



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-3532, **Agenda Item #:** 70.

11/12/2020

Posting Language

Ratify Amendment No. 2 to the agreement with Family Independence Initiative to administer an online portal to distribute direct financial assistance to Austin/Travis County residents impacted by COVID-19 to increase funding in an amount not to exceed \$2,177,034 and extend the term by three months to end on January 15, 2021, for a revised total agreement amount not to exceed \$12,288,478.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$177,034 is included in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 General Fund Emergency Reserve Fund for Relief in a State of Emergency Fund to support COVID-19 emergency relief.

Funding in the amount of \$2,000,000 is included in the COVID-19 Spending Framework (Resolution No. 20200604-040) as part of the Economic Support for Financial and Other Direct Support.

Prior Council Action:

August 27, 2020 - Council authorized negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 1 to the agreement with Family Independence Initiative to administer an online portal to distribute direct financial assistance to Austin/Travis County residents impacted by COVID-19 to increase funding in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 and extend the term by two months to end on October 31, 2020 for a revised total contract amount not to exceed \$10,500,000, on an 11-0 vote.

July 29, 2020 - Council authorized ratification of an agreement with Family Independence Initiative to provide direct financial assistance to Austin/Travis County residents impacted by COVID-19 in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the term July 15, 2020 through August 31, 2020, on a 10-0 vote with Mayor Adler off the dais.

June 4, 2020 - Council approved Resolution No. 20200604-040 adopting the COVID-19 proposed spending framework for the use of all available federal and local funding that maximizes the benefit of federal COVID- 19 relief funding and local funding, on an 11-0 vote.

April 9, 2020 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20200409-87 amending the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 General Fund Emergency Reserve Fund (Ordinance 20190910-001) to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$15,000,000 for the Relief in a State of Emergency (RISE) Fund to support COVID-19 emergency relief, on an 11-0 vote. On the same day, City Council approved Resolution No. 20200409-081, which authorized the City Manager to negotiate and execute new emergency contracts funded from the RISE Fund to offer immediate support services and direct financial assistance to residents impacted by the COVID- 19 pandemic and economic crisis, on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

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Coordinator, 512-972- 5045.

Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to ratify Amendment No. 2 to the agreement with Family Independence Initiative (FII) to administer an online portal to distribute direct financial assistance to Austin/Travis County residents impacted by COVID-19 to increase funding in an amount not to exceed \$2,177,034 and extend the term by three months to end on January 15, 2020, for a revised total agreement amount not to exceed \$12,288,478.

Amendment No. 1 added \$9,611,444 to the agreement with FII and extended the term to October 31, 2020 to administer an online portal to distribute direct financial assistance to Austin/Travis County residents impacted by COVID-19. This funding was awarded to FII as a result of the competition for funding #006 COVID-19 RISE 2.0.

The purpose of the competition was to fund qualified social service providers with demonstrated experience to administer a secure online portal with a centralized process for receiving applications and distributing direct financial assistance in the form of ACH transfers and pre-paid debit and credit cards to individuals impacted by COVID-19. There were two applicants for the online portal and FII received the highest score.

The original agreement with FII was developed to provide direct financial assistance to Austin/Travis County residents impacted by COVID-19 in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the term July 15, 2020 through August 31, 2020, with no renewals.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.