



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-3385, **Agenda Item #:** 9.

10/29/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a 12-month service agreement with Workforce Solutions Capital Area for the development and administration of the Make It Now: Rapid Retraining Initiative for an Equitable Recovery Program in an amount not to exceed \$1,370,000.

Lead Department

Economic Development Department.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

For More Information:

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

Additional Backup Information:

The purpose of the Make It Now: Rapid Retraining Initiative for an Equitable Recovery Program ("Make It Now") is to up-skill and support low-income Austinites experiencing unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This agreement will establish a partnership between the City of Austin ("City") and Workforce Solutions of the Capital Area ("WFS") that requires WFS to partner with Austin Community College ("ACC") to accomplish the program.

Make It Now provides the following services to individuals in the City who either lost their jobs due to COVID-19, or earn less than 200% of Federal Poverty Income Guidelines published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

1. Proactive outreach to tens of thousands of unemployed and recent high school graduates;
2. Restructured ACC training programs lasting between three weeks and six months that prepare individuals to obtain certifications and jobs that pay at least \$45,000 per year;
3. Pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and work-based learning;
4. Free or dramatically subsidized tuition and fees;
5. Payment of stipends to augment unemployment payments;
6. Payment of small cash incentives for meeting key milestones;
7. Transportation;
8. Childcare;
9. Digital inclusion; and
10. Job placement services and support.

Staff acknowledge that the funds provided through this proposed agreement will not be sufficient to implement a meaningful program that provides all of the 10 components to a significant number of individuals. WFS is obligated to partner with ACC to implement Component 2, and to report activities regarding each of the 10 Make It Now components.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.