



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-2986, **Agenda Item #:** 6.

9/19/2019

Posting Language

Authorize the negotiation and execution of a one-year contract with the HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN to fund and administer the Homeless Assistance/Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program, which provides housing opportunities through subsidies to individuals experiencing homelessness, in an amount not to exceed \$626,954.

Lead Department

Neighborhood Housing and Community Development.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget of the Austin Housing Finance Corporation. Funding is contingent on the release of Fiscal Year 2019 federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HOME Investment Partnership Program.

Prior Council Action:

n/a.

For More Information:

Rosie Truelove, Treasurer, Austin Housing Finance Corporation, 512-974-3064; or Fernando Hernandez-Garza, Neighborhood Development Program Manager, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, 512-974-3114.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

n/a.

Additional Backup Information:

The Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program provides rental housing subsidies and security deposits to eligible households who would otherwise be homeless. To be eligible for the program, households must be working towards self-sufficiency with a case manager and have a total household income at or below 50 percent of the Austin area Median Family Income (currently \$47,300 for a family of four). Households, who are referred by Ending Community Homelessness Coalition's (ECHO) Continuum of Care Coordinated Assessment, can receive assistance through the TBRA program for up to 18 months with a possible six-month extension. Each household will pay no more than 30 percent of its monthly income towards rent. The TBRA program will pay the difference between what the household can afford and the actual rent amount. As a family's income increases, the amounts paid by the program decrease accordingly. All payments made by the TBRA program are paid directly to the landlord. The contract term will be from October 1, 2019, to September 30, 2020. This program will serve up to 68 households.

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) has more than 21 years of experience with providing TBRA services. HACA verifies client and property eligibility, manages leasing terms, and makes rental subsidy payments directly to landlords each month. HACA also serves as a liaison between clients and landlords to ensure that landlords understand clients are only eligible for TBRA as long as the household meets regulatory

and program requirements.