommendation No. 20160121004Ba to participate in the White House's Building Welcoming Communities Campaign and welcome refugees.

Related Departmental Goal:

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

