

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 10/17/23

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 23-0862

LOG NAME: 19AMENDMENTS AND NEW HOMELESS SERVICES CONTRACT

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Execution of Amendments to Contracts with (i) the Presbyterian Night Shelter of Tarrant County, Inc., Increasing Contract Amount by \$498,373.00 for a Total Contract Amount of \$1,556,746.00, (ii) Day Resource Center for the Homeless, Increasing Contract Amount by \$225,000.00 for a Total Contract Amount of \$425,977.00, (iii) My Health, My Resources of Tarrant County, Increasing Contract Amount by \$225,000.00 for a Total Contract Amount of \$750,000.00, and (iv) Tarrant County Homeless Coalition, Increasing Contract Amount by \$116,332.00 for a Total Contract Amount of \$150,000.00, and Authorize Execution of Contract with When We Love for \$200,000.00 for the Continuation of Directions Home Initiatives; 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 with The Presbyterian Night Shelter of Tarrant County Inc., in the amount of \$498,373.00 for a total contract amount of \$1,556,746.00;
2. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute an amendment to agreement with Day Resource Center for the Homeless DBA DRC-Solutions, in the amount of \$225,000.00 for a total contract amount of \$425,977.00;
3. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute an amendment to agreement with My Health, My Resources of Tarrant County, in the amount of \$225,000.00 for a total contract amount of \$750,000.00;
4. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute an amendment to agreement with Tarrant County Homeless Coalition in the amount of \$116,332.00 for a total contract amount of \$150,000.00;
5. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute a contract with When We Love for \$200,000.00;
6. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to amend the agreements if necessary to achieve program goals provided the amendment is within the scope of the program and in compliance with City policies and applicable laws and regulations; and
7. Find that such amendments serve a public purpose and that adequate controls are in place.

DISCUSSION:

In its 2023 State of the Homeless Report, Tarrant County Homeless Coalition (TCHC) announced a 22% increase in overall homelessness and 27% increase in family homelessness compared to 2020. To respond to the increased needs of the homeless system, upon approval of the Fiscal Year 2024 Adopted Budget by Mayor and Council, three decision packages were authorized to expand programs serving those experiencing homelessness for rapid exit, permanent supportive housing, and cold weather sheltering.

In 2019, the City of Fort Worth (City) introduced a rapid exit program to the homeless system. Rapid exit provides brief rental assistance and case management to help quickly house households who do not need ongoing rental assistance or case management. The City contracted with Presbyterian Night Shelter of Tarrant County, Inc. (PNS) to provide rapid exit and diversion services. Diversion in the local homeless system means exiting someone back to housing within 14 days.

Even those households who are employed or have benefits rarely have \$3,000.00 or more saved to lease an apartment. This program allows people who are employed to quickly get off the street or out of the shelter by paying for fees associated with moving into an apartment, in addition to one to three months' rent. This reduces the person's time in homelessness and also frees up emergency shelter beds. Since 2019, PNS has moved 873 households including 597 children into housing through the rapid exit program. For households who exited the program, the rate of return to homelessness was 11% (the national goal is less than 15%). The amendment will bring the total contract amount to \$1,556,476.00.

The City has long been committed to permanent supportive housing. When TCHC received 368 Emergency Housing Vouchers from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, the City saw an opportunity to leverage this new resource to boost the supply of permanent supportive housing by offering case management to 175 households with these vouchers. The households served are a mix of chronically homeless households and disabled family households in order to be responsive to the family homelessness crisis.

The recommendation is to increase DRC-Solutions' permanent supportive housing case management contract in the amount of \$225,000.00 for a total contract amount of \$425,977.00 and to increase the My Health, My Resources of Tarrant County (MHMR) permanent supportive housing contract in the amount of \$225,000.00 for a total contract amount of \$750,000.00. This reflects an increase of \$450,000.00 for permanent supportive housing case management services.

The recommendation is to increase Tarrant County Homeless Coalition's navigation contract in order to continue to provide two outreach workers who work with the Police Department's Homeless Outreach Program and Enforcement (HOPE) Team to provide mobile navigation services which connect those experiencing unsheltered homelessness to services and provide housing assessments. These positions were previously funded by a community partner agency with federal funds related to COVID and have expired. In order to continue this service, the recommendation is to increase the contract in the amount of \$116,332.00 for a total contract amount of \$150,000.00.

To provide up to 200 beds for cold weather shelter overflow, the recommendation is to contract with When We Love to staff overflow shelter(s) at a designated site or sites when the weather reaches certain temperatures and when all regular shelter beds are full.

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 2024 Budget by the City Council, funds will be available in the Fiscal Year 2024 operating budget, as appropriated, in the General Fund. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Neighborhood Services Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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