



Legislation Text

File #: 21-4894, **Version:** 1

Department: County Administration

Department Head/Elected Official: David Berry, County Administrator

Regular or Supplemental RCA:

- ☒ Regular RCA
☐ Supplemental RCA

Type of Request: Contract - Amendment

Project ID (if applicable): 21GEN2477

Vendor/Entity Legal Name (if applicable): Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

MWDBE Participation (if applicable): N/A

Request Summary (Agenda Caption):

Request by the Office of County Administration and the Department of Economic Equity and Opportunity for approval of an amendment to the contract with Catholic Charities in the additional amount of \$32,700,000 for the expansion of the Harris County Recovery Assistance Program.

Background and Discussion:

On June 29, 2021, Commissioners Court approved the Harris County Recovery Assistance Program administered by Catholic Charities, providing \$1,500 in flexible financial assistance to 20,000 low-income households that have experienced economic hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. The original contract with Catholic Charities provided \$30M in flexible financial assistance and \$2.7M to operate the program, including application processing and payment, call center operation, technology platform, and outreach to vulnerable populations in partnership with nonprofits and other local entities.

Demand for the program has been high, with over 200,000 applications received to date. The need for assistance is great, with applicants still facing unemployment, reduced working hours, childcare shortages, medical expenses, and other COVID-related challenges. Commissioners Court approved the intent to expand the Harris County Recovery Assistance Program on August 10, 2021.

Expected Impact:

The contract amendment will provide an additional \$30M in flexible financial assistance, allowing the Harris County Recovery Assistance Program to serve an additional 20,000 households, for a total of 40,000 households to be served. The amendment also includes \$2.7M for Catholic Charities to operate the program. Funding for this amendment will be fully provided by the U.S. Dept. of Treasury Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Alternative Options: N/A

Alignment with Goal(s):

- ☐ Justice and Safety
- ☒ Economic Opportunity
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Public Health

- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Flooding
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Governance and Customer Service

Prior Court Action (if any):

6/29/21 [Item #3], Program Approval and Contract Award
 8/10/21 [Item #5], Approval of Intent to Expand Program

Location:

Address (if applicable list below):

- ☒ Countywide
- ☐ Precinct 1
- ☐ Precinct 2

- ☐ Precinct 3
- ☐ Precinct 4

Fiscal and Personnel Summary				
Service Name	Flexible Financial Assistance	FY 21-22	Estimates	
			FY 22	Next 3 FYs
Incremental Expenditures				
Labor Expenditures		-	-	-
Non-Labor Expenditures		32700K	-	-
Total Incremental Expenditures		32700K	-	-
Funding Sources (General Fund, PIC Fund, Debt or CP, Grants, or Other - Please Specify)				
Existing Budget	Other - ARPA LFP	32700K	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Total Current Budget		32700K	-	-
Additional Budget Requested	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Total Additional Budget Requested	-	-	-	-
Total Funding Sources		32700K	-	-
Personnel (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs)				
Current Position Count for Service	-	-	-	-
Additional Positions Requested	-	-	-	-
Total Personnel	-	-	-	-

Anticipated Implementation Date: September 14, 2021

Emergency/Disaster Recovery Note:

- ☐ Not an emergency, disaster recovery, or COVID-19 related item
- ☐ Emergency Item
- ☒ COVID-19 related Item
- ☐ Disaster Recovery related Item

Contact(s) name, title, department:

Leah Barton, Managing Director, Office of County Administration

Pamela Chan, Executive Director, Economic Equity and Opportunity

Attachments (if applicable):

Contract amendment to follow