

AGENDA



Thursday, May 8, 2008

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 17

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing the acceptance of \$354,420 grant funds from the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES (DSHS), PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS SECTION, 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 \$354,420, for a total grant amount of \$1,486,420 to purchase emergency response for materials and equipment.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Public Health Preparedness Section. The grant period is September 1, 2007 through July 31, 2008. No City match is required.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Philip P. Huang, M.D., M.P.H., HHSD Medical Director, 972-5805; Janet Pichette, PHP Program Manager, 972-5486; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

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

The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department (ATCHHSD) has received \$1,131,979 to conduct Public Health Preparedness (PHP) activities categorized in nine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) preparedness goals comprised of 67 deliverables. The grant funds provide 18 full-time equivalent positions in four ATCHHSD units: Public Health Response Team, Epidemiology, Surveillance, and communications and community development. The Fiscal Year 2007 Public Health Preparedness grant has the following purposes:

1. Increase the use and development of interventions known to prevent human illness from chemical, biological, radiological agents, and naturally occurring health threats.
2. Decrease the time needed to classify health events as terrorism or naturally occurring in partnership with other agencies.
3. Decrease the time needed to detect and report chemical, biological, radiological agents in tissue, food, or environmental samples that cause threats to the public's health.
4. Improve the timeliness and accuracy of information regarding threats to the public's health as reported by clinicians and through electronic early event detection in real time to those who need to know.
5. Decrease the time to identify causes, risk factors, and appropriate interventions for those affected by threats to the public's health.
6. Decrease the time needed to provide counter-measures and health guidance to those affected by threats to the public's health.
7. Decrease the time needed to restore health services and environmental safety to pre-event levels.
8. Increase the long-term follow-up provided to those affected by threats to the public's health.
9. Decrease the time needed to implement recommendations from after-action reports following threats to the public's health.

The purpose of the additional PHP Program grant funds is for the purchase of emergency response materials and equipment and this will have no direct impact on the grant deliverables.