

AGENDA



Thursday, November 20, 2008

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

Item No. 21

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$36,665 in grant funds from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Community Services Block Grant; and amending the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20080908-002 to appropriate \$36,665 for the delivery of basic needs, case management, and preventive health services to low-income residents and to purchase equipment for these services.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$36,665 is available from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Community Services Block Grant. The grant period is January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. No City match is required.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director, Human Services, 972-5011; Cathleen Rodriguez, Healthy Neighborhood Services Manager, 972-5092; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator 972-5023.

Boards and Commission Action: Community Development Commission approved the Community Services Block Grant 2008 Budget, March 11, 2008.

Prior Council Action: Council approved amendment to Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget, July 24, 2008.

The City of Austin receives an annual formula-based Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). The CSBG provides administrative support funding to a network of local Community Action Agencies that provide services to very low-income persons. The City of Austin is considered the Community Action Agency for Travis County. The program funds the delivery of basic needs, case management, preventive health, and employment support services to low-income residents through the City's six (6) Neighborhood Centers.

These grant funds will allow for (1) the upgrade of computer hardware and software for staff located at each of the six neighborhood centers; (2) the purchase of equipment to implement cholesterol screening services; and (3) the extension of the temporary public health nurse who provides preventive health services within the Blackland neighborhood service area through December, 2008.

The grant period for the CSBG grant is from January 2009 to December 2008. Because of this time frame, the grant was included as part of the FY07-08 budget. At this point in time, staff can no longer amend the FY07-08 budget, so the FY08-09 budget has to be amended, which is illustrated in the attached fiscal note. All department grant application requests are reviewed by the Budget Office prior to submission to ensure that the grant minimizes the financial impact to the City.

PERFORMANCE

The extension of the temporary public health nurse services through December 31, 2008 and the provision of cholesterol screening services will allow an additional 90 unduplicated clients to be provided with public health screening services.