

AGENDA



Thursday, September 25, 2008

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 33**

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$326,391 in grant funds from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Women, Infants, and Children Program; and amending the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20070910-003 to appropriate \$326,391 for expenses associated with the implementation of an Electronic Benefits Transfer system and for supplemental funding to purchase equipment for overall clinic operations improvement.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$326,391 is available from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Women, Infants, and Children's Program. The grant period is October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. No City match is required.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Shannon Jones, Acting Director, 972-5410; Donna Sundstrom, Program Manager, 972-6844; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

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

The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a preventive program that targets women and children below 185% of federal poverty level. The WIC Program provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and nutritious foods to pregnant women, infants, and children up to age five.

The City's Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) WIC Program, through funding from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), will receive special funding to implement the new Electronics Benefits Transfer (EBT) program and to purchase office, medical, and computer equipment for the improvement of overall clinic operations. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) implemented the EBT system in the Travis County area on May 19, 2008. The EBT system improves the delivery of benefits to WIC participants and improves the processing of WIC program information. There are no anticipated changes in performance based on the additional funding.

All department grant application requests are reviewed by the Budget Office prior to submission to ensure that the grant minimized the financial impact to the City.