THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: September 13, 2022

Subject: Outreach Services Agreement with Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina

Staff Resource(s): Emily Ball, Homeless Strategy Division Manager
Nikki Reid, Community & Economic Development Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign an agreement with Homeward Bound for street outreach services.

Background:

- The FY 2022-2023 adopted operating budget allocates $110,000 for street outreach services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- The City has partnered with Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina for the past four years to provide these services.
- With this agreement, Homeward Bound will provide street outreach services to persons experiencing homelessness as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the CIty of Asheville, including case management services and referrals to available community resources and permanent housing, working collaboratively with Asheville Police Department (APD) and Asheville Fire Department (AFD).
- The objective of the services provided is to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness and increase the number of permanent housing placements in the NC-501 Continuum of Care.
- Services provided by Homeward Bound through this contract include:
    - Diversion-focused services and referrals;
    - Referrals to permanent housing resources, behavioral health and substance use disorder services; AHOPE Day Center; emergency shelter; Social Security Supplemental Income/Social Security Disability Income Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR); primary health care; and basic needs, services, and resources;
    - Coordination with existing Homeward Bound street outreach as well as other street outreach efforts (e.g., Veterans Affairs Medical Center Homeless Services);
    - Response, training, and education to downtown businesses and residents impacted by the presence of people experiencing homelessness;
    - Assistance to APD and AFD for referrals and issues related to unhoused persons, working collaboratively with officers to de-escalate crises and divert from arrest when appropriate;
    - Access to NC-501 Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry as appropriate, with assessments using the Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (prescreen triage tool) or other assessment instrument designated by the NC-501 Continuum of Care.
- This agreement is for a period of one year with four, one year options for renewal for a total term of five years.
- Renewals are subject to annual budget approval and availability.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- N/A

Council Goal(s):

- An Equitable and Diverse Community
- A Connected and Engaged Community

Committee(s):
- None

Pro(s):
- Connects unhoused individuals with needed area resources
- Supports the City's efforts to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness in the NC-501 Continuum of Care service area

Con(s):
- None noted

Fiscal Impact:
- Funding for the first year of this contract is available in the Community and Economic Development Department operating budget.
- Future years will be planned for during the annual budget development process.

Suggested Motion:
- Motion to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign an agreement with Homeward Bound for street outreach services for a period of one year, with the option to renew for four additional one year periods, subject to budget approval and availability.

Attachment(s)
- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 22-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AGREEMENT WITH HOMEWARD BOUND OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA FOR STREET OUTREACH SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has allocated $110,000 in its Fiscal Year 2022-2023 General Fund budget to provide Street Outreach to support unhoused individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, the Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina has provided these services on behalf of the City for the past four years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville desires to continue to partner with the Homeward Bound to provide these services; and

WHEREAS; the City Council wishes to approve an agreement between the City and Homeward Bound for a period of one year, with the option to renew for four additional one year periods, subject to budget approval and availability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina, consistent with the desired terms expressed herein, to perform Street Outreach services to support unhoused individuals and families and all associated amendments, renewals and extensions as approved by the City Attorney.

Read, approved and adopted this the 13th day of September, 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney