



# **Quality of Life Committee** **April 7, 2025**

**Assistant Director Melody Barr for  
Michael Nichols, Director**





# Agenda

- I. Welcome/Introductions
- II. Public Services
- III. Director's Comments
- IV. Public Comments

# **II. PUBLIC SERVICES**

Melody Barr, Assistant Director

## II.a. The Coalition Strategic Homeless Planning Services (All Districts)

An Ordinance authorizing a First Amendment, which will:

- Extend the Contract for Strategic Homeless Planning Services between the City and the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County (Coalition) and;
- Provide an additional \$130,000.00 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for Strategic Homeless Planning services.

## II.a. The Coalition Strategic Homeless Planning Services (All Districts)

As the Lead Agency for The Way Home, The Coalition is the sole-source provider for data collection and analysis on homeless response system trends to guide the development, advocacy, and coordination of community strategies to address homelessness.

The Coalition coordinates a network of homeless services providers, affordable housing providers, medical care facilities, community stakeholders, those with lived experience, non-profits and for-profit businesses.

## II.a. The Coalition Strategic Homeless Planning Services (All Districts)

The Coalition's extensive network allows for greater planning, coordination and decision-making when providing critical homeless services and responding to emerging issues in the homeless response system.

CATEGORY	AMOUNT	PERCENT
Program Services	\$117,000.00	90.00%
Administration	\$13,000.00	10.00%
Total	\$130,000.00	100.00%

## II.a. The Coalition Strategic Homeless Planning Services (All Districts)

The Coalition has received funding through the City for various grants since 2005.

The initial Agreement term was from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, but services did not start until June 1, 2024, after Council approval. The term was administratively extended to May 31, 2025.

This First Amendment will extend the current Agreement term by an additional 12 months to end on May 31, 2026.

## II.a. The Coalition Strategic Homeless Planning Services (All Districts)

No Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was performed as the agency is a sole-source provider being the designated Lead Agency.

As of January 2025, Coalition had utilized 55.83% of their funds.

There were no findings in The Coalition's most recent annual compliance review.

## II.b. SEARCH Homeless Services (District I)

An Ordinance authorizing a First Amendment to the Subrecipient Agreement between the City of Houston (City) and SEARCH Homeless Services,

- Providing up to an additional \$1,111,687.00 in CDBG, Homeless Housing and Services Funds (HHSP), and TIRZ Affordable Housing Funds,
- To provide housing case management, navigation services, and Engagement Center services to approximately 770 individuals.

## II.b. SEARCH Homeless Services (District I)

**SEARCH** provides interventions, assessments, and referrals to services for homeless individuals living on the streets.

The **Engagement Center** is a day shelter and serves as a point of entry for a continuum of services that facilitates introduction toward stabilized employment, housing, and self-sufficiency.

The **Housing Case Management Program** provides long-term housing and supportive services to formerly homeless persons to assist them in achieving housing stability.

## II.b. SEARCH Homeless Services (District I)

HCD conducted a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Public Services funding in December 2022.

SEARCH was selected with the option to renew for up to one-year at the City's discretion.

The initial Agreement period was from February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025, and was administratively extended to April 30, 2025.

This First Amendment will provide funding through January 31, 2026.

## II.b. SEARCH Homeless Services (District I)

CATEGORY	CDBG	HHSP	TIRZ	TOTAL	%
Program	\$507,191.60	\$400,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$1,007,191.60	90.60
Admin	\$104,495.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$104,495.40	9.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$611,687.00</b>	<b>\$400,000.00</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,111,687.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

SEARCH Homeless Services has received funding from the City of Houston since 1996.

As of January 2025, SEARCH met 144% of their goal and utilized approximately 97% of their total funding.

There were no findings or concerns in their most recent compliance review.

## II.c. **SEARCH Homeless Services, ESG-RUSH (District I)**

An Ordinance authorizing an Initial Subrecipient Agreement between the City of Houston (City) and SEARCH Homeless Services (SEARCH),

Providing up to \$925,000.00 in **Emergency Solutions Grant – Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (ESG-RUSH)** funds,

For a program providing rapid re-housing case management and rental assistance to 40 households.

## II.c. SEARCH Homeless Services, ESG-RUSH (District I)

ESG-RUSH funding is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for areas eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Individual Assistance when a “major disaster” is declared to address the needs of persons experiencing homelessness who have unmet needs.

HUD awarded the City ESG-RUSH funding in response to FEMA DR-4781-TX Texas Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, and Flooding and FEMA DR-4798-TX Texas Hurricane Beryl.

## II.c. SEARCH Homeless Services, ESG-RUSH (District I)

SEARCH will quickly move people experiencing homelessness in the Downtown Houston area into permanent housing by providing rental assistance and housing-stability case management services.

CATEGORY	AMOUNT	PERCENT
Program	\$925,000.00	100.00%
Administration	\$0.00	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$925,000.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## II.c. SEARCH Homeless Services, ESG-RUSH (District I)

In March 2025, in partnership with Harris County and the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, the City invited organizations to submit proposals under a Request for Expression of Interest (REI).

SEARCH Homeless Services was one of the agencies that responded and was selected from the applicants that proposed rapid re-housing activities.

This Agreement will provide funding from the date of Countersignature through April 30, 2026.

# **III. Director's Comments**

Assistant Director Melody Barr for Director Michael Nichols

# **IV. Public Comments**

Council Member Julian Rodriguez, Chair