

AGENDA



Thursday, December 18, 2008

Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 21

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$40,000 in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and amending the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance 20080908-002 to appropriate \$40,000 for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program that provides rental, mortgage, utility and supportive services to persons living with the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome and their families.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$40,000 is available from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program. The grant period is from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2011. No City match is required.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Vince Cobalis, Assistant Director for Human Services, 972-5011; Mark Peppler, HIV Resources Administration Manager, 972-5081; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Prior Council Action: Council approved the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget on September 8, 2008.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) grant funds in the amount of \$987,000, which is a \$40,000 increase from the previous fiscal year award of \$947,000. The Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office is designated by the Austin City Council as the single point of contact with HUD. The City designates the Health and Human Services Department as the administrator of the HOPWA program.

Services under the Austin HOPWA grant program include the provision of short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance and tenant-based rental assistance. A permanent housing assistance service is also available, which pays rent deposits. This helps eligible clients establish a new residence when on-going occupancy is expected to continue. All housing payments are made to landlords on behalf of eligible human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-positive clients. HUD guidelines for the HOPWA grant also permit the provision of residential housing supportive services for clients living in the qualified residence. The annual HOPWA grant award is formula driven and is based on the reported number of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) cases in the five-county Austin service area. HUD allows three years from the date of receipt to expend each annual grant award. The HOPWA area includes Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson counties.

AIDS Services of Austin and Project Transitions are designated grant subrecipients for these two programs within the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Annual Action Plan which was approved by the Council on July 24, 2008.

Attachment A provides the distribution of the grant funds for FY08-09 compared to FY07-08 and the performance requirements for the FY08-09 grant period.

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.