



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-2593, Agenda Item #: 72.

9/1/2022

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of eight agreements with six social service agencies to provide rapid re-housing and Housing-Focused Homeless Encampment Assistance Link services for an initial 12-month term beginning October 1, 2022, in a combined amount not to exceed \$18,550,713 with one 12-month extension option in a combined amount not to exceed \$18,550,713 for a total combined amount not to exceed \$37,101,426 divided among the agencies.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$37,101,426 is available from the U.S. Department of Treasury, American Rescue Plan Act. Funding for the remaining terms is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

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 homelessness as a funding priority, on an 11-0 vote.

February 4, 2021 - Council approved Resolution No. 20210204-049 directing the City Manager to develop and implement the HEAL initiative to connect individuals experiencing homelessness to housing and services in identified areas, as amended, on an 8-3 vote.

For More Information:

Adrienne Sturup, Director, 512-972-5167; Laura LaFuenta, Assistant Director, 512-972-5077; Akeshia Johnson Smothers, Community-Based Resources Unit Manager, 512-972-5567; Estella Kirscht, Administrative Specialist, 512-972-4423.

Additional Backup Information:

Approval of the negotiation and execution of contracts with these six social service agencies will authorize the Austin Public Health Department to negotiate and execute eight agreements with social service agencies to provide rapid re-housing and Housing-Focused Homeless Encampment Assistance Link services to individuals experiencing housing instability.

These agreements were awarded through the Request for Proposals (RFP) 2022-001 Homeless Housing Stabilization Services, which was informed by the Homeless Strategy Division and released January 31, 2022. Two optional pre-bid meetings were conducted, including one on February 1, 2022 and another on February 4, 2022, with applications due March 9, 2022. Over 650 vendors were solicited, resulting in the submission of nine unique proposals. Of the nine proposals submitted, six unique proposals were awarded to provide rapid re-housing, with two in conjunction with Housing-Focused Homeless Encampment Assistance Link services and one unique proposal was awarded to solely provide Housing-Focused Homeless Encampment Assistance Link services.

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 the following: 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 those impacts related to food access and the local food system.

The Austin Public Health Department awarded six proposals with initial base terms of 12 months, each with one 12-month extension option.

Applications Funded in Response to RFP 2022-001 Homeless Housing Stabilization Services

Agency	Services	Initial Base Term Funding Amount	One 12-Month Extension Option Funding Amount	Total Contract, not to exceed, Funding Amount
Family Eldercare	Rapid Re-Housing	\$559,962	\$559,962	\$1,119,924
Youth & Family Alliance Dba Lifeworks	Rapid Re-Housing	\$1,269,548	\$1,269,548	\$2,539,096
Caritas	Rapid Re-Housing	\$7,060,749	\$7,060,749	\$14,121,498
Family Endeavors	Rapid Re-Housing	\$5,757,477	\$5,757,477	\$11,514,954
Foundation for the Homeless	Rapid Re-Housing	\$1,015,531	\$1,015,531	\$2,031,062
Rapid Re-Housing Total		\$15,663,267	\$15,663,267	\$31,326,534
Family Eldercare	Housing-Focused Homeless Encampment Assistance Link	\$1,439,901	\$1,439,901	\$2,879,802
Family Endeavors	Housing-Focused Homeless Encampment Assistance Link	\$1,016,025	\$1,016,025	\$2,032,050

Austin Area Urban League	Housing-Focused Homeless Encampment Assistance Link	\$431,520	\$431,520	\$863,040
Housing-Focused Homeless Encampment Assistance Link Total		\$2,887,446	\$2,887,446	\$5,774,892
Rapid Re-Housing & Housing-Focused Homeless Encampment Assistance Link Total		\$18,550,713	\$18,550,713	\$37,101,426

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.