



# City of Austin

## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 24-6040, **Agenda Item #:** 25.

11/21/2024

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract for human immunodeficiency virus Stigma Index 2.0 assessment for Austin Public Health with Cardea Services d/b/a Cardea, for an initial term of one year with up to two one-year extension options, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$374,961. Funding: \$74,961 is available in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Operating Budget of Austin Public Health. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

### **Lead Department**

Financial Services Department.

### **Client Department(s)**

Austin Public Health.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$74,961 is available in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Operating Budget of Austin Public Health.

Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

### **Purchasing Language:**

Professional Services.

### **MBE/WBE:**

This procurement was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9B (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). For the services required for this procurement, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established.

### **For More Information:**

Direct questions regarding this Recommendation for Council Action to the Financial Services Department - Central Procurement at [FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov](mailto:FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov) or 512-974-2500.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

The contract is for services to plan and implement the People Living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Stigma Index 2.0 assessment in the Austin Transitional Grant Area consisting of Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop, and Caldwell counties. This program is a collaboration with the Social Determinants of Health and Equity Committee of the Austin/Travis County Fast Track Cities (FTC) initiative. The People Living with HIV Stigma Index 2.0 assessment is a tool that measures the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV. The index is a community-led initiative using surveys to gather information on the experiences of people living with HIV and can help identify gaps in policies and programs that prevent people living with HIV from accessing services, adhering to therapy, and leading healthy lives.

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Cardea Services d/b/a Cardea has served as a core member of FTC since its inception in 2018. Relationships built through Cardea's active engagement in FTC and other public health initiatives in Central Texas will be critical in successfully executing the scope of work. Cardea's team has expertise in social impact evaluation, policy advancement, capacity development, and professional learning possesses.

This is a new contract. The requested authorization amounts were determined using departmental estimates based on similar services and the contractor's quote.

If the City is unable to secure a contract, the City will not be able to effectively evaluate and form solutions for removing barriers to care for citizens living with HIV.