



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 22-1478 **Version:** 1 **Name:**

Type: CONSENT AGENDA **Status:** Corrected; Approved

File created: 6/16/2022 **In control:** Office of Procurement Services

On agenda: 6/22/2022 **Final action:**

Title: Authorize an two-year eighteen-month subrecipient agreement to provide legal services to residential tenants at risk of eviction and homelessness due to financial hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic for the Office of Equity and Inclusion - Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, most advantageous proposer of two - Not to exceed \$250,000 \$500,000 - Financing: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Sponsors:

Indexes: 100

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. Resolution

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Government Performance & Financial Management

AGENDA DATE: June 22, 2022

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S): All

DEPARTMENT: Office of Procurement Services

EXECUTIVE: Elizabeth Reich

SUBJECT

Authorize an ~~two-year~~ **eighteen-month** subrecipient agreement to provide legal services to residential tenants at risk of eviction and homelessness due to financial hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic for the Office of Equity and Inclusion - Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, most advantageous proposer of two - Not to exceed ~~\$250,000~~ **\$500,000** - Financing: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

BACKGROUND

This subrecipient agreement will provide for eviction legal services for the Dallas Eviction Assistance Initiative. The Evictions Assistance Initiative was created to continue mitigation of evictions efforts in Dallas. The initiative establishes an evictions program where direct legal services will be provided to Dallas residents including at least 30 percent of intended beneficiaries at or below the Federal Poverty Guidelines, and residents negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the initiative is to mitigate Dallas residents finding themselves facing eviction and possible homelessness without the resources to retain legal representation.

Due to the lingering impacts of COVID-19 financial hardships, residential tenants continue to face the threat of eviction and homelessness. Since the end of the CDC Eviction Moratorium on August 26, 2021, the number of evictions filed in Dallas have steadily increased to pre-pandemic numbers as noted in the [North Texas Evictions Project <https://northtexasevictions.org/>](https://northtexasevictions.org/) ([northtexasevictions.org<https://northtexasevictions.org/](https://northtexasevictions.org/)) by the Child Poverty Action Lab.

It can reasonably be deduced from interactions with residents, the court administrators, and the County that City residents continue to experience a steady increase in evictions while COVID-19 financial hardships linger, impacting communities in need. Those particularly at high risk include low-income communities, the disabled, impoverished women, persons of color, domestic violence victims, and families with children.

The recommended firm is a non-profit organization that provides civil legal services to low income residents. They have disclosed and agreed to obtain a conflict waiver from their clients who are adverse to the City. The firm is also implementing an ethical wall between staff members who are representing clients adverse to the City and those who are working on the eviction program. They agree not to use City issued funds toward the adverse litigation or clients. The firm intends to collaborate with several partners including CitySquare, whose subsidiary is a plaintiff in litigation against the City.

A three-member committee from the following departments reviewed and evaluated the qualifications:

- Office of Equity and Inclusion (2)
- Department of Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization (1)

The committee selected the successful respondent on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications under the following criteria:

- Approach 50 points
- Experience 40 points
- Diversity and equity 10 points

As part of the solicitation process and in an effort to increase competition, the Office of Procurement Services used its procurement system to send out email notifications to vendors registered under relevant commodity codes. To further increase competition, the Office of Procurement Services uses historical solicitation information, the Internet, and vendor contact information obtained from user departments to contact additional vendors.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS)

On January 13, 2021, City Council authorized a subrecipient agreement with Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, most advantageous proposer of two, to provide legal services to Dallas residential tenants at risk of eviction and homelessness due to financial hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic for the period December 31, 2020 through December 31, 2021 by Resolution No. 21-0167.

On June 23, 2021, City Council authorized the acceptance of grant funds from the U.S. Department

*Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas	600 East Weatherford St. Forth Worth, TX 76102	97.67
Peaceful Resolutions LLC GROUP, PC	811 South Tennessee St. Amarilla, TX 79106	50.00

OWNER

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas
Kristin E. Postel, President (Chair)
Penny R. Robe, Vice President (Vice-Chair)