



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-2370, **Agenda Item #:** 103.

6/11/2020

Posting Language

Authorize ratification of a contract with Better Business Bureau to administer the Commercial Loans for Economic Assistance and Recovery (CLEAR) and Austin Nonprofit and Civic Health Organization Relief (ANCHOR) Fund grant program to disburse emergency funds to small businesses and non-profits in need of relief as a result of COVID-19 pandemic in amount not to exceed \$1,144,000 with an option to amend and extend the term and administrative fee should additional grant funds become available to administer.

Lead Department

Economic Development.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

May 7, 2020 - Approved Resolution 20200507-023 directing the City Manager to develop an initial program directed towards sustaining small and local non-profit organizations and businesses using a portion of federal dollars designated for pandemic-related relief, and partner in the creation of a regional Economic Response Dashboard.

June 4, 2020 - Approved Resolution 20200604-40 adopting the COVID-19 proposed spending framework for the use of all available federal and local funding that leverages and maximizes the benefit of federal COVID-19 relief funding and local funding.

June 4, 2020 - Approved a Resolution [20200604-049 <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=341189>](https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=341189) authorizing the City Manager to review the process for providing direct financial relief to underserved communities based on the RISE Fund framework and to adjust that process to streamline the intake and management of the funding for the benefit of the individuals being served; and directing the City Manager to return with a budget amendment if necessary to add funding to the RISE Fund.

For More Information:

Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Interim Director, Economic Development Department, 512-974-3131.

Additional Backup Information:

In response to financial hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Austin City Council established the Austin Nonprofit and Civic Health Organization Relief (ANCHOR) Fund and the Commercial Loans for Economic Assistance and Recovery (CLEAR) Fund to help local nonprofit organizations and small businesses. Following the City Council's direction, the City of Austin Economic Development Department (EDD) sought a third-party non-profit to administer these relief programs. EDD evaluated third parties based on their experience providing direct program delivery and administration assistance, including managing Local, State, Federal or private funding to assist in grant administration.

EDD selected the Better Business Bureau ("the Contractor") to administer these programs. The Contractor is

expected to meet with EDD project management representatives regularly as identified in the scope of work and deliverables. The Contractor will provide administrative oversight, facilitation, and holistic program delivery to in issuing recovery grants to eligible grant applicants of programs.

Through this agreement, the Contract, will provide direct financial assistance to small businesses and non-profit organizations located in the City of Austin that have been impacted by COVID-19 and who are eligible to receive funding through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.