



**RCA  
CITY OF AUSTIN  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 8  
AGENDA DATE: Thu 12/15/2005  
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**SUBJECT:** Approve execution of a 12-month contract with CARITAS OF AUSTIN, Austin, TX for the Best Single Source Program, a new delivery system for basic needs assistance, at a total cost of \$300,429 with five 12-month renewal options in a total amount not to exceed \$300,429 per renewal option, for a combined total cost to the City not to exceed \$1,802,574.

**AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING:** Funding in the amount of \$225,322 is included in the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Approved Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department. Funding for the balance of the contracts is contingent on available funding in future budgets.

**FISCAL NOTE:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**REQUESTING** Health and Human  
**DEPARTMENT:** Services

**DIRECTOR'S  
AUTHORIZATION:** David Lurie

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director, Human Services, 972-5013; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:** Approved 2005-2006 Operating Budget, September 12, 2005. Approved Social Service Contracts November 14, 2004.

**BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION:** N/A

**PURCHASING:** N/A

**MBE / WBE:** N/A

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**Background**

The Basic Needs Coalition, a Community Action Network sponsored planning group, has developed and implemented a new delivery system for basic needs assistance--the Best Single Source project. This new, collaborative system represents a breakthrough approach that simplifies access to services for clients experiencing emergencies and in immediate danger of losing their housing; centralizes project administration; and links agencies electronically through a shared client data management system. Through Best Single Source, clients are provided up to \$1,200 of direct financial assistance and receive three months of case management services through existing agency resources. Caritas of Austin was chosen as the fiscal/administrative agent for Best Single Source and seven agencies have been participating in the pilot project.

In Fiscal Year 2004 – 2005, the four agencies that had Supplemental Basic Needs funds requested and received approval to allocate a portion of their Supplemental Basic Needs funding to establish the Best Single Source pilot project. Any Baby Can contributed 50% of their Supplemental Basic Needs contract amount (\$18,968.) Caritas of Austin contributed 50% of their Supplemental Basic Needs contract amount (\$146,998.) Meals on Wheels and More contributed 50% of their Supplemental Basic Needs contract amount (\$54,532.) Aids Services of Austin contributed 100% of their Supplemental Basic Needs contract amount (\$33,194.) In calendar year 2005, a Best Single Source contract in the amount of \$253,692 was



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executed with Caritas of Austin as the fiscal/administrative agent for the project.

Best Single Source has demonstrated the success of their approach by exceeding their primary outcome goal during their first year of operation: the percentage of Best Single Source clients who completed three months of case management and maintained equal or better housing/household stability. They had projected an 85% success rate and through September 2005, they have achieved a 99% success rate.

**Recommendations**

In the Fiscal Year 2005 – 2006 budget, the City of Austin allocated \$300,429 for the Best Single Source contract. Travis County will be approving \$250,000, including five (5) renewal options in the contract, consistent with the number of other Safety Net contract renewal options. This RCA would add five (5) renewal options to the City contract, making it consistent with Travis County and the other Safety Net contracts.

Safety Net contracts provide services that stabilize or provide acute treatment/intervention services to meet urgent health, safety, and subsistence needs of individuals who have the fewest resources or are least able to secure services or to persons who are victims of violence, abuse, or neglect.

The term for this contract will begin on January 1, 2006 and end on December 31, 2006 with five (5) 12-month renewal options.

**Performance Measures**

These services support the Health and Human Services Department's goal of promoting and fostering increased self-sufficiency, healthy behaviors and lifestyle among targeted populations.

**Outputs**

- Number of unduplicated clients provided basic needs services 272
- Number of unduplicated clients completing case management for three months 219

**Outcomes**

- Percent of unduplicated clients who received case management for three months and achieved equal or better housing/household stability 90%

**REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

Council is requested to approve execution of a 12-month contract between the City of Austin and CARITAS OF AUSTIN, Austin, TX for the Best Single Source project at a total cost of \$300,429 with five (5) 12-month renewal options in a total amount not to exceed \$300,429 per renewal option, for a combined total cost to the City not to exceed \$1,802,574.



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