



Item 12

Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date:

July 23, 2013

Prepared By/Phone Number:

Juanita Jackson - 854-4467

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Sherri E. Fleming,
County Executive for Health and Human Services and Veterans Service

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

Consider and Take Appropriate Action to approve the application to continue the Financial Support Plus 1 Program with the City of Austin, Austin Energy that provides utility assistance for Travis County low-income households that are customers of Austin Energy in FY14.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

Please see attached memo.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends approval of this application to continue Financial Support 1 Program with City of Austin, Austin Energy.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Please see attached memo.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Please see budgetary and fiscal impact note.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Mary Etta Gerhardt, Assistant County Attorney
Leslie Browder, County Executive – Planning and Budget Office
Aerin Toussaint, Budget Analyst I, Planning and Budget
Nicki Riley, CPA, Travis County Auditor
Kapp Schwebke, Auditors Office
Cyd Grimes, CPM, Travis County Purchasing Agent
Jim Lehrman, Division Director, Family Support Services

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to the County Judge's office, agenda@co.travis.tx.us by **Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.** for the next week's meeting.



**TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES
and VETERANS SERVICE
100 North I.H. 35
P. O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767**

**Sherri E. Fleming
County Executive
(512) 854-4100
Fax (512) 854-4115**

Date: July 15, 2013

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT

FROM: *Stacey Lecky for Sherri E. Fleming*
Sherri E. Fleming, County Executive
Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service

SUBJECT: Acceptance of 2013 – 14 City of Austin, Austin Energy Financial Support Plus 1 Program Application

Proposed Motion: Consider and take appropriate action to approve the application to continue the Financial Support Plus 1 Program with the City of Austin, Austin Energy that provides utility assistance for Travis County low-income households that are customers of Austin Energy in the FY14 period.

Summary and Staff Recommendation: Staff requests the acceptance of this application to continue the Financial Support Plus 1 Program with City of Austin, Austin Energy. The amount for current program agreement period is \$135,000. This amount is allocated quarterly. These program funds are used to respond to utility assistance requests from households having an income at or below 200% of the current Federal Poverty Income Guidelines and are unable to meet their household energy needs. The households must be customers of Austin Energy and Travis County residents.

Budgetary and Fiscal Impact: We utilize the allocated funds for direct service of utility assistance. Travis County will not receive or deposit these funds as they are internally allocated to our agency by Austin Energy each quarter in the contract period. No matching funds are required. The current contract period is 10/01/12 through 09/30/13.

Issues and Opportunities: The funding allocated by Austin Energy for this program is the largest local program funding received by the department for utility assistance.

Background: Travis County has participated in this program for a number of years. The department utilizes this program, as well as coordinating its efforts with other community resources, faith-based organizations and other local agencies providing services to Travis County residents.

Within the last full program year (FY12), we were able to assist 378 households within Travis County using this program funding. The operation of this program allows our department the ability to provide utility assistance to clients who are experiencing an energy-related hardship. The aim of such services, to assist clients in obtaining self-sufficiency, is consistent with the goal of the Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service department.

cc: Leslie Browder, County Executive, Planning and Budget Office
Aerin Toussaint, Budget Analyst I, Planning and Budget Office
Nicki Riley, CPA, Travis County Auditor
Kapp Schwebke, Auditors Office
Cyd Grimes, CPM, Travis County Purchasing Agent
Mary Etta Gerhardt, Assistant County Attorney
Jim Lehrman, Social Services Director, Family Support Services



**Financial Support Plus 1 Program
Community Partner Application Summary Form**



Date: July 15, 2013 Please check one: New Request Renewal Request

Organization Name: Travis County through Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service

Alternate name/acronym: N/A

Address: 100 N. IH 35

City: Austin

State: TX

Zip Code: 78701

Project Contact Person

Name: Tonda Owens

Title: Social Services Program Administrator

Phone: (512) 854-4113

Email: tondalier.owens@co.travis.tx.us

Areas affected by project (cities, counties, zip codes, etc.):

Entire area of Travis County

Employer/Taxpayer ID number (EIN/TIN): 74-6000192

Year organization established: 1936

Number of paid employees: 53

Number of volunteers: 87

Organizational Financial Information

Organization budget for current year: FY 2013 \$5,437,438.

Organization expenditure total for last year: FY 2012 \$5,236,863

Organization revenue total for last year: \$0. This program division does not generate revenue for Travis County.

With my signature I certify the following: (1) The above information is correct; (2) I am authorized by the governing board of this organization to submit this grant application; (3) this organization is in good standing with the IRS; (4) this organization does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sexual preference, physical circumstances or national origin.

Samuel T. Biscoe

Travis County Judge

Name (printed) of program administrator

Title

Signature of program administrator

Date