

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid Professional Services Agreement

Item #31

November 21, 2024



BACKGROUND



Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA)

- Since 2022, TRLA has provided over 400 households with assistance
- Engaged over 4,000 residents through court clinics and public, bilingual ‘Know Your Rights’ trainings
- Supported multiple outreach events within eviction hot spots

Neighborhood Housing & Services (NHSD)

- Benefit navigators present at County Justice of the Peace Courts
- Benefit navigators connect residents to housing stability/social services
- Since 2022, over 30,000 households have received referrals/support

OVERVIEW



The **Right to Counsel** program provides **legal assistance** to renters **at or below 80% AMI**. In August 2024, NHSD applied for a new \$2.5 million, two-year HUD Eviction Protection Grant. Until the HUD grant is awarded, NHSD seeks to continue its partnership with **TRLA** through a new Professional Services Agreement (PSA) to provide over **330 households** with legal aid services throughout FY 2025.

Contract Type

- Professional Services Agreement

Proposed Term

- One year with five, one-year options

Estimated Value

- \$100K annually

Funding Source

- General Fund FY25 Adopted Budget

Current Contract Status

- Expired 10/31/24

ALTERNATIVE



- If not approved, NHSD will not have a PSA in place with TRLA to support the Right to Counsel Program, limiting eviction prevention services offered to low-income renters at risk of homelessness
- The NHSD benefit navigators will continue to provide on-site housing stability services to families facing eviction status at County Justice of the Peace Courts

RECOMMENDATION



Staff recommends approval of a Professional Services Agreement with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 for their eviction prevention legal services associated with the Right to Counsel Program.

THANK YOU!

Veronica Garcia

