

AGENDA



Thursday, October 18, 2007

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 5**

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$180,315 in grant funds from the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES, Infectious Disease Control and Intervention Branch, Austin, TX; and amending the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20070910-003 to appropriate \$180,315 for a total grant amount of \$408,315 for the Community Immunization Program, and create two full time equivalent grant positions for a total of five.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Infectious Disease Control and Intervention Branch. The grant period is from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. No City match is required.

For More Information: Adolfo Valadez M.D., M.PH, Medical Director, 972-5408; Wilmia Perez, Program Manager, 972-6216; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Prior Council Action: Approval of Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget, September 10, 2007.

The Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) allocates federal funds to the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) for the provision of services, as the local health agency in the area. For FY 2007, TDSHS renewed the Refugee Health Screening grant for 12-month period from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007. The award amount was \$227,528. In July 2007, TDSHS issued a new Inter-Local Application (ILA) for additional grant funds and the City of Austin HHSD Refugee Health Screening clinic was granted an increase of \$108,315. The new grant award amount is \$408,315 for the 12-month period from October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008. The funding addresses the Department's Strategic Plan and goals of protecting, preventing, and monitoring the community for preventable diseases by focusing on high-risk populations. The Refugee Health Screening Clinic provides comprehensive health screening services to newly arriving official refugees.

Currently, all of the HHSD Refugee Health Screening Clinic services are provided only with grant funds. In order to meet grantor requirements, two (2) additional full-time equivalent (FTE) positions are requested. One FTE will be a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) who will (1) coordinate and assist clients in managing medical appointments; (2) provide immunizations for adults and children; and (3) provide health education and home visits as needed. The second FTE is a Medical Social Worker Position who will assist clients in negotiating health care systems to assure they have access to timely medical care, and develop and implement resource inventory for refugee population specific to client needs.

The additional funds and positions will allow HHSD to increase the number of refugees served by 20%, from 485 to 582. Also, the time lapsed between screenings is estimated to be reduced by one week (depending on the access to primary care clinics in the community and the availability of appointments).