



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-3641, **Agenda Item #:** 34.

12/5/2019

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 7 with The SAFE Alliance, to expand early intervention services to address violence and abuse, increasing funding in an amount not to exceed \$130,000 for the current term and the one remaining 12-month term extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$5,148,222.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$130,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget.

Prior Council Action:

September 10, 2019 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20190910-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget, including \$130,000 in ongoing funding for The SAFE Alliance's Bridge to Safety program, on a 10-1 vote with Council Member Flannigan voting no.

March 28, 2019 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20190328-018 to expand early intervention services to address violence and abuse in an amount not to exceed \$130,000 in one-time funding, on a 11-0 vote.

September 11, 2018 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20180911-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Operating Budget, including \$130,000 in one-time funding for relationship violence prevention and crisis response on a vote of 10-1 with Council Member Troxclair voting nay.

March 31, 2016 - Council approved a 6% cost-of-living increase that added \$129,960 to the 37-month base agreement with The SAFE Alliance, previously named the Travis County Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Survival Center, dba SafePlace, on an 8-2 vote, with Council Members Troxclair and Zimmerman voting nay, Mayor Adler absent, and Mayor Pro Tem Tovo recusing herself on the portion relating to Creative Action.

November 20, 2014 - Council approved execution of a 37-month agreement with SafePlace, with three 12-month extension options for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$4,332,000 on a 6-0 vote with Council Member Tovo recusing herself from contracts associated with Theater Action Project/Creative Action.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 7 to the Victim Services agreement with The SAFE Alliance, previously named the Travis County Domestic Violence &

Sexual Assault Survival Center, dba SafePlace for the expanded provision of early intervention services to address violence and abuse through the Bridge to Safety Program. When adopting the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget, Council approved \$130,000 in ongoing funding to be used for shelter diversion to address safety needs of individuals who are in a domestic violence situation. Funds will be used for staff to work with clients calling in on the domestic violence hotline and through community referrals to provide financial assistance for immediate early intervention and safety planning such as hotel vouchers, eviction prevention, transportation costs to reunite them with family, and other costs as needed.

Amendment No. 6 authorized one-time funding of \$130,000 to expand early intervention services to address violence and abuse. Council added one-time funding during the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget adoption process, which included the following budget rider: "Relationship Violence Prevention & Crisis Response: It is the intention of the City Council that the funding reprioritized by Council amendment for relationship violence crisis response and relationship violence prevention be a competitively-bid contract or expansion of an existing contract for the purposes of preventing relationship violence and ensuring immediate safety of victims of relationship violence."

Amendment No. 5 exercised the first of three authorized 12-month extension options for an annual amount of \$802,495, extending services through September 30, 2019.

Amendment No. 4 was an administrative amendment adding a Council directed 2.5% cost-of-living increase to the 37-month base agreement.

Amendment No. 3 was an administrative amendment adding a Council directed 2.3% cost-of-living increase to the 37-month base agreement.

Amendment No. 2 was an administrative amendment to change the vendor's legal name to The SAFE Alliance.

Amendment No. 1 included a 6% cost-of-living increase approved by Council to the 37-month base agreement.

This social services agreement with The SAFE Alliance, previously named the Travis County Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Survival Center, dba SafePlace program was awarded through the 2014 Health and Human Services Department Self-Sufficiency Request for Applications (RFA), with services beginning on September 1, 2015 for an initial 37-month period in the amount of \$2,166,000, with three 12-month extension options in the amount of \$722,000 per extension option.

The mission of The SAFE Alliance is to end sexual and domestic violence through safety, healing, prevention and social change. The goals of the program are to provide safety and healing services to people in Austin and Travis County who have experienced rape, sexual abuse and/or domestic violence. This program aims to meet victims' immediate needs for safety, help them heal from the trauma they have experienced, and support their efforts to build healthy, self-sufficient lives free of violence.

The Victim Services program serves women, children and men who have experienced rape, sexual abuse and/or domestic violence. Clients served are any age and are primarily from the City of Austin and Travis County. Clients include members of traditionally-underserved populations, among which are low-income persons, people with disabilities, persons who have been homeless, and people of color. Priority for emergency shelter is given to people who are at higher levels of danger as staff assess safety and risk. Counseling services prioritizes those seeking individual and family counseling based on level of danger (high level of lethality), trauma symptoms that impact work, school or care for children, and recent sexual assault/abuse survivors who are children/youth. Most individuals are given the option of immediately joining a support group.