



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-3009, **Agenda Item #:** 42.

9/3/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Northwest Austin Universal Health Clinic to provide direct mental health services to the Asian Pacific Islander community in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the 13-month term through September 30, 2021 with two 12-month extension options not to exceed \$100,000 per extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$300,000.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$100,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Austin Public Health Department's Operating Budget. Funding for extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Prior Council Action:

September 11, 2019 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20190911-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget, which included \$100,000 in funding for mental health services for the Asian-Pacific Islander community, on a 10-1 vote with Council Member Flannigan voting no

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute an agreement with Northwest Austin Universal Health Clinic to provide direct mental health services to the Asian-Pacific Islander community in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the 13-month term through September 30, 2021 with two 12-month extension options not to exceed \$100,000 per extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$300,000.

This contract is awarded from the competition for funding Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) 004 Asian Pacific Islander Mental Health Services. There were two applicants and two awarded agencies: Northwest Austin Universal Health Clinic for \$100,000 and Young Women's Christian Association (also known as YWCA) for \$50,000.

On April 20, 2020 Austin Public Health published the RFGA from qualified social service providers (also known as the Applicants) with demonstrated experience providing services to individuals who identify as Asian and/or Pacific Islander (API) and their community (also known as the API population). Interventions must be designed with the priority population's needs at the outset, with the goal to increase access to mental health resources for the API community.

The Asian American Quality of Life Commission requested funding in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget process to support mental health access for Asian American and Pacific Islanders. On May 21st, 2019, the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission described the issues facing the API community and existing data:

“High levels of mental distress and serious mental illness is prevalent in Austin’s API community. However, API persons experiencing these conditions are less likely to seek treatment due to social stigma, lack of awareness and language barriers.”

“Data from the City’s Asian American Quality of Life Initiative (Quantitative Study) showed higher levels of mental distress and serious mental illness across all of Austin’s largest Asian American ethnic groups when compared to the general U.S. population. In addition, these groups also exhibited low utilization levels of psychiatrists, psychologists, and other mental health professionals (counselors, marriage therapists, social workers).”

On September 10, 2019, City Council passed the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget, which included a budget item for Austin Public Health for the provision of mental health services to expand access to affirming mental health therapy for the API community.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.