

AGENDA



Thursday, July 23, 2009

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 38**

Subject: Approve an ordinance accepting \$1,430,692 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 Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20080908-002 to appropriate \$1,430,692 for the delivery of basic needs, case management, and employment support services to low-income residents.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Community Services Block Grant. The grant period is August 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010. 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.

Prior Council Action: Council approved amendment to Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget, February 26, 2009.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provides for \$1 billion in additional funds to the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program for federal fiscal years 2009 and 2010. The State of Texas CSBG program will receive \$48,148,071. As the existing CSBG eligible entity for Travis County, the City of Austin will receive \$1,430,692 in direct funds from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). CSBG eligible entities are to utilize funds for employment-related services and activities. In addition, eligible entities are encouraged to coordinate projects and activities with other programs or organizations that are also receiving stimulus funds. This grant will be funded and tracked separately from the standard CSBG program as the CSBG-ARRA Local Plan.

The CSBG-ARRA funds will be used for the following activities/services:

Youth Employment Development Program provides limited education, employment (on-the-job-training) and community involvement to youth between the ages of 17-23. An additional team will be added, to provide lawn maintenance services. Expansion of services for this program also includes case management, job creation and linkage to Workforce Solutions.

Case Management services will be enhanced to include direct financial assistance with rent, utility and childcare payments. Plans also include adding two temporary social workers and extending the hours of operation at some of the centers to reach those families and individuals who find it difficult to access services during regular operating hours due to household hardships.

Workforce Development opportunities will be expanded through a \$500,000 contract with Workforce Solutions to include onsite services at the neighborhood centers by a Workforce Solutions Program Specialist, occupational skills training and pre-apprentice training. Employment support services will also be provided, including tools, uniforms, tests, supplies, and IDs.

Childcare services and direct financial assistance will be provided to clients through contracts with other nonprofit agencies, yet to be determined.

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 MEASURES

Related Goals: Promotion/Prevention/Protection -- Social services promote and foster increased self-sufficiency, healthy behaviors and lifestyle among targeted populations.

Youth Employment Development: 20 youth.

Case Management: 150 households

Basic Needs (utility, rent, child care): 870 clients

Workforce Development: 306 clients