CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo **#26-0566**
REGULAR MEETING

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: June 16, 2026

TITLE: Motion Approving a Second Amendment to Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Not-for-Profit Service Agreement Between the City of Fort Lauderdale and Fellowship Recovery Community Organization, Inc. for the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Housing Program in an Amount Not to Exceed $125,000 - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve an Amendment to the Not-for-Profit Service Agreement between the City of Fort Lauderdale and Fellowship Recovery Community Organization, Inc. ("Fellowship") for the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Housing Program in an amount not to exceed $125,000. The current agreement expires on June 30, 2026. The proposed amendment will extend the agreement for an additional one (1)-year term through June 30, 2027, to ensure continuity of services for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Background

On December 17, 2024, the City Commission adopted Resolution No. 24-269 (Exhibit 1), authorizing the City Manager to accept a $250,000 grant agreement with the State of Florida Department of Children and Families ("DCF") for a Mental Health and Substance Abuse Housing Program. The initial grant agreement covered the period from October 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

On March 4, 2025, using DCF grant funds, the City Commission approved a Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Not-for-Profit Service Agreement between the City of Fort Lauderdale and Fellowship (Exhibit 2) to provide substance use stabilization, residential recovery, shared housing, and supportive mental health services to individuals experiencing homelessness. The agreement was for the term beginning on February 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2025. The agreement also included two (2) additional one (1)-year renewal terms, contingent upon funding availability and mutual agreement of the parties.

On June 30, 2025, the City Commission approved the first amendment to the agreement, extending the FY 2025 Not-for-Profit Service Agreement between the City of Fort

Lauderdale and Fellowship Recovery Community Organization, Inc. for an additional one-year term covering the period from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026 (Exhibit 3). Funding for the program was provided through the City's General Fund due to the expiration of the DCF grant.

Under the terms of the current agreement seeking to be extended by the second amendment, Fellowship provides a comprehensive, multi-tiered continuum of care specifically tailored for individuals experiencing homelessness who struggle with substance use disorders. These voluntary services are initiated via direct referrals from the City's Community Court and the Fort Lauderdale Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team.

Upon referral, Fellowship conducts rigorous clinical intake assessments to determine the most appropriate level of care for each participant, ensuring that admissions are both targeted and compliant with the program's strict eligibility criteria.

The core services delivered by Fellowship under this partnership include:

- **Acute Intervention & Respite Care:** For individuals requiring immediate stabilization, Fellowship provides up to fourteen (14) days of respite and detoxification services. This care includes full nutritional support (three (3) daily meals) and accommodates up to two (2) distinct episodes of detoxification per individual, fully reimbursable under the agreement.
- **Long-Term Residential Recovery:** For participants requiring extended support, Fellowship administers structured residential substance abuse treatment for up to ninety (90) days. To maximize successful outcomes, participants showing marked progress toward their recovery goals can be granted extensions of up to an additional ninety (90) days, capping total residential treatment at a maximum of one hundred eighty (180) days.
- **Operational & Care Support:** To ensure continuity of care and eliminate barriers to recovery, Fellowship directly arranges and provides client transportation to all appointments aligned with their individualized treatment plans.

Fellowship's service model is deeply integrated with City operations and strictly monitored for quality assurance. To maintain high-touch collaboration, Fellowship personnel actively attend and participate in the City's weekly Community Court sessions to provide preliminary assessments and streamline the pipeline for viable candidates.

Fellowship also participates in mandatory monthly progress meetings with staff to report on client outcomes across both the detox and residential tracks. Furthermore, Fellowship bears full responsibility for tracking, maintaining, and reporting service data. This ensures absolute compliance not only with City performance benchmarks but also with the stringent reporting requirements mandated by the City's Grant Agreement with the State of Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF).

If approved, the second amendment to the FY 2025 Not-for-Profit Service Agreement, attached as Exhibit 4, will extend the agreement through June 30, 2027, to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of these vital, compliant, and highly coordinated behavioral health services to the City's most vulnerable population.

Fellowship Performance and Utilization Rates

Fellowship provides critical recovery support services, including residential and respite detoxification beds, specifically tailored for individuals experiencing homelessness who identify with a substance use disorder. The comprehensive scope of services includes direct engagement with Peer Specialists, comprehensive case management, linkage to community resources, long-term recovery housing placement, and daily meal provisions for respite clients.

By targeting these essential areas, the program's primary objective is to facilitate the initiation and maintenance of recovery, promote long-term self-sufficiency, and secure stable housing, thereby directly contributing to enhanced public health and safety within the community. Extending this service agreement ensures the uninterrupted delivery of these vital resources.

During Quarter One (Q1) and Quarter Two (Q2) of Fiscal Year 2026, Fellowship demonstrated strong contract utilization by serving seventy (70) unique individuals who voluntarily engaged in program services. Of the seventy (70) participants served during this six (6)-month period, forty-six percent (46%), representing thirty-two (32) individuals, successfully transitioned into structured recovery housing environments. Additionally, sixteen percent (16%), representing eleven (11) individuals, were safely referred to higher levels of clinical care such as inpatient treatment or behavioral health interventions, while thirteen percent (13%), representing nine (9) individuals, successfully transitioned to independent housing or reunified with family support systems. While twenty-six percent (26%), representing eighteen (18) individuals, exited the program prior to completing services, this outcome aligns with industry benchmarks and reflects the complex, inherent challenges of serving a high-acuity population navigating concurrent homelessness and severe substance use disorders.

Overall, these positive programmatic outcomes demonstrate a sustained demand for recovery-focused supportive housing and underscore the importance of extending the current agreement to maintain continuity of care.

<u>Resource Impact</u>

There is a fiscal impact to the General Fund in the amount of $125,000 in FY 2026. Funding is budgeted and available in the listed account.

Funds available as of May 19, 2026					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	**COST CENTER**	**CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME**	**AMENDED BUDGET (Character)**	**AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)**	**AMOUNT**
10-001-3221-564-30-3199	Homelessness Initiatives	Services/Materials/ Other Professional Services	$1,100,170	$632,452	$125,000
				TOTAL AMOUNT ►	$125,000

Strategic Connections

This item is a FY 2026 Commission Priority, advancing the Homelessness Response initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Housing Focus area, Goal 2: Enable housing options for all income levels.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan*:* We Are FTL.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Resolution No. 24-269
Exhibit 2 – Fellowship FY 2025 Not-for-Profit Service Agreement
Exhibit 3 – First Amendment to Fellowship FY 2025 Not-for-Profit Service Agreement
Exhibit 4 – Second Amendment to Fellowship FY 2025 Not-for-Profit Service Agreement

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