

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – June 30, 2020

AI Number: 76204

Project Number: 2020-283

Information: Requesting authority to exempt from competitive procurement requirements, pursuant to TxLGC 262.024 (a)(1)(2) and requesting authority to hire Medical Clerk I's for various County areas/elected offices and/or departments, in order to assist with County functions to medical and public health measures.

Description of AI: COVID-19 related staffing services for various County departments

Funding Source: CARES Act Relief Fund (TBD) **Acct. #** 0-1287-441-42-115-096-0-331/339

Requested by: Valde Guerra, Executive Officer

Department: Hidalgo County

Prepared by: Hector A. Garcia, Contract Specialist I

Department: Purchasing Department

BACKGROUND

On March 17, 2020, pursuant to the authority under Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency due to the imminent threat arising from the Coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 22, 2020, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), the Commissioners Court of Hidalgo County issued an Order of Continuance of Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed the activation of the Hidalgo County Emergency Management Plan and extends the Declaration of Local Disaster.

In coordinating the response to this ongoing public health emergency, various areas and departments throughout Hidalgo County including, but not limited to the Courthouse, outlying district courts, Justice of the Peace courts, Tax Office (main and substations), and HC/WIC Program, are in need of contractual staffing services for various capacities including, but not limited to assisting patients, and taking thermometer scans of all persons entering public areas, as part of the continued response to the public health emergency related to COVID-19.

In order to continue County operations at various locations, and ensuring the health and safety of all persons (staff and constituents), the temporary contractual services will help assist in various capacities including, but not limited to the thermal screening all entrants for high temperature as it could be a symptom of COVID-19, before allowing any persons partake in any county related business.

The 2010 Census has indicated that Hidalgo County has a low to moderate income level of 54.76% and the Texas Department of State Health Services estimates Hidalgo County's population to be 1,005,539. With this large impoverished population, but limited lab testing capacity, the detection, mitigation, and response to COVID-19 has been largely impacted. Current public health directive emphasizing the importance of preventing and mitigating the spread of COVID-19. With these contractual services, a much needed service will be established and made promptly available to our county residents by means ensuring all persons inside county buildings are of normal temperature and are relatively safe as we prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

COMPLIANCE

In compliance with the national preparedness goal under the Presidential Policy Directive (PPD-8), the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capability 12 and pursuant to the Order of Continuance of Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed the activation of the Hidalgo County Emergency Management Plan and extends the Declaration of Local Disaster, requests the courts approval for the contractual staffing services to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County's intended purpose to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

AGENDA ITEM CAPTION

- A. Discussion, consideration, and approval of CARES Act Relief Fund expenditure to cover cost not accounted for in the current budget and cannot be lawfully funded by line item, allotment or allocation, for Staffing Services, in order to assist with County Medical and Public Health expenses addressing the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency; the Court having reviewed the Agenda Item Briefing, herein finds that such expenditure is reasonable and necessary for the intended use;
- B. Requesting exemption from competitive procurement requirements pursuant to Texas Local Government Code 262.024 (a)(1)(2), attached herein; and
- C. Requesting to hire Medical Clerk I's for: for the following County areas/elected offices and/or departments including, but not limited to:
 - Courthouse
 - Outlying District Courts
 - Justice of the Peace Courts
 - Tax Office (main and substations)
 - HC/WIC Program
 - Others

through one or multiple qualified vendors awarded contracts through the General Services Administration (GSA) offering the most advantageous rates and availability of staff from those whom responded to HC's Request for Quotes (Project No. 2020-283) with vendors requiring Purchase Orders only:

- Pro Health Staffing
- Med Trust, LLC
- AHS Staffing, LLC

D. Discussion and action [if applicable] to create full time temporary positions to address staffing necessary at requested areas/elected offices, department, programs and/or agencies [with number to be finalized].

RECOMMENDATIONS

Approval of the item will Hidalgo County proceed with continuing with the current public health directive emphasizing the importance of preventing and mitigating the spread of COVID-19. As previously stated, these contractual services, are a reasonable and necessary expenditure related to the County's COVID-19 Public Health Response. Expenditures will be charged to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and/or other assistance available to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Attachments:

- Tex. Loc. Gov. Code
- Agenda Item Briefing
