

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 9, 2024

TO Honorable Chair and Members of the Workforce, Education and Equity Committee

SUBJECT **Upcoming Agenda Item from Office of Procurement Services and Office of Community Care for the Purchase of Garden Box Kits**

On August 14, 2024, the following Office of Community Care agenda item will be considered by City Council:

File ID: 24-2204: Authorize an eighteen-month service contract for the distribution of in-home garden kits to provide residents with a recurring supply of fresh grown produce for the Office of Community Care - Bellcam Group, most advantageous proposer of four - Not to exceed \$200,000.00 - Financing: ARPA Redevelopment Fund (subject to annual appropriations)

Background

This item authorizes a contract for the purchase of garden box kits for distribution to residents in targeted communities. Residents will be able to submit an application to receive a garden box kit delivered to their home with sufficient materials to grow produce for 6 months. This project is supported by ARPA Redevelopment Fund, previously Coronavirus State and Federal Fiscal Recovery Funds. The Garden Box Kit project aims to impact food insecurity and promote healthy food consumption by creating a consistent source of supplemental produce in the home.

The Garden Box Kit project was piloted in 2021 as a part of the City's initial pandemic response programs. The project was well-received and distributed garden box kits to more than 200 households in communities determined at highest risk, including those with higher caseloads, with higher concentrations of older adults and zip codes identified by reviewing the Community Health Needs Assessment. The cost per Garden Box Kit, ranges between \$106 and \$181 depending on size, includes all fees, with the vendor responsible for direct mailing or delivery to the client. The program distributed in-home garden kits to provide residents with a recurring supply of fresh grown produce, shipped via contactless delivery. Our goal is to serve approximately 250 to 500 residents over 2 to 3 phases, depending on demand and the number of applications received, ultimately reaching between 500 and 1,000 residents. According to the program evaluation, more than 90% of recipients said the garden kit was easy or very easy to set up and more than half stated having no experience with gardening. The top benefits of the program, according to respondents, were direct food access (88%), nutritious meals (77%), ongoing supply of produce (74%), learning a new skill (71%), helping with mental wellness (63%), and spending less on expensive grocery items like produce (62%).

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For this project, we sought garden box kits that are easy to set up and require minimal space so that individuals with little to no gardening experience would be able to participate. The vendor was identified via a formal procurement process managed by the Office of Procurement Services using a Request for Bids model. A total of 4 responses were received and the contract is being awarded to the lowest bidder.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact myself or Jessica Galleshaw, Director of Office of Community Care, at 214-670-5113 or Jessica.Galleshaw@dallas.gov.



M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira
Assistant City Manager

c:

Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, City Manager (I)	Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager
Tammy Palomino, City Attorney	Donzell Gipson, Assistant City Manager (I)
Mark Swann, City Auditor	Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager (I)
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary	Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge	Elizabeth Saab, Chief of Strategy, Engagement, and Alignment (I)
Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety (I)	Directors and Assistant Directors
Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager	