



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. IX. BH
6/21/2022

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Craig Freeman, City Manager

Request for Proposals to be advertised for Professional Services to Support a Pilot Homeless Street Outreach Program (RFP-OCITY-127).

Purpose:

Authorization of this request for proposals will allow solicitation from qualified organizations to provide Homeless Street Outreach services to support a Pilot Program for an initial period of two years, with the option to modify and extend as services are needed. The Homeless Street Outreach program would coordinate with the City's Public Safety Departments to provide a non-police response to low-risk calls for assistance to 9-1-1 or the police non-emergency number (405) 231-2121. In addition to responding to calls, Street Outreach teams will provide proactive outreach to people experiencing homelessness.

Background:

This Pilot will contribute to implementing initiatives recommended by multiple groups. In April 2019, Mayor David Holt established a Taskforce on Homelessness to work with a consultant and community stakeholders to develop the Strategies to Address Homelessness in Oklahoma City.

In 2020, the Mayor established a Law Enforcement Policy Task Force and Community Policing Working Group in response to community concerns about law enforcement policies. Task Force members included former police chiefs, lawyers, social scientists, academics and community leaders. The City hired a consultant, 21CP Solutions, to provide recommendations to the Task Force and Working Group.

The Strategies were received by City Council on September 28, 2021. One of the focus areas identified for improvement is enhanced outreach strategies.

On March 1, 2022, City Council received 21CP's report, which includes 39 recommendations, focused on eight (8) subject areas. One recommendation was to develop an alternative response to mental health calls that would entail de-escalation by professional mental health and social workers, versus a police response. This scenario is often applicable to those in our community who are homeless.

Proposal Receipt Date:

July 20, 2022

Source of Funds:

General Fund – General Operations-UASN- Homelessness Services – Management Contract (001-0001-2400206-52010001)

Review:

Planning Department

Recommendation: Request for Proposals be approved and the City Clerk be authorized to advertise for proposals.