



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1513, **Agenda Item #:** 54.

3/25/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of agreements to provide substance misuse services to low-income individuals in Austin and Travis County with the following three social service agencies: Central Texas Community Health Centers, dba CommUnity Care, for a 12-month term ending March 31, 2022 and three 12-month extension options each in an amount not to exceed \$203,111, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$812,444; Texas Harm Reduction Alliance in an amount not to exceed \$684,085 for ongoing services and \$350,000 in one-time funding for a mobile unit vehicle, for a total amount not exceed \$1,034,085 for a 12-month term ending March 31, 2022, and three 12-month extension options each in an amount not to exceed \$684,085, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$3,086,340; Austin Recovery, Inc. for a 12-month term ending March 31, 2022 and three 12-month extension options, each in an amount not to exceed \$229,924, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$919,696.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$1,467,120 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

For More Information:

Stephanie Hayden-Howard, Director, 512-972-5010; Akeshia Johnson Smothers, Interim Social Services Policy Manager, 512-972-5567; Lucy Thompson, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5045.

Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute agreements with three social service agencies to provide substance misuse services to low-income individuals in Austin.

These contracts result from a competitive solicitation released on December 18, 2020, titled "Request for Applications #001 Substance Misuse Services 2021 NPS." The competition sought qualified social service providers with demonstrated experience providing services to individuals who engage in substance misuse. Interventions will be aligned with harm reduction principles at the outset to increase access to substance misuse treatment and harm reduction strategies. Five agencies submitted applications, and Austin Public Health recommends awards to Central Texas Community Health Centers, dba CommUnity Care (CommUnity Care), Texas Harm Reduction Alliance (THR), and Austin Recovery Inc., as follows:

CommUnity Care

Award Amount: \$203,111

Services: Expand and improve the current CommUnity Care street medicine team with the addition of a social worker, community health worker, and medical assistant. CommUnity Care staff will be dedicated to clients who misuse substances and want to change. The team will support individuals experiencing homelessness in developing a personal health plan and provide services to support progress and goal attainment.

THR

\$684,085 for ongoing services and \$350,000 for a mobile unit vehicle.

Services: Expand the peer-led substance misuse services; expand the drop-in clinic to evening and weekend hours; improve access to substance misuse services through the creation of a new mobile outreach clinic; and expand substance misuse treatment and services through recovery coaching, housing support, linkage to treatment, and other health and social services. Additionally, THR will subcontract with Communities for Recovery to expand substance misuse treatment and services through long-term recovery coaching.

Austin Recovery, Inc.

\$229,924

Services: Expand access to substance use disorder treatment at the Austin Recovery Network's Family House program. This residential treatment program serves pregnant and parenting women experiencing substance use disorders who do not have insurance. The specialized form of treatment allows women to bring a child into treatment for 90-days by providing on-site daycare and case management services. The curriculum includes counselor-led therapy groups, psycho-educational groups, one-on-one counseling, and 12-Step education. In addition, the program covers research-based educational topics to include reproductive health, smoking cessation, HIV awareness, parenting, and nutrition.

As part of the City's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget, Council Member Casar put forth budget amendment number 6, which provided one-time funding in the amount of \$350,000 and ongoing funding in the amount of \$650,000, to fund the Substance Use Continuum of Care and specifically stated, "This budget proposal would expand harm reduction services through expanding/supporting drop-in centers and mobile outreach clinics for individuals in need of substance use treatment and care. Funding can support evening hours at drop-in center(s), substance use treatment for more individuals, and staffing and supplies for more mobile outreach clinics."

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.