



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Department of Development Services

CM: Todd Hileman

DATE: June 20, 2017

SUBJECT

Consider adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Denton, Texas ("City") and Denton Assistance Center, Inc., d/b/a Serve Denton ("Serve Denton"), to implement Employ-2-Empower, Denton's employment program for persons experiencing homelessness; providing for the expenditure of funds; and providing for and effective date.

BACKGROUND

Employment empowers people experiencing homelessness. Meaningful and sustainable employment is a key component to creating and maintaining housing stability. However, individuals experiencing homelessness face obstacles to finding and maintaining employment. Connecting them with job training and placement programs is critical to ensure they have the tools needed to exit homelessness for long-term stability.

Denton City Council members expressed interest in pursuing a similar program to Albuquerque's program called "There's a Better Way". City staff were asked for ideas regarding how to implement a program that creates employment opportunities for the homeless in Denton. In November, 2016 a planning group of city staff and local nonprofits was assigned the task of drafting a project proposal and identifying the level of interest for implementation from other community partners.

The planning group met regularly through February 2017. The group reviewed similar projects offered in Albuquerque, Amarillo and Denver. As a result of the group has drafted a proposal for a pilot project called Employ-2-Empower (E2E).

This program will help the literally homeless gain the skills, experience and confidence needed to find living-wage jobs through assistance such as the following:

1. Help people develop a job history.
2. Provide training and experience to develop soft skills.
3. Connect people to long-term employment opportunities.

On February 21, 2017, the group presented the E2E pilot project to the City Council and requested \$42,000 in funding to be leveraged with cost sharing options provided by multiple community partner agencies through in-kind service delivery. In addition, the project will require city departments to identify work projects that are suitable for workers enrolled in the program. City Council authorized staff to proceed with an agreement granting \$21,000 funded from FY 2016-17 and \$21,000 from FY 2018 to support the program.

RECOMMENDATION

Award the Memorandum of Understanding with Denton Assistance Center, Inc., d/b/a Serve Denton, for the Employ-2-Empower Program in the amount of \$42,000.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT

June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

On February 21, 2017, the City Council received a briefing on the Employ-2-Empower pilot project.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELATIONSHIP

The City of Denton's Strategic Plan is an action-oriented road map that will help the City achieve its vision. The foundation for the plan is the five long-term Key Focus Areas (KFA): Organizational Excellence; Public Infrastructure; Economic Development; Safe, Livable, and Family-Friendly Community; and Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. While individual items may support multiple KFAs, this specific City Council agenda item contributes most directly to the following KFA and goal:

Related Key Focus Area: **Safe, Liveable & Family-Friendly Community**
Related Goal: **4.5 Provide support to citizens in need through social service agencies and programs**

EXHIBITS

2. Presentation
3. Ordinance

Respectfully submitted:
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