



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 39

**Agenda Date:** September 29, 2022

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Human Services

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Melody Woosley

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) – 2023 Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP)

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance authorizes budgetary, grant, and contract related actions regarding funds provided by the TDHCA, including:

a) The approval to apply, and accept upon award, youth set-aside funds from the TDHCA – HHSP in the amount of \$273,371.00; and authorize a personnel complement of one. Funds will be diverted from the Alamo Community College District to fund the new position. This includes proposed budgeted allocations and execution of contracts for the following:

- DHS Homeless Services Division - \$73,277.00
- Roy Maas Youth Alternatives - \$140,094.00
- THRIVE Youth Center, Inc. - \$60,000.00

b) The designation of Haven for Hope of Bexar County, Inc. as the eligible subrecipient on behalf of the City of San Antonio to apply, and accept upon award, general set-aside funds from the TDHCA – HHSP in the amount of \$839,059.00 for the each year of a two-year period beginning September 1, 2022 and ending August 31, 2024,

c) The approval for the Director of the Department of Human Services to execute necessary documents including grant contracts and contract amendments; carryover funds; line item budget revisions; the accepting grant funds in an amount up to 20% of the total amount awarded to the grant

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Established in 2009, the TDHCA – HHSP funds services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness throughout the State of Texas. Funding is currently available to the nine largest cities: Arlington, Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, Plano and San Antonio.

Allowable activities of the grant include construction, development, or procurement of housing for homeless persons; rehabilitation of structures targeted to serving homeless persons or persons at-risk of homelessness; provision of direct services and case management to homeless persons or persons at-risk of homelessness; or other homelessness-related activity, as approved.

All proposed projects will support the City’s 5-Year Homeless Strategic Plan and the Community Plan to Address Youth Homelessness.

A new position is being requested for authorization. This position will be a Youth Navigator position on the Homeless Connections Hotline team to support the number of youth calling the Hotline. The Hotline has received calls for over 200 youth requesting services in a fiscal year. This position will help conduct assessments and ensure there is a smooth hand-off as youth transition into a program. There are specific resources available for youth, and this Youth Navigator position would have a deeper familiarity and connection to those providers to ensure smoother continuity of care. The position will also serve as a liaison resource for the NXT Level program to assist their clients seeking shelter and housing resources

## **TDHCA – HHSP Youth Set-Aside Funds**

The City of San Antonio is a previous subrecipient of HHSP youth set-aside funds, which serves unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults 24 years of age and younger. The following table includes the amount of HHSP youth-set aside funds allocated to the City of San Antonio:

Year	Amount
FY 20	\$268,670.00
FY 21	\$249,166.00
FY 22	\$270,623.00
FY 23	\$273,371.00*

*\*Pending ordinance approval to apply and accept upon award.*

In 2019 and 2020, HHSP youth-set aside funds supported programs that served more than 300

homeless youth and young adults in San Antonio. Programs and services have previously been provided by Roy Maas Youth Alternatives, THRIVE Youth Center, Inc. and the Alamo Community Colleges District. This includes, but is not limited to, case management, street outreach, transitional housing, hotel vouchers, rental assistance, medical and behavioral health support, and educational support.

In anticipation of HHSP youth-set aside funds for FY 23, the Department of Human Services recommends the renewal of contracts with Roy Maas Youth Alternatives in the amount of \$140,094.00 and THRIVE Youth Center, Inc. in the amount by of \$60,000.00. Diversion of funds in the amount of \$73,277.00 will be utilized to create a case navigation position for the Homeless Connections Hotline to support youth homeless services.

In FY 21, the Homeless Connections Hotline received 131 calls from youth (ages 18-24) seeking homeless assistance and FY 22 (YTD as of 7/22/2022) has received a total of 192 calls from this age group. By creating a case navigation position, the Department of Human Services will be able to provide more direct services to youth experiencing homelessness.

### **TDHCA – HHSP Haven for Hope Designation**

Since November 2009, the City of San Antonio has designated Haven for Hope of Bexar County, Inc. as an eligible subrecipient of general set-aside funds from the TDHCA – HHSP. TDHCA-HHSP rules require governing body reauthorization every two years for designation of these funds. The previous designation to Haven for Hope was approved by City Council in April 2020 and was set for a two-year period beginning September 1, 2020 and ending August 31, 2022.

Since inception of the HHSP grant, Haven for Hope has utilized funding to support case management and capital improvements to their campus including, but not limited to, the installation of ADA-accessible ramps, canopies, security lighting, automatic gates, security cameras, water fountains, bathrooms, showers and laundry facilities.

This ordinance will approve the continuation of this designation for a two-year period beginning September 1, 2022 and ending August 31, 2024. The designation will authorize Haven for Hope to directly contract with TDHCA to administer HHSP funds in the amount of \$839,059.00 each year for a two-year period.

### **ISSUE:**

Presently, there are limited resources for immediate shelter and homeless services within San Antonio, especially for youth experiencing homelessness (18-24 years old). For these reasons, the proposed FY 23 allocations of the TDHCA – HHSP will assist in leveraging resources and services for individuals experiencing homelessness, with an emphasis on youth and young adults.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

If City Council does not approve the acceptance of the TDHCA funds, the funds would be returned to the State of Texas for use in other large metropolitan cities.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance approves the application, and acceptance upon award, TDHCA – HHSP funding in the amount of \$273,371.00 for youth set-aside funds and authorize a personnel complement of one and authorizes execution of contracts for youth programming with Roy Maas Youth Alternatives for \$140,094.00 and THRIVE Youth Center, Inc. for \$60,000.00.

This ordinance also authorizes \$839,059.00 in general set-aside funds to be designated to Haven for Hope for the first of a two-year period. Additionally, this ordinance authorizes the acceptance of an additional 20%, if awarded, of the total awarded grant. There is no General Fund match required for this grant.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends accepting funds from the TDHCA – HHSP in the amount of \$273,371.00 for youth set-aside funds and authorize a personnel complement of one; \$839,059.00 in general set-aside funds to be designated to Haven for Hope for the first of a two-year period; and accept up to an additional 20%, if awarded, of the total awarded grant. This ordinance also authorizes execution of contracts with Roy Maas Youth Alternatives and THRIVE Youth Center, Inc.