



City of Stockton

Legislation Text

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APPROVE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTERS TO ESTABLISH OUTREACH, CRISIS INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY WELL-BEING WITH AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve a motion to:

1. Award a Professional Services Contract to Community Medical Centers of Stockton, CA in the Not-to-Exceed amount of \$5,760,000 to develop and implement a crisis intervention response pilot program for three years with American Rescue Plan Act funds under Project MARP101.
2. Approve findings pursuant to Stockton Municipal Code section 3.68.070 in support of an exception to the competitive bidding process.

It is also recommended that the City Manager, or designee, be authorized to take appropriate actions to carry out the purpose and intent of this motion.

Summary

This recommendation is in response to the Federal allocation of \$78,052,072 in Coronavirus State and Local fiscal Recovery Funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The Federal government's stated goal for this fund is to provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

On September 14, 2021, the City Council approved by motion (2021-09-14-1501) the updated recommendations of priorities and distribution of funds in response to the Federal allocation of funds through the ARPA. Of the total allocation, the amount of \$5,760,000 was allocated toward Community Well-Being under Project MARP101 to address the establishment of hotlines/warmlines, outreach, crisis intervention and support for residents' well-being.

On June 16, 2022, a Notice of Intent to award Single Available Source to Community Medical Centers was released through the City of Stockton Bid Flash. No additional responses were received to the procurement notice.

If approved by Council, this action will award a Professional Services Contract to Community Medical Centers of Stockton, CA, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$5,760,000 to establish outreach, crisis intervention and support for Stockton residents through implementation of a three-year pilot program.

DISCUSSION

Background

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) established the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF), which provides a combined \$350 billion in assistance to eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to support COVID-19 economic recovery efforts. Of the \$350 billion, \$19.53 billion was allocated to non-entitlement units of local government, ultimately allocating \$78,052,072 to the City of Stockton, based on the City's 2019 Census data. The Treasury's intended goal is to provide substantial flexibility for each government to meet local needs - including support for households, individuals and communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 public health crisis.

Local government has received funds in two tranches. Half of the funding, or \$39,026,036, was received by the City on June 1, 2021. The remaining half of \$39,026,036 was received by the City on June 6, 2022. Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024. The period for performance ends December 31, 2026.

Funding objectives include relief to:

- Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease the spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control;
- Replace lost revenue for eligible governments to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs;
- Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses; and
- Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic.

Through discussions with the City Manager, eight (8) categories of need were identified to continue or expand programs and support previously enacted under the State CARES Act funding, including the need category of Community Well-Being. Stockton residents, as in most communities throughout the country, have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. Community members across all socioeconomic strata have experienced crises related to mental and behavioral wellness, with increased effects of substance abuse and homelessness impacting individuals and families.

According to San Joaquin County Behavioral Health Services, about half the population will experience a mental health concern during the course of their lifetime. Factors contributing to mental and behavioral health issues include high rates of childhood and adult trauma; drug and alcohol abuse; lack of understanding about mental health and lack of access to obtaining mental health services; stress caused by food, housing, and financial insecurity; along with limited culturally competent mental health services.

The City intends to utilize ARPA funds to develop an alternative model to non-violent crisis intervention that employs a public health response through a collaborative approach with area mental/behavioral health and social services. The goal of the crisis intervention and support initiative is to establish a pilot three-year project in the City of Stockton that serves Stockton residents. The pilot will be implemented and managed by a primary Community Based Organization (CBO), and community sub-partners will support service delivery. Ultimately the CBO would demonstrate how to turn the project into a fiscally self-sustaining initiative following the pilot stage.

Present Situation

On June 16, 2022, the City advertised a Notice of Intent to Award Single Available Source to Community Medical Centers for establishment of a crisis intervention response pilot program that will provide an alternative community-based approach to mental and behavioral health first response services of a non-emergency nature. The Notice stated the intent for the City to contract with a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Stockton to design and implement the program and subcontract with locally based partners to address community well-being through comprehensive wraparound services to City residents in need.

The Notice was posted on the City Bid Flash website and provided a ten-day period for interested persons to submit quotations/responses. The advertisement closed on June 27, 2022, and no responses were received.

Community Medical Centers (CMC), a Stockton-based provider of comprehensive health care for underserved community members, is proposing the Care Link Community Response program as an alternative dispatch response to non-violent and low-level 911 calls for behavioral health intervention. CMC will expand the scope of its existing Care Link Program in a collaborative partnership with the City of Stockton by developing a pilot mobile crisis intervention model as an alternative, community-based approach to behavioral health first response services, and by integrating an innovative and community-based first-responder model into the local public health response system. The proposed program coordinates with first responder services (e.g. Stockton Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services) to support Stockton residents who are dealing with behavioral/mental health concerns, including but not limited to suicidal behaviors, intoxication and welfare checks. The behavioral health units will dispatch to incidents where subjects are experiencing behavioral/mental health symptoms or social service needs that can be effectively addressed by mobile health care professionals who are trained in trauma-informed care, improving cost to patients and the efficiency of emergency responder and hospital resources. The program will be implemented as a three-year pilot project, providing services during peak hours seven days per week.

Care Link, a program operated by CMC, is a mobile health care unit that has been in existence since 2001, and it provides services to individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Currently, the team travels throughout San Joaquin County to care for patients at local shelters and homeless encampments, providing access to medical and behavioral health to more than 3,000 unsheltered patients every year who may not otherwise seek preventive or responsive care.

Care Link Community Response will draw on the experience and trust that Care Link has already developed among homeless patients across the county as the only longest-running medical homeless outreach team. Through Care Link, CMC has conducted street medicine in Stockton

locations such as Mormon Slough, Calaveras River and the Diverting Canal, where the team encounters patients needing wound care, treatment of infections, medication, substance abuse, behavioral health, case management and other health needs. The teams help patients address social determinants of health, such as assisting with Cal Fresh, Medi-Cal and other benefit enrollment, housing, transportation and with other basic needs. These touch points have served to develop rapport with homeless city residents through trauma-informed and cost-free services

As a provider of comprehensive and integrated healthcare, CMC emphasizes person-centered care within its existing infrastructure of programs and services. Care Link Community Response will benefit from access to this existing safety net for ongoing patient engagement that supports stabilization, rehabilitation, and sustainable outcomes. Community partnerships will be an essential component of providing whole person and wraparound care for patients. Established partnerships will be procured for residential substance use disorder treatment, transitional housing, nursing facilities, transportation and other services. CMC programs that will be accessible include Care Link Outreach Medical Team, Housing Coordinator, Transitions of Care Network, Behavioral Health Department, Substance Use Disorder Outpatient Services, and the recently opened CMC Respite Center.

The new Care Link model will be a cost-effective and efficient concept to responding to noncriminal, nonemergency and non-life-threatening incidents, allowing Stockton Police, Fire and Medical units to improve the use of resources. The pilot project is designed to be culturally and linguistically competent, and responsive to Stockton's diverse population. The program's commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion encompasses at-risk populations ranging from foster youth and LGBTQ youth to individuals experiencing or impacted by domestic violence. The Care Link Community Response supports the well-being of Stockton residents, whether serving a middle-income family in crisis, a teen with suicidal behaviors or an intoxicated individual causing a disturbance.

Staff concludes that Community Medical Centers has the qualifications and capacity for the project based on the following reasons:

- Through the current Care Link program, there is an existing framework of mobile outreach services and comprehensive health care to underserved, uninsured and underinsured patients that will be leveraged to develop the Care Link Community Response program.
- In June 2022, CMC opened the Respite Center, the first residential detox treatment facility of its kind in both Stockton and in the organization's network of services. An additional property acquisition targets the buildout of clinics for women's health, HIV care and other services.
- The organization will commission an evaluation through the project that will support sustainability by demonstrating program effectiveness through data metrics and measurable objectives.

Based on this information, staff recommends that Council approve the motion authorizing the City Manager to execute a Professional Services Contract to Community Medical Centers for \$5,760,000 for the establishment of a crisis intervention response pilot program. Attachment A describes the Professional Services Contract in detail.

Findings

Pursuant to Stockton Municipal Code section 3.68.070, Council may approve findings which support and justify an exception to the competitive bidding process. The following findings support such an exception:

1. The City lacks the capacity and resources to implement an outreach-based crisis intervention program that connects residents with mental and behavioral health resources, coordinates wraparound supportive services and leverages an existing buildout of behavioral health system of care.
2. Use of the Single Available Source procurement is appropriate for this Professional Services Contract because the Contractor is the only federally managed care provider, known as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), in the City of Stockton that provides mobile outreach health care at the project capacity.
3. The City released a Notice of Intent to Award Single Available Source and received no responses.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Funding in the amount of \$5,760,000 was approved by City Council Motion No. 2021-09-14-1501 as a part of the American Rescue Plan, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. There is sufficient funding to award the Professional Services Contract to Community Medical Centers in the amount of \$5,760,000 (Project MARP101) to establish a crisis intervention response pilot project that supports sustainable Community Well-Being. There is no impact to the General Fund or any other non-restricted funds from this action.

Attachment A - Professional Services Contract with Community Medical Centers