

## **Request for Proposals—Strategic Planning Facilitation Services**

The Sobering Center is requesting proposals for stakeholder engagement, planning, and facilitation of an updated organizational strategic plan to be implemented in 2023 at the conclusion of our current strategic plan. The Sobering Center seeks a consultant to support our Board of Directors and staff in a process to develop a 3-5 year plan to guide the future direction of the organization. The target is to have the new strategic plan finalized and adopted by the Board in December 2022.

### **Organizational Background**

The idea of a “Sobering-Up Station,” later to be known as a Sobering Center, was first introduced to Austin/Travis County in 2002. The need for a sobriety center in our community was an important, but missing component needed to effectively address public intoxication in Austin/Travis County. Through years of collaboration between community public and private partners, including those from the business, nonprofit and health care sectors, the Austin-Travis County Sobriety Center was established in 2016. They opened their doors part-time in August 2018 and started 24/7 operations in October of the same year. Today, the Sobering Center continues to provide the essential service of diverting people from the medical and criminal justice systems and provides direct intervention through counseling and referrals to services. Additionally, the Sobering Center has become a leader on the national stage in thinking outside the box in terms of creative service delivery models to meet the needs of our community.

### **Vision/Mission/Values**

*Sobering Center’s Vision:* A safe and responsible community where substance use is a public health issue that is not criminalized, recovery is supported through early identification, and treatment is accessible when possible.

*Sobering Center’s Mission:* The Sobering Center enhances public health and safety by providing a safe place for publicly intoxicated individuals to sober up as an alternative to the emergency room or jail and, where appropriate, to provide a bridge to recovery.

*Sobering Center’s Values:*

- Respect
  - We recognize the worth and dignity of our clients and foster an inclusive and welcoming environment.
- Compassion
  - We seek to understand our clients and consistently express kindness, acceptance, and concern.

- Integrity
  - We are committed to achieving excellence by embodying the highest ethical standards as it relates to client care.
- Advocacy
  - We are committed to relentlessly advocating for our clients and their individual needs
- Health
  - We are dedicated to promoting health and wellness among clients by referring them to the appropriate resources and sharing information about harm reduction and substance use disorder.

## **Purpose**

The Sobering Center seeks a consultant who will bring a thorough and engaging approach to the process and can provide the following services:

- Work with a strategic planning committee of key staff and board members to develop a stakeholder engagement process and document key findings
- Facilitate all strategic planning committee meetings and develop a 3-5 year roadmap incorporating stakeholder feedback.
- Provide deliverable of meeting notes, fully developed strategic plan, and tool for monitoring goals and benchmarks

## **Proposal Process and How to Submit**

Completed proposals should be submitted to Laura Elmore via email at [lelmore@soberingcenter.org](mailto:lelmore@soberingcenter.org) by June 3, 2022.

Proposal submission must include: letter of interest, summary of qualifications and experience of key personnel, proposed approach to process, proposed budget, one sample of a prior strategic plan, and 3 references with contact information.

Proposals will be reviewed by the strategic planning committee. Selected candidates may be asked to interview. A final decision will be made by June 15, 2022.

All clarifying questions may be directed to Laura Elmore, Executive Director, at [lelmore@soberingcenter.org](mailto:lelmore@soberingcenter.org)