
Sponsor: Housing Stability

Meeting Date: 1/11/2022

Title: Single Source Agreement with Model Cities for Emergency Shelter Beds

File Number: 2021-774

Background and Rationale:

Safe Space is an emergency shelter operated by Model Cities and located in the Ramsey County Government Center East Building at 160 Kellogg Boulevard East, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101. The current client service agreement with Model Cities started October 22, 2019. Prior to Model Cities contract start, Catholic Charities was the shelter operator. Once Catholic Charities notified the county that they were no longer able to continue to operate, the county approached several potential vendors, all of which had existing housing-based client service agreements. Given the urgency of the need for a new service provider, the county and Model Cities entered into the current agreement. Model Cities developed a plan and identified what they felt they needed from Ramsey County and Catholic Charities. Despite a lack of experience providing shelter services from the start of the contract, Model Cities' commitment to learning, growing, and partnering has made a place for itself in the homeless services continuum. The organization is now integral to the communities' emergency shelter response network-facilitating a tiered referral process in the late afternoon, early evening and middle of the night. Safe Space now receives approximately 100 daily referrals from: Metro Transit, Catholic Charities' Higher Ground, outreach workers, Saint Paul Police Department, Freedom House, local hospitals, and Ramsey, Hennepin, and Dakota counties. Due to the critical nature of the work of sheltering people experiencing homelessness while also preventing COVID spread and the fact that it was previously difficult to source vendor partners with ability and staffing to do the work, Model Cities is the current qualified vendor positioned to accept 100 daily emergency shelter referrals which in turn equated to nearly 2,000 individuals being served. Disruption of service could negatively impact the unsheltered referral system. In 2022, Housing Stability intends to issue a competitive bid for these services.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the single source agreement with Model Cities of St. Paul, Inc., 839 University Avenue West, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104 for \$601,800.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the agreement.
3. Authorize the County Manager to execute amendments to the agreement in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of available funding.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McGuire, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By: 

Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board