



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 21-2615, **Agenda Item #:** 19.

9/2/2021

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 2 to an agreement with Young Women's Christian Association to provide mental health services for the Asian and Pacific Islander and LatinX communities, to add funding to the 12-month term of October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022 and one 12-month extension option each in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, for a revised total agreement amount not to exceed \$300,000.

### **Lead Department**

Austin Public Health.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding is available in the Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget in the amount of \$50,000 for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and \$50,000 in Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Funding for the remaining terms is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

### **For More Information:**

Adrienne Sturup, Interim Director, 512-972-5167; Laura LaFuente, Interim Assistant Director, Health Equity and Community Engagement Division, 512-972-5077; Akeshia Johnson Smothers, Community Based Resources Unit Manager, 512-972-5567; Ruth Dalrymple, Acting Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5024.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 2 to an agreement with Young Women's Christian Association to provide direct mental health services to the Asian-Pacific Islander and LatinX communities for a 12-month term through September 30, 2022 and one 12-month extension option each in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$300,000.

Amendment No 1. Added \$50,000 in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 one-time funds to the agreement to expand direct mental health services to the LatinX community and modify the program exhibits.

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 of increasing 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, 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):**

Health and Environment.