



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 5, 2023

TO: Denver City Council

FROM: Tristan Sanders, Director – Community and Behavioral Health

SUBJECT: STAR Community Engagement Network Contract (Servicios de La Raza) Extension Request

I'm writing to request an extension to a contract with La Raza Services, Inc., dba Servicios de la Raza, by adding four months for a new end date of 2/29/2024 to provide culturally appropriate services to individuals who interact with the Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) Program.

The STAR Program engages individuals experiencing distress related to mental health, poverty, homelessness, and substance use by responding to certain 911 calls with Emergency Response Teams. These teams are comprised of an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or Paramedic and a Behavioral Health Technician. Through direct service provision and the management of a citywide network, Servicios de la Raza provides culturally, geographically, and linguistically appropriate behavioral health and support services to individuals who have interacted with STAR.

The current, first year contract for these services began 11/1/2022 and ends on 10/31/2023. Since it took longer than expected to on-board the network of providers and staff, identify the specific services needed, and build the referral pathways from STAR Emergency Response Teams to Servicios de la Raza, there is still approximately \$700k projected to be remaining at the end of October. Client services started in earnest around May 2023 for the same reasons.

In discussions and overall agreement with Servicios de la Raza staff and leadership, we feel the best approach would be to execute a no-cost extension of the contract to 2/29/24 at which time the full \$700k would be expended. This will give an additional four months to evaluate how services are being provided and work with Servicios de la Raza on a new contract starting 3/1/2024. We expect to bring a revised contract before the Mayor's Office and City Council in early 2024.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this request for a no-cost extension.

CONTRACT NUMBERS: Original: ENVHL-202269536; Amended: ENVHL-202369536

EXISTING CONTRACT DATE: 11/01/2022 – 10/31/2023

REVISED CONTRACT DATE: 11/01/2023 – 2/29/2024

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