

ORDINANCE 2021-03-18-0177

APPROVING AN AWARD OF UP TO \$200,000.00 TO TEXAS RIO GRANDE LEGAL AID, INC. FOR CONTRACTED WORK RELATED TO THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL PROGRAM. FUNDING IS AVAILABLE FROM THE FY 2021 GENERAL FUND BUDGET.

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WHEREAS, the Right to Counsel (RTC) was launched in March 2020 as a pilot program designed to provide renters at or below 100% area median income who were facing eviction with legal assistance and/or representation; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2020 Adopted Budget included a recurring earmark of \$100,000.00 from the City's Risk Mitigation funds for the RTC pilot program; and

WHEREAS, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA) was the organization designated to provide the legal services under the RTC program, including conducting monthly tenant Know-Your-Rights trainings for the general public in English and Spanish; and

WHEREAS, since the RTC program began, TRLA has provided 349 households with legal services, all below 80% AMI, and has also provided 13 public Know-Your-Rights trainings on tenants' rights to over 1,000 individuals; and

WHEREAS, in June 2020, the RTC program was expanded using federal CARES Act funding in order to meet further protections for renters facing evictions due to the financial crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly with respect to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention eviction moratorium; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2021 General Fund Revised Budget includes \$200,000.00 in funding for the RTC program to transition from a pilot to a permanent program as well as \$300,000.00 for new legal kiosks to be located throughout the City at strategic locations so that Right to Counsel services could be more accessible to the population being served by the program; and

WHEREAS, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on December 23, 2020 soliciting legal service providers to facilitate the FY 2021 RTC program, which services will include providing core legal services such as streamlining the eviction settlement and dismissal process, providing training to City staff on the eviction process, and providing legal consultation to resolve pending eviction cases. In addition to RTC services, the RFP sought a vendor to staff new legal kiosks in development in collaboration with ITSD and the Municipal Court. These kiosks will be located in the courts, in libraries, and other to-be-determined locations. They will serve as intake points with video conferencing ability for RTC clients to speak with the legal service provider staff directly. In addition to stationary kiosks, the selected vendor will staff a mobile legal aid kiosk to ensure access for people living unsheltered; and

WHEREAS, the new legal kiosks funding allows for the purchase of technology for 4 to 6 legal kiosks to be located throughout the City and materials for one mobile kiosk, which will serve as intake points for low-income San Antonio households in need of legal aid services; and

WHEREAS, TRLA was the sole respondent to the RFP and after considering TRLA's proposal and finding it to meet all applicable criteria, staff has determined that TRLA should be awarded the contract to provide the services under the RTC program; **NOW THEREFORE:**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. The proposal submitted by Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc. for the provision of services in support of the City's Right to Counsel program is hereby accepted and the contract in the amount of up to \$200,000.00, attached as **Attachment "A"** to this Ordinance, is hereby approved.

SECTION 2. Funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 for this Ordinance is available in Fund 2100700001, Internal Order 157000009002 and General Ledger 5201040 as part of the COVID-19 funds received.


SECTION 3. Additional funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 for this Ordinance is available in Fund 11001000, Cost Center 5701020009 and General Ledger 5201040 as part of the Fiscal Year 2021 Adopted Budget approved by City Council.

SECTION 4. Payment is authorized to Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc. and should be encumbered with a purchase order.

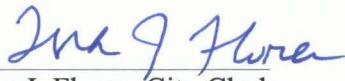
SECTION 5. The financial allocations in this Ordinance are subject to approval by the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, City of San Antonio. The Deputy Chief Financial Officer may, subject to concurrence by the City Manager or the City Manager's designee, correct allocations to specific Cost Centers, WBS Elements, Internal Orders, General Ledger Accounts, and Fund Numbers as necessary to carry out the purpose of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. This Ordinance is effective immediately upon the receipt of eight affirmative votes; otherwise, it is effective ten days after passage.

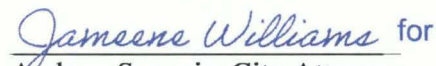
PASSED AND APPROVED on this 18th day of March, 2021.


M A Y O R
Ron Nirenberg

ATTEST:


Tina J. Flores, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Andrew Segovia, City Attorney



City of San Antonio

City Council

March 18, 2021

Item: 19

File Number: 21-1962

Enactment Number:

2021-03-18-0177

Ordinance approving an award of up to \$200,000 to Texas RioGrande Legal Aid for contracted work related to The Right to Counsel Program. Funding is available from the FY 2021 General Fund Budget. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Verónica R. Soto, FAICP, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services]

Councilmember John Courage made a motion to approve. Councilmember Clayton H. Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 11 Nirenberg, Treviño, Andrews-Sullivan, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Gonzales, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage and Perry