

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE October 9, 2020

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Upcoming Office of Community Care City Council Agenda Items – ECOSTS and Child Care Services**

The following Office of Community Care (OCC) item will be considered by City Council on the October 13, 2020 Agenda:

Item Number 20-1462: Authorize contracts with fully-licensed childcare providers (**Exhibit A**), and with any other fully-licensed childcare providers, pursuant to the Early Childhood and Out-of-School Time Services Program (the “ECOSTS Program”), selected by eligible parents who meet the requirements of the program for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 - Not to exceed \$500,000.00 - Financing: 2020-21 Community Development Block Grant Fund

Item Number 20-1461: Authorize the first of two, one-year renewal options to the service contract with Open Arms, Inc. dba Bryan’s House to provide childcare services for their special needs children through the Early Childhood and Out-of-School Time Services Program for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 - Not to exceed \$50,000.00, from \$50,000.00 to \$100,000.00 - Financing: 2020-21 Community Development Block Grant Fund

Item Number 20-1456: Authorize contracts with fully-licensed childcare providers and with any other fully-licensed childcare providers, pursuant to the Early Childhood and Out-of-School Time Services Program (the “ECOSTS Program”), selected by eligible parents who meet the requirements of the program for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 - Not to exceed \$500,000.00 - Financing: 2020-21 Community Development Block Grant Funds

Background

The FY 2020-21 HUD Consolidated Plan Budget includes a line item budget for the ECOSTS Program, in an amount not to exceed \$650,000.00. The funds will be distributed as follows:

- \$500,000.00 for Daycare Providers (Subsidy Program – Item 20-1462)
- \$50,000.00 for Infants and Toddlers
- \$100,000.00 for Homeless and Special Needs Children (Items 20-1461 and

The Early Childhood and Out-of-School Time Services Program, administered by the Office of Community Care in accordance with the City of Dallas’ Early Childhood and Out-of-School Time Services Program Policies and Procedures for Parents, promotes stability for low-to-moderate income working parents and teen parents who are full-time high

DATE *October 9, 2020*

SUBJECT **Upcoming Office of Community Care City Council Agenda Item**

school students by reducing the cost of childcare to enable them to strive for self-sufficiency. Approximately 268 children will be subsidized through the subsidy component of the program. The ECOSTS Program pays (see subsidy amounts below) per week per child directly to contracted childcare providers for childcare services for working parents whose income falls in the low-to-moderate-income range of Community Development Block Grant funding eligibility. The Program pays 100% of the cost for childcare for teen parents who are enrolled in high school full time.

Item 20-1462 authorizes the City to enter into contracts with childcare providers for the subsidy program. Once approved, eligible parents would be able to select a childcare provider, regardless if the provider is listed in **Exhibit A**. Any childcare provider not listed in **Exhibit A** will be reviewed by the City to ensure the provider meets the requirement of the ECOSTS Program prior to receiving any payments. If the provider agrees to accept the funds from the City of Dallas and follow all ECOSTS Program requirements, they will be added to the list during the year. If childcare allotted funds from the City of Dallas are not spent, such remaining funds may be directed to other fully-licensed childcare providers selected by eligible parents, including to potentially increase contracts with these providers.

ECOSTS PROGRAM SUBSIDY AMOUNTS

1. \$100.00 per week for children 0-18 months
2. \$75.00 per week for children 18 months – 48 months
3. \$50.00 per week for children 4 years old and above.

Additionally, ECOSTS allocated funds are used to provide child care subsidies for various programs for children and youth, including afterschool school programs, daycare for special needs children, children who are homeless, children with disabilities, and children who are affected/infected by HIV/AIDS via contracts with nonprofit agencies. Service providers are selected by parents based on the needs of their children.

Item 20-1461 authorizes renewal of a contract with Open Arms, Inc. dba Bryan's House to provide childcare services to a Special Needs population. Bryan's House, through their Early Childhood Education (ECE) program (a year-round program) provides children ages 0-5 with special needs, and their siblings, the experience of an active learning environment tailored to accommodate individual needs and educational goals. As an important extension of direct care services, Bryan's House provides respite care from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (10 Saturdays throughout the year), school-break care for ages 6-13, and an 11-week summer program. Their programs have adjusted for COVID-19 safety measures and currently include virtual home visits, weekly emergency drives to deliver families with food, household items and clothing. They are also providing classes online to children and training for parents. They anticipate moving back to regular on-site services in early Fall 2020.

Item 20-1456 authorizes renewal of a contract with Vogel Alcove Vogel to provide services to children who are experiencing homelessness. Through their Early Education

DATE *October 9, 2020*

SUBJECT **Upcoming Office of Community Care City Council Agenda Item**

& Child Development Program, Vogel Alcove serves the homeless population in Dallas by providing free childcare for up to 135 young children daily, ages six weeks to five years old, living with their parents in local shelters. Each weekday, in a warm, nurturing environment, Vogel Alcove welcomes families without regard to race, ethnicity or religion. Licensed by the State of Texas and accredited by the National Association of Education for Young Children, Vogel Alcove operates year-round with 13 classrooms, a kitchen for daily meal preparation, a children’s library, an outdoor all-natural playground, gymnasium (for preschool children), and an indoor infant/toddler multipurpose area. One component of the program works to develop cognitive, motor and literacy skills in order to prevent consequences of early trauma, improve developmental outcomes, and ensure success in school by preparing children to enter kindergarten at the same level as their peers. Services include:

- Early childhood education using developmentally appropriate, research-based curriculum and assessment tools
- Qualified teaching staff
- Low staff-to-child ratio
- Screening to detect developmental delays or disorders
- Onsite speech, occupational, and physical therapy for children diagnosed with delays
- Enrichment classes and community field trips
- Health and wellness, mental health and family support for children and their families

Below are the FY20 performance metrics for these contracts.

<i>PERFORMANCE MEASURES</i>	<i>CONTRACTOR</i>	<i>GOALS</i>	<i>AMENDED</i>	<i>OUTCOMES (THROUGH 8/31/2020)</i>
<i># of children served for Special Needs Children Program</i>	Bryan’s House	57	24	19
<i># of households served for Special Needs Children Program</i>	Bryan’s House	30	15	11
<i># of children participating in the Vogel Alcove program provided a comprehensive program of childcare services</i>	Vogel Alcove	36	36	55
<i># of parents to be educated on Mainstream Resources</i>	Vogel Alcove	42	42	53

On September 25, 2019, City Council authorized contracts with fully-licensed childcare providers (Exhibit A), and with any other fully-licensed childcare providers, pursuant to

DATE *October 9, 2020*

SUBJECT **Upcoming Office of Community Care City Council Agenda Item**

the Early Childhood and Out-of-School Time Services Program (“program”) selected by eligible parents who meet the requirements of the program for the period October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, by Resolution No. 19-1499.

On May 13, 2020, City Council authorized an amendment to Resolution No. 19-1499, previously approved on September 25, 2019, to (1) increase funding from \$286,081.00 to \$550,000.00 to allow for additional children to be served by fully-licensed childcare providers; and (2) to remove the cap of \$50.00 a week, per child, for working parents, effective March 2, 2020, pursuant to the Early Childhood and Out-of-School Time Services Program by Resolution No. 20-0731.

Budget

The budget for the childcare provider subsidy is \$500,000 – Funding provided through the City of Dallas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The total budget for the Homeless and Special Needs Children program is \$100,000 to be distributed as follows: Open Arms, Inc. dba Bryan’s House - \$50,000 and Vogel Alcove - \$50,000. Funding is provided through the City of Dallas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact myself or Jessica Galleshaw, Director of Office of Community Care.



Kimberly Bizer Tolbert
Chief of Staff to the City Manager

- c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
- Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors

DATE *October 9, 2020*

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