Thursday, September 27, 2007

Health and Human Services RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 15

Subject: Approve execution of a contract with CHILD, INC., Austin, TX for Early Head Start child development services in an amount not to exceed \$84,928, with three 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$84,928 per extension option for an estimated total contract amount not to exceed \$339,712.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department through the Community Development Block Grant. The initial period for the contract will be October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008. Funding for the three extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director, Human Services, 972-5011; Ron Hubbard, Early Childhood Coordinator, 972-5028; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Community Development Commission. Reviewed by the Child Care Council.

Prior Council Action: July 26, 2007, Approval of the 2007-2008 City of Austin Federal Action Plan.

Release of funds by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is subject to applicable environmental review in accordance with HUD requirements.

The Child, Inc. Early Head Start Program's City funding is used as part of the required local match (20%) for the federal funding (80%) for that program. The Department wants to maintain the same level of local support to the Early Head Start Program. Child, Inc. is the only federal grantee for Early Head Start services in Austin.

The Early Head Start program was established to serve children from birth to three years of age in recognition of the mounting evidence that the earliest years matter a great deal to children's growth and development. Early Head Start provides comprehensive child development services to low income children and families. Most families served by Early Head Start have gross family incomes that are below the federal poverty guidelines.

Related Departmental Goal

Provision: Social Services – Promote and foster increased self-sufficiency, healthy behaviors, and lifestyle among targeted populations.

Performance Measures

Outputs

Number of children provided direct child care services (unduplicated): 54 Number of parents provided parent education (unduplicated): 45

Outcomes

Percent of clients satisfied with child care services: 98%