

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 04/07/20

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 20-0141

LOG NAME: 02HOMELESS HOUSING AND SERVICES PROGRAM - YOUTH SUBGRANTEE

SUBJECT

Authorize Rejection of All Responses to Request for Proposals 20-0019 for Directions Home Youth Homelessness for the City Manager's Department and Authorize the Execution of Subgrant Agreement with Tarrant County Homeless Coalition for \$140,243.00 to Provide Rental Assistance to Homeless Youth 18 to 24 Years of Age (ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the rejection of all responses to Request for Proposals 20-0019 for Directions Home youth homelessness for the City Manager's Office; and
 2. Authorize the execution of subgrant agreement with Tarrant County Homeless Coalition for \$140,243.00 to provide rental assistance to homeless youth 18 to 24 years of age.
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DISCUSSION:

The State of Texas provides grant funding for the Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to nine municipalities with a population of 285,500 or greater, including the City of Fort Worth. The Texas Legislature passed an increase in funding for HHSP over the 2020-2021 biennium with additional funds to address homelessness among youth 18 to 24 years of age. The amount allocated to the City of Fort Worth is \$140,243.00. Eligible services include case management, emergency shelter, street outreach and transitional living (which includes rapid rehousing). The City Council approved acceptance of the grant funds on October 15, 2019 (M&C 19-0218).

After receiving input from homeless service providers regarding needs, City staff issued a request for proposals to provide rapid rehousing. A rapid rehousing program is one in which case management services and rental assistance are provided with the goal of moving clients from homelessness to housing and enabling them to live independently. Rental assistance would be provided for up to 12 months using a Housing First model. All youth would be pulled from the Coordinated Entry list overseen by the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition.

On November 20, 2019, the Purchasing Division issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Directions Home youth homelessness. The proposed program would provide rapid rehousing (case management and rental assistance) to homeless youth in the City of Fort Worth. Notice of the RFP was published in the [Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#) on November 20, 2019, November 27, 2019, December 4, 2019, December 11, 2019 and December 18, 2019. A pre-bid conference was held on November 26, 2019. The City received two (2) proposals. Neither proposer had experience with the rental assistance services requested through the RFP, which is a primary focus of the program. During evaluation, evaluators recommended that the City reject all proposals due to the lack of experience from the two proposers for the specific services requested.

Directions Home recommends executing a subgrant agreement with Tarrant County Homeless Coalition (TCHC) in order to ensure that the goals of this program are achieved. The grant funds are only available until August 31, 2020. TCHC will provide rental assistance to at least 15 homeless youth. This targeted assistance will help reduce youth homelessness. TCHC already administers rental assistance funding programs for veterans, the hardest to house, and another youth program. For this youth rapid rehousing program, TCHC will oversee referrals for youth, unit location and payment of rental assistance. To make sure that all goals of the program are met, TCHC will also partner with a supportive services provider to provide case management for the youth in the program.

Ending homelessness through rapid housing to connect the City's youth with vital services provides a clear public benefit for the Fort Worth community. Reducing homelessness and increasing self-sufficiency decreases demands on resources and improves the health and welfare of citizens. Staff will ensure that adequate controls are in place through the subgrant agreement and oversight to ensure that this public purpose is carried out.

The subgrant agreement will be effective as of the date of City Council approval and will terminate on August 31, 2020.

Youth homelessness services will be 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 appropriated, of the Grants Operating State Fund and that, prior to an expenditure being made, the City Manager's Office has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. The City Manager's Office will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. This is a reimbursement grant.

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