



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-2006, **Agenda Item #:** 38.

6/16/2022

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of agreements with two social service agencies to provide emergency food access services for a 20-month term beginning July 1, 2022, as follows: El Buen Samaritano for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$408,859; and Farmshare Austin for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$341,141.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$750,000 is available from the U.S. Department of Treasury, American Rescue Plan Act.

Prior Council Action:

March 25, 2021 - Council approved Resolution No. 20210325-111 initiating the development of a spending framework for COVID-19 relief, which included food insecurity as a funding priority, on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

This action will authorize negotiation and execution of agreements with two social services agencies to provide general food access programs that respond to the economic and public health impacts of COVID-19 related to household food insecurity and food system disruption.

These agreements were awarded as part of a solicitation process. Austin Public Health Department's (APH) request for proposals 2022-002 American Rescue Plan Act Food Access was released on February 10, 2022 and applications were due March 23, 2022. An optional pre-bid meeting took place on February 17, 2022. Over 650 vendors were solicited and APH received nine proposals.

The application evaluation process used set criteria to uniformly review all applicants evaluated by a separate and independent panel. A review panel comprised of individuals with education and expertise in the issue-area rated each application. Evaluators agreed upon strengths and weaknesses of each application, and each received a resultant score based on this process. The criteria for evaluation included fiscal and administrative capacity, experience and cultural competence/racial equity; program design and performance metrics; data-informed program management; and cost effectiveness.

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law, establishing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program. The American Rescue Plan Act funds are intended to support ongoing recovery efforts in Austin and Travis County and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency

by meeting urgent community needs. The American Rescue Plan Act award funds will be used for activities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including impacts related to food access and the local food system. On March 25, 2021, City Council approved Resolution No. 20210325-111 initiating the development of a spending framework for COVID-19 relief, which included food insecurity as a funding priority.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.