

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 9, 2025

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

SUBJECT **Upcoming Agenda Item from Office of Community Care and Empowerment to Authorize Subrecipient Agreements with Housing Connector and Volunteers for Re-Entry Housing Support Programs**

On May 28, 2025, the following Office of Community Care and Empowerment item will be considered by City Council:

File ID: 25-1629A Authorize the City Manager to execute a subrecipient Agreement, for a term of nine months to one-year, subject to appropriation, to support access to stable housing through housing navigation, housing placement, housing assistance and/or the creation of more housing opportunities coupled with case management through direct wraparound services and/or financial coaching for reentry and justice-impacted residents, on behalf of the Office of Community Care and Empowerment, beginning on May 28, 2025, with all terms, conditions, and documents required by the Agreement, approved as to form by the City Attorney, with: **(a)** Housing Connector in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00; and **(b)** Volunteers of America Texas in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 - Total not to exceed \$350,000.00. - Financing: Texas Department of Criminal Justice Re-Entry Services Fund.

Background

The Reentry Services Program was established by the Texas State Legislature to support projects in Dallas and Houston that strive to support individuals being release from TDCJ facilities and returning to the Dallas or Houston area. This project has been supported through appropriations in the 84th, 86th, 87th, and now the 88th Texas State Legislative Session in 2023. These Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) funds to enter into an agreement with the City of Dallas to establish and operate a program for reentry services to individuals released from TDCJ facilities who are returning to the Dallas area. The City of Dallas may enter into agreements with non-profit entities, faith-based organizations, community groups and the private sector for the provision of services.

Procurement

The Office of Community Care administered a competitive process to select vendors for this project. On March 5, 2025, the Office of Community Care and Empowerment published a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to solicit vendors for this project. The NOFA was published on the OCCE's NOFA webpage as well as through the City's Bonfire portal. A total of two proposals were received, of two are being recommended for funding. A panel of four staff members from Office of Community Care and Empowerment, Office

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of Homelessness Solutions, and Housing and Community Development Department evaluated the proposals received according to the below criteria.

Organizational Capacity	Programming/Service Delivery and Work Plan	TDCJ-Client Eligibility Plus Bonus	Evaluation Plan	Cost and Budget
25 pts	35 pts	5 pts	20 pts	20 pts

Although not a competitive solicitation, as part of the NOFA, the Office of Community Care and Empowerment used the procurement system to send out notifications to vendors registered under relevant commodity codes.

Housing Connector and Volunteers of America Texas are being recommended as the subrecipients to deliver housing navigation assistance and social services for eligible re-entry clients.

The Housing Connector Program is a technology powered non-profit focused on increasing access to housing for people with barriers to private housing markets. Housing Connector partners with local property owners and negotiates reduced screening criteria. The program is expected to serve 100 clients with housing navigation services and up to two years of stability support services that includes three months of emergency rental assistance, damage mitigation funding and eviction diversion services. This model effectively streamlines housing access by providing direct support to clients and a risk mitigation package for property owners to address perceived financial risk due to reduced eligibility screening criteria.

The Volunteers of American Program will provide support for stable housing and successful reintegration services. Case managers provide personalized support, connecting clients with wrap around services based off a needs assessment with a focus on housing retention. The program is expected to serve 40 clients through housing navigation services, regular case management check-ins and crisis interventions to address root causes of housing instability.

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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.

Service First, Now!



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

c: Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, City Manager
Tammy Palomino, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety
Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager

Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager
Donzell Gipson, Assistant City Manager
Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Elizabeth Saab, Chief of Strategy, Engagement, and Alignment (I)
Directors and Assistant Directors