



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1603, **Agenda Item #:** 21.

3/12/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 6 to the agreement with Catholic Charities of Central Texas to provide housing stability services to households at risk of homelessness, adding one-time funding in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 and one additional 12-month extension for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$4,920,804.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$250,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget.

Prior Council Action:

March 31, 2016 - Council approved an Agreement with Catholic Charities of Central Texas to provide housing stability services to households at risk of homelessness for a 12-month term beginning on April 1, 2016 with four 12-month renewal options in an amount not to exceed \$3,700,000 on a 9-1 vote, with Council Member Zimmerman voting no and Mayor Adler absent.

For More Information:

Stephanie Hayden, Director, 512-972-5010; Adrienne Sturup, Assistant Director, Health Equity and Community Engagement Division, 972-5167; Akeshia Johnson-Smothers, Acting Social Services Policy Manager, 512-972-5064; Lucy Thompson, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5045.

Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute Amendment 6 with Catholic Charities for the Financial Stability Program agreement (Agreement) to add an additional \$250,000 to the agreement for a two-year period and adding one extension to the agreement.

In the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget-adoption process, Council approved funding for the Housing Trust Fund for the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD), a portion of which is being used for eviction prevention and displacement mitigation assistance. Austin Public Health (APH) manages Neighborhood Centers that administer homelessness prevention with Catholic Charities. This funding will be added to the existing Agreement to add financial assistance available to each eligible client for housing related costs to prevent clients from becoming homeless due to evictions or displacement. A portion of the funding will also be used to assist with the personnel costs related to managing the added funds.

This Agreement supports NHCD's efforts relating to activities to mitigate displacement of vulnerable community members in neighborhoods at different stages of gentrification. The displacement mitigation contracts are aligned with Austin City Councils Strategic Direction 2023

<<https://austinstrategicplan.bloomfire.com/posts/3301043-austin-strategic-direction-2023-final>> addressing

economic opportunity and affordability.

This Agreement will implement NHCD's Displacement Mitigation Strategy

<[https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.austintexas.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Ffiles%2FHousing%](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.austintexas.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Ffiles%2FHousing%2FDisplacement_Mitigation_Strategy_Blueprint_Chapter__002_.pdf&data=02%7C01%7CAIba.Donajhi%40austintexas.gov%7C682d145112aa4a931d7c08d714f18141%7C5c5e19f6a6ab4b45b1d0be4608a9a67f%7C0%7C0%7C637000899794742495&sdata=6mhTafbsiJRIFC8iFX8m%2FdNfPp61jJwGzo%2BGnXHI31M%3D&reserved=0)

[2FDisplacement_Mitigation_Strategy_Blueprint_Chapter__002_.pdf&data=02%7C01%7CAIba.Donajhi%40austintexas.gov%7C682d145112aa4a931d7c08d714f18141%7C5c5e19f6a6ab4b45b1d0be4608a9a67f%7C0%7C0%7C637000899794742495&sdata=6mhTafbsiJRIFC8iFX8m%2FdNfPp61jJwGzo%2BGnXHI31M%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.austintexas.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Ffiles%2FHousing%2FDisplacement_Mitigation_Strategy_Blueprint_Chapter__002_.pdf&data=02%7C01%7CAIba.Donajhi%40austintexas.gov%7C682d145112aa4a931d7c08d714f18141%7C5c5e19f6a6ab4b45b1d0be4608a9a67f%7C0%7C0%7C637000899794742495&sdata=6mhTafbsiJRIFC8iFX8m%2FdNfPp61jJwGzo%2BGnXHI31M%3D&reserved=0)> (Strategy), which incorporates recommendations from the City's Anti-Displacement Task Force Final Recommendations for Action, 2018 <[https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.austintexas.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Ffiles%2FHousing%2FAnti-](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.austintexas.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Ffiles%2FHousing%2FAnti-Displacement_Task_Force_Final_Recommendations_and_Report.pdf&data=02%7C01%7CAIba.Donajhi%40austintexas.gov%7C682d145112aa4a931d7c08d714f18141%7C5c5e19f6a6ab4b45b1d0be4608a9a67f%7C0%7C0%7C637000899794742495&sdata=QJuMIVDtUkMhrxRUkAhtQNkunpmDDjEvwEW3TztIR5E%3D&reserved=0)

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>, which recommends strategies to minimize displacement. The Strategy is also responsive to the directive to create an implementation plan for the Strategic Housing Blueprint, as called for in City Council Resolution Numbers 20170413-024 <[https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.austintexas.gov%2Fedims%2Fdocument.cfm%3Fid%3D275681&data=02%7C01%7CAIba.Donajhi%40austintexas.gov%7C682d145112aa4a931d7c08d714f18141%7C5c5e19f6a6ab4b45b1d0be4608a9a67f%7C0%7C0%7C637000899794762486&sdata=QCAjIJNU8qOQVga%2BqPr7RtQiaMVD7drJ6ef0EyYt8EQ%3D&reserved=0)

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[2FmZsAEXoDlx5fmZM6i0pvbZSoaFP0Q%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.austintexas.gov%2Fedims%2Fdocument.cfm%3Fid%3D275682&data=02%7C01%7CAIba.Donajhi%40austintexas.gov%7C682d145112aa4a931d7c08d714f18141%7C5c5e19f6a6ab4b45b1d0be4608a9a67f%7C0%7C0%7C637000899794762486&sdata=qG%2FaE3Y9IHK6r%2FmZsAEXoDlx5fmZM6i0pvbZSoaFP0Q%3D&reserved=0)>.

Amendment 5 added \$60,000 to the agreement in one-time funding.

Amendment 4 added \$10,000 to the agreement in one-time funding.

Amendment 3 exercised the third extension option in the amount of \$775, 946 for the period of April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

Amendment 2 exercised the second extension option in the amount of \$775, 946 for the period of April 1, 2018

to March 31, 2019 and added funds to the agreement.

Amendment 1 exercised the first extension option in the amount of \$757,020 for the contract term April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

The base contract is with Catholic Charities to work with the Neighborhood Centers to provide housing stability services to households at risk of homelessness in an amount not to exceed \$740,000 for the period of April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 with four extension options.

With the cost of living in Austin and Travis County steadily increasing, many individuals and families struggle to maintain their housing and utilities. Additionally, over 50% of households in Austin are rentals. To address this, Council approved funding in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget to implement a housing retention program

(Program) for low-income renters in Austin/Travis County who are at risk of homelessness. The intent of the Program is to promote economic self-sufficiency through the provision of temporary financial assistance, case management, and other wrap-around services. The Program is designed to serve low-income families and individuals with income less than 200% of the Federal Poverty level and to provide assistance in achieving and maintaining self-reliance following the end of this temporary assistance.

On December 14, 2015, APH (previously known as the Health and Human Services Department) issued a competitive solicitation with a deadline of February 1, 2016 with the hope of establishing an agreement with a community-based organization capable of managing a Rental Assistance Program with the following components: 1) offer case management, direct financial assistance, and other wrap-around services that will assist households at-risk of homelessness to maintain housing, and 2) operate as a fiscal agent to distribute direct financial assistance on behalf of case-managed clients of the Neighborhood Centers. Two applications were received and APH presented the funding recommendation to the Health and Human Services Committee on March 9, 2016.

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.