



Office of the City Manager

04

CONSENT CALENDAR

November 16, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing & Community Services

Subject: ONTRACK Program Resources Inc. - Support Services for African American Community Members

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute a contract and any amendments with ONTRACK Program Resources Inc., funded through State of California Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) dollars, for support services for African American community members, for an initial contract not to exceed \$75,000 through June 30, 2022.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding in the amount of \$75,000 from MHSA PEI revenue received from the State of California is available in the FY 2022 budget in the following budget code: 315-51-503-526-2016-000-451-636110.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

A portion of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funds are directed to provide trauma support services to unserved, underserved, and inappropriately served populations. Some of these funds are intended to provide supportive services for the African American population in Berkeley. To ensure fair City Contracting practices, on January 19, 2021, City Council approved that the Mental Health Division issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for such services. In May 2021, per Bid Specification 21-11434-C, an RFP was released. Following proposal review and rating from a panel of reviewers, which included a community member, ONTRACK Program Resources, Inc., was the new vendor selected to provide these services in Berkeley.

ONTRACK Program Resources, Inc. is a social justice organization with extensive experience working with African Americans and with behavioral health systems to increase cultural competencies, improve service delivery, reduce disparities in health service systems and support collaboration among community health and wellness partners. As a capacity building organization, ONTRACK Program Resources, Inc., has been on the forefront of designing outreach approaches and training materials for the behavioral health workforce and community-based organizations to increase the

knowledge of trauma.

Through this contract, ONTRACK Program Resources will implement the “Soul Space” project to increase high-quality, culturally relevant supports for self-care and mental wellness for African Americans. Services will include community education outreach and engagement, culturally congruent support groups, case management, coaching, life skills, parenting, financial literacy, stress management classes, and specialized referrals for education, housing and other resources critical to wellbeing.

BACKGROUND

The State of California provides MHSAs funding for local mental health services and supports. One of the annually recurring MHSAs funding components is Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI). MHSAs PEI funds are used for strategies to recognize the early signs of mental illness; to improve early access to services and programs, including reduction of stigma and discrimination; and for strategies to prevent mental illness from becoming severe and disabling.

In order to utilize MHSAs funds, stakeholder informed, Three-Year Plans and Annual Updates that outline how funds will be utilized are required to be developed and locally approved. Since the initial PEI plan, a portion of MHSAs PEI funds have been utilized to provide trauma support services to unserved, underserved, and inappropriately served populations through community partners. African Americans are considered to be an historically inappropriately served population that receive support services through these funds.

On December 1, 2020 by Resolution No. 69,620-NS., City Council approved the MHSAs FY2021, FY2022, and FY2023 Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan (Three Year Plan) which included the continuation of this use of MHSAs PEI funds for support services for African Americans.

To ensure fair City contracting practices, the Three-Year Plan also included a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to be executed for these support services for African Americans which had been provided by the same community partner over a period of time who no longer were able to deliver services. In an effort to ensure the RFP included services that would address the most relevant needs, a planning meeting was held where community members were invited to provide input into the process. In May 2021, per Bid Specification 21-11434-C, an RFP was released and ONTRACK Program Resources, Inc., was the chosen vendor to implement these services.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this project.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The execution of this contract will ensure that culturally appropriate support services for the African American population are able to be provided in the community.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

In order for MHSA funded support services for the African American population to be provided in the community, there were no other alternative actions considered.

CONTACT PERSON

Karen Klatt, Community Services Specialist III, HHCS, (510) 981-7644

Attachments:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT: ONTRACK PROGRAM RESOURCES INC., FOR -SUPPORT SERVICES
FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

WHEREAS, the City's Department of Health, Housing & Community Services, Mental Health Division, currently receives Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funds on an annual basis to improve early access to services and programs, including the reduction of stigma and discrimination; and for strategies to prevent mental illness from becoming severe and disabling; and

WHEREAS, in order to utilize MHSA funds, stakeholder informed Three Year Plans and Annual Updates that outline how funds will be utilized are required to be developed and locally approved; and

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Division works in partnership with community-based agencies and school districts in the provision of such services and supports; and

WHEREAS, since the initial MHSA PEI Plan, funds have been allocated for support services for the African American population; and

WHEREAS, these support services for African Americans have been implemented by the same community partner over a period of time; and

WHEREAS, on December 1, 2020 by Resolution No. 69,620-N.S., the City Council approved the MHSA FY2021, FY2022, and FY2023 Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan, which continued the allocation of PEI funds for support services for the African American population; and

WHEREAS, per the City Council approved MHSA FY20/21 – 22/23 Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan a Request for Proposal (RFP) process was included to be executed for these support services for African Americans, which have been provided by the same community partner over a period of time; and

WHEREAS, in May 2021 per Bid Specification number 21-11434-C, the RFP was issued and ONTRACK Program Resources Inc., submitted a proposal and was determined to be the chosen bidder; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the FY22 budget in the Mental Health Services Act Fund, budget code: 315-51-503-526-2016-000-451-636110.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is hereby authorized to execute a Contract and any amendments with ONTRACK Program Resources Inc., to provide support services for African Americans, for an amount not to exceed \$75,000 through June 30, 2022. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.