

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM NO. 18

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

FROM: Dennis J. Campa, Director, Department of Community Initiatives

COPIES: Frances A. Gonzalez, Assistant to the City Manager; Finance Department; City Attorney's Office; Office of Management and Budget; File

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS CONTRACT WITH THE SAN ANTONIO HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR CONTINUATION OF THE DWYER AVENUE CENTER SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY PROGRAM

DATE: April 10, 2003

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance authorizes the execution of a Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contract with the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) for continuation of the rental subsidy program for Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units at the Dwyer Avenue Center. One year funding of up to \$288,573 will be available from SAHA to support this program. The term of the contract is September 17, 2002 to September 16, 2003.

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Dwyer Avenue Center provides a wide array of supportive services, along with transitional housing, to homeless singles in San Antonio. There are 88 SRO units at the Dwyer Avenue Center. The current occupancy rate is 74%, which translates into 781 residents days over the term of the HAP contract. City staff, along with staff at cooperative agencies like Family Violence Prevention Services and CentroMed, provide SRO residents with substance abuse and mental health counseling, life skills classes, which includes financial literacy training, job training, medical care and emergency assistance. These services are designed to assist homeless individuals accomplish the three goals developed by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development of achieving residential stability, increasing their skill levels and/or incomes, and obtaining greater self-determination (i.e., more responsibility for decisions that affect their lives). Clients' progress toward reaching these goals is measured through caseworker reviews.

Caseworkers follow up with clients for six months after they leave the facility to determine if they are still living independently. SRO residents may reside at the Dwyer Avenue Center for up to 24 months.

When the City of San Antonio opened the Dwyer Avenue Center in 1992, the City and SAHA entered into a ten-year contract through which SAHA would provide project-based rental subsidies for homeless singles residing at the Dwyer Avenue Center. That initial 10-year contract expired in September 2002. This new one-year contract will extend the cooperative agreement between the City and SAHA. According to SAHA, execution of the renewed contract was delayed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development until March 2003. Subsequently, SAHA did not release the contract to the City until March 4, 2003. Residents pay up to 30% of their income toward rent, while SAHA subsidizes the remainder. Rental payments made by residents are deposited into the Dwyer Trust, which supports operation of the Dwyer Avenue Center.

POLICY ANALYSIS

This ordinance continues existing City policy to utilize grant funds to provide comprehensive services to homeless people. It also continues the City policy of working with other community organizations in facilitating a process of cooperation and coordination. The City and SAHA have worked cooperatively for ten years in support of these much-needed services and passage of this ordinance will continue that relationship. The Department of Housing and Urban Development, which provides the funding to SAHA for the program, has indicated that all subsequent contracts will be for a term of one year only.

FISCAL IMPACT


This ordinance authorizes a contract between the City and SAHA in an amount not to exceed \$288,573. This figure represents the amount of funding HUD has made available to SAHA to for this program. This funding will provide assistance for one year, from September 17, 2002 to September 16, 2003. Thereafter, SAHA will have to apply for the funds annually. The City and SAHA will likewise have to renew their contract annually. All funding authorized by this contract will pay for rental subsidies for SRO residents at the Dwyer Avenue Center and will be deposited to the Dwyer Trust Account to support critical operations at the Dwyer Avenue Center. In the new contract, HUD has increased the fair market rent for the SRO units from \$261 per unit to \$273.27

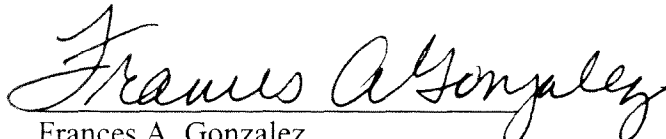
COORDINATION

Coordination has taken place with the Finance Department, City Attorney's Office, Office of Management and Budget and the San Antonio Housing Authority.

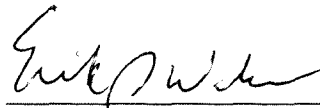
SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS

Requirements of the City's Ethics Ordinance do not apply.


Dennis J. Campa, Director
Department of Community Initiatives


Frances A. Gonzalez
Assistant to the City Manager

Approved:


Terry M. Brechtel
City Manager