

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 09/15/20

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 20-0640

LOG NAME: 02SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR COVID-VULNERABLE PSH CLIENTS

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Execution of Agreements in an Amount Up to \$350,000.00 with Presbyterian Night Shelter of Tarrant County, Inc.; My Health, My Resources (MHMR) of Tarrant County; and Tarrant County Hospital District dba JPS Health Network to Provide Supportive Services for COVID-Vulnerable Permanent Supportive Housing Residents and Authorize Three Renewal Options in a Combined Amount Up to \$1,050,000.00

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute agreements with agencies listed below in a combined amount up to \$350,000.00 for a term commencing October 1, 2020 and terminating September 30, 2021 for the provision of supportive services;
2. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to renew the agreements for Fiscal Years 2022, 2023 and 2024 with the agencies listed below in a combined amount up to \$1,050,000.00 for the provision of supportive services dependent on funds being appropriated for Directions Home initiatives; and
3. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to amend the agreements if necessary to achieve program goals provided that the amendment is within the scope of the program and in compliance with City policies and applicable laws and regulations.

DISCUSSION:

On June 17, 2008, the City adopted Directions Home, the City's plan to make homelessness rare, short-term and nonrecurring (Resolution No. 3628-06-2008).

One of the goals of Directions Home is the expansion of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). PSH is a type of housing suitable for disabled households experiencing more than one year of homelessness. PSH clients require ongoing case management and assistance to remain housed. While there has been significant homeless system funding provided to the City and the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition through U.S. Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) due to COVID-19, this funding does not address the need for PSH.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has noted that congregate living situations, such as homeless shelters, pose a greater risk of COVID-19 spreading and have issued recommendations that emergency homeless shelters reduce density/decompress to allow for safe distancing of homeless clients.

The CDC additionally recommends "protective housing for people who are at highest risk of severe COVID-19." Per the CDC, two groups defined as particularly vulnerable to severe COVID-19 are those over 65 years old and those with specific underlying health conditions, especially chronic lung disease or moderate/severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised, severe obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and liver disease.

In view of the CDC recommendations and the lack of ESG funding for PSH, the City Council voted (M&C 20-0518) to use \$9,300,000.00 of funding provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Title V (Coronavirus Relief Funds or Title V funds) to acquire and convert existing motels, hotels, extended stays, apartment complexes, or similar permanent structures to serve as and provide approximately 100 new units of PSH. The new PSH units will provide protective housing for high risk COVID-19 vulnerable and disabled households experiencing chronic homelessness.

Currently, 119 units of permanent supportive housing for COVID-vulnerable households are being developed with Coronavirus Relief Funds.

On July 1, 2020, the City issued Request for Proposals 20-0190 (RFP) seeking proposers to: (1) quickly acquire and convert existing motels, hotels, extended stays, apartment complexes, or similar permanent structures to serve as approximately 200 units of PSH split across two or more locations; and (2) provide ongoing supportive services for such households for a period of at least twenty (20) years. The City will provide funding for the initial costs of acquisition via a one-time payment and subsequent payments for conversion/renovation from Title V funds, and anticipates assisting the selected proposers to secure ongoing operating subsidies from other sources.

After a competitive scoring process, Housing Authority of the City of Fort Worth, dba Fort Worth Housing Solutions (FWHS), and The Presbyterian Night Shelter of Tarrant County, Inc. (PNS) were recommended to be awarded a notice to proceed. These agencies have experience in permanent supportive housing.

FWHS put an option to purchase on a property which can create 119 units of PSH for COVID-vulnerable households. FWHS selected PNS, My Health, My Resources of Tarrant County (MHMR), and Tarrant County Hospital District d/b/a JPS Health Network (JPS) as service providers in order to meet the unique client needs. Directions Home will provide the funding for the three service providers in order to create the 119 units of COVID-vulnerable PSH.

PNS will provide three on-site case managers to work with clients to create service plans which can include goals for increasing income, education, employment, physical and mental health goals and housing stability plans. MHMR will provide one on-site mental health professional, a licensed chemical dependence counselor, to work with clients who need mental health services including one on one counseling and group sessions as well as activities to encourage socialization. JPS will provide one on-site medical navigator to best assist tenants in connecting to needed medical services.

This team approach will provide a robust support network for tenants.

City staff recommends awarding agreements to the listed agencies in the listed amounts:

Program	Description	Agency	Funding FY 21
Case Management for Permanent Supportive Housing Clients	Assisting clients in setting and fulfilling goals such as health, education, employment, housing stability for permanent supportive housing clients	Presbyterian Night Shelter of Tarrant County Inc.	Up to \$201,000.00
Mental Health Services for Permanent Supportive Housing Clients	Focus on housing stability by addressing addiction, mental health, social, coping skills and other adjustment difficulties for permanent supportive housing clients;	My Health, My Resources of Tarrant County (MHMR)	Up to \$79,000.00
Medical Services Navigation	Connect clients to appropriate medical services	Tarrant County Hospital District d/b/a JPS Health Network	Up to \$70,000.00

This M&C authorizes the City Manager or his designee to approve the renewal amounts up to the amounts listed above, including any decreases for the specified agencies necessary to bring the total renewal amounts in line with actual funding. Agencies impacted by a decrease in funding will be notified as soon as practicable.

Directions Home services and programs are available in ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget by the City Council, funds will be available in the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget, as appropriated, in the General Fund. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the City Manager's Office has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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