



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1095, **Agenda Item #:** 42.

1/23/2020

Posting Language

Approve negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 9 to the agreement with Caritas of Austin, Inc. to expand rapid re-housing services in an amount not to exceed \$102,056, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$22,118,858.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

One-time funding in the amount of \$102,056 is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Austin Public Health Department's Operating Budget.

Prior Council Action:

September 11, 2019 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20190911-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget, which included \$1,500,000 in one-time funding for homeless campgrounds or alternatives, on a 10-1 vote with Council Member Flannigan voting no.

December 14, 2017 - Council approved Amendment No. 5, adding a 6% annual cost of living increase to the 37-month base agreement and each of the three extension options, on an 11-0 vote.

March 2, 2017 - Council approved Amendment No. 3, adding a 2.3% annual cost of living increase to the 37-month base agreement and each of the three extension options, on an 11-0 vote.

June 23, 2016 - Council approved Amendment No. 2, increasing the agreement by \$65,000 for flood disaster financial assistance activities, on a 10-0 vote with Council Member Zimmerman abstaining.

March 31, 2016 - Council approved Amendment No. 1, adding a 6% annual cost of living increase to the 37-month base agreement and each of the three extension options, on an 8-2 vote with Council Members Troxclair and Zimmerman voting no, Mayor Adler absent, and Mayor Pro Tem Tovo recusing herself on the portion related to Creative Action.

November 20, 2014 - Council approved Agenda item 20141120-071 approving the award, negotiation, and execution of this agreement in response to Request for Proposal No. EAD0116 for self-sufficiency social services, 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. 9 to the agreement with Caritas of Austin, Inc. to expand rapid re-housing case management services through the Best

Single Source Plus Collaborative (BSS+C) program for the purpose of resourcing Guided Path efforts and future Encampment Resolution strategies.

In October 2019, the Homeless Strategy Office partnered with the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (also known as ECHO), Austin Public Health, Downtown Austin Community Court, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, and the Austin Police Department to co-convene the homeless provider community to design a strategy to address the encampments outside of the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (also known as the ARCH). The Guided Path Pilot Project aims to both reduce the health and safety risks for those living in encampments and prevent and end homelessness through long term solutions. Expanded case management services will be coordinated with other rapid re-housing resources to engage participants, locate and facilitate housing placement options, and provide housing stability services once participants exit homelessness into housing.

Amendment No. 8 exercised the second extension option in the amount of \$3,702,268 for the period of October 1, 2019, to September 30, 2020.

Amendment No. 7 was a no-cost amendment to modify program exhibits.

Amendment No. 6 exercised the first extension option in the amount of \$3,702,268 for the period of October 1, 2018, to September 30, 2019.

Amendment No. 5 added \$90,299 to the 37-month base term ending September 30, 2018 due to a 2.5% annual cost of living increase for social services agreements approved by Council during the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget adoption process.

Amendment No. 4 was a no-cost amendment to adjust subgrantees for the 12-month period ending September 30, 2018.

Amendment No. 3 added \$162,416 to the 37-month base agreement due to a 2.3% annual cost of living increase for social services agreements approved by Council during the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget adoption process.

Amendment No. 2 included additional one-time funding of \$65,000 for flood disaster financial assistance activities.

Amendment No. 1 added \$599,562 to the 37-month base agreement due to a 6% annual cost of living increase for social services agreements approved by Council during the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget adoption process.

The social services agreement with Caritas of Austin for the BSS+C program was originally awarded through the 2014 Austin Public Health Self-Sufficiency Request for Applications with services beginning on September 1, 2015, for an initial 37-month term ending on September 30, 2018, in the amount of \$9,992,721, with three 12-month extension options in the amount of \$3,330,907 per extension option.

Caritas of Austin administers the BSS+C program, consisting of 12 partner agencies providing homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing services. The BSS+C program provides individuals and families in Austin/Travis County with comprehensive housing stability resources inclusive of case management and basic needs services. This program ensures that clients have access to basic necessities, starting with housing and extending to food, clothing, access to physical/mental health care, and other supportive services.