



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-2755, **Agenda Item #:** 15.

8/27/2020

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Downtown Austin Community Court Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20190910-001) authorizing 6.0 full-time equivalent grant funded positions from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Emergency Solutions Grant to serve homeless individuals impacted by COVID-19 at City-operated protective lodges.

Lead Department

Community Court

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$4,826,617 is available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Emergency Solutions Grant. A City funding match is not required. A fiscal note is attached.

Prior Council Action:

July 29, 2020 - City Council approved Ordinance No. 20200729-052 to accept and appropriate grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Emergency Solutions Grant to serve homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness who have been economically impacted by COVID-19, on a 10-0 vote with Mayor Adler off the dais.

April 23, 2020 - Council approved Ordinance 04232020-070 to accept and appropriate grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Emergency Solutions Grant to serve homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness who have been economically impacted by COVID-19, on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

Peter Valdez, Court Administrator, Community Court, (512) 974-4873; Robert Kingham, Operations Manager, Community Court, (512) 974-1394

Additional Backup Information:

This action will authorize the addition of 5.0 grant-funded positions to serve as Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) Clinical Case Managers and the addition of 1.0 grant-funded position to serve as a DACC Clinical Case Manager Supervisor. These case management positions and supervisor position will help fulfill the grant requirement to serve homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness who have been economically impacted by COVID-19. DACC brings forward this request to ensure retention for grant-funded employees by providing minimal benefits, healthcare, and retirement. Creating these positions as regular grant funded Full Time Equivalents (FTE's) should allow the City to recruit and retain qualified staff for the duration of this two year grant period.

The City is currently providing temporary shelter at five Protective Lodges (ProLodges) for people experiencing homelessness who are at high risk of severe complications if they become COVID-19 positive; for persons in

congregate shelters who may have been exposed, but exposure has not been confirmed; and for individuals experiencing homelessness who have recovered and are being discharged from Isolation Facilities. The 6.0 FTE's will be dedicated solely and specifically to providing client-centered and housing-focused case management services for individuals currently sheltered at ProLodges. These case management services will assist individuals in securing permanent housing solutions and long-term stability. Without the case management services that would be provided through the proposed grant-funded FTE's, these individuals are at risk of returning to unsheltered homelessness when the ProLodges are no longer in operation as part of the City's public health response to COVID-19.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant or to the funding of this position. When the grant funds expire, DACC's need for these positions will be evaluated and the positions may be eliminated.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.