

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 06/25/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0553

LOG NAME: 19DIRECTIONS HOME AMENDMENTS AND RENEWALS

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Execution of Amendments to Contracts with WhenWeLove Decreasing Contract Amount by \$144,077.46 for a Total Contract Amount of \$55,922.54 for Cold Weather Shelter and with Tarrant County Homeless Coalition Increasing Contract Amount by \$144,077.46 for a Total Contract Amount of \$494,477.46 for the Direct Client Services Fund; Authorize a Renewal of Directions Home Contracts for Fiscal Year 2025; Find that Amendments and Contracts Serve a Public Purpose and that Adequate Controls are in Place

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute an amendment to agreement on City Secretary Contract 60388 with WhenWeLove decreasing contract amount by \$144,077.46 for a total contract amount of \$55,922.54 for cold weather shelter;
 2. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute an amendment to agreement on City Secretary Contract 54548 with Tarrant County Homeless Coalition increasing contract amount by \$144,077.46 for a total contract amount of \$494,477.46 for the Direct Client Services Fund;
 3. Authorize a Renewal of Directions Home Contracts for Fiscal Year 2025;
 4. 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;
 5. Find that such amendments serve a public purpose and that adequate controls are in place.
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DISCUSSION:

The City funded cold weather overflow shelter from October 15, 2023 to March 31, 2024 so that on nights when certain cold weather triggers were met and regular emergency shelter beds were full, an overflow site could be utilized by those experiencing homelessness. WhenWeLove had the contract to provide overflow shelter staffing. This season there were 34 standby nights triggered by temperatures and 11 nights of activation of cold weather overflow shelter. The shelter averaged 40 guests per night but had a maximum of 164 during the ice storm.

Due to a relatively mild winter, there are unexpended funds in the contract with WhenWeLove for cold weather shelter staffing.

However, there has been increasing demand on the Direct Client Services Fund (DCSF) at Tarrant County Homeless Coalition. DCSF covers a variety of expenses for those experiencing homelessness including: a bus ticket to reunite with family or friends, one-time rental assistance, critical documents, fees necessary to house someone that other programs don't cover, family overflow shelter and other fees necessary to house someone. In an effort to reduce heat-related fatalities, DCSF will also cover expenses at cooling stations in Fort Worth. Transferring funds between the cold weather shelter contract and DCSF for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 will provide needed funding for family overflow shelter and cooling stations as well as other eligible expenses.

Directions Home staff is closely monitoring spending in all programs and anticipates executing amendments for less than \$100,000.00 in FY 2024 to ensure the best use of funding to serve those experiencing homelessness.

A Professional Service 252 Exemption Form was submitted for Directions Home services and approved by the City Attorney's Office allowing the renewal of contracts in FY 2025.

Funding is budgeted in the Other Contractual Services account within the General Fund for the Neighborhood Services Department.

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

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the recommendations, funds are available in the current operating budget as previously appropriated, in the General Fund. Prior to an expenditure being made the Neighborhood Services Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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