

AGENDA



Thursday, August 27, 2009

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 19**

Subject: Approve an ordinance accepting \$243,187 in grant funds from the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES (DSHS), WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN PROGRAM, and amending the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Health and Human Services Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20080908-002 to appropriate \$243,187 to fund office and medical supplies and equipment, the implementation of new food rules, and an increase in indirect cost recovery.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Texas Department of State Health Services, WIC Program. The Grant period is October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. No City match is required.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Shannon Jones, Asst. Director for Public Health and Community Services, 972-5614; Donna Sundstrom, Health and Human Services Manager, 972-6844; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023

Prior Council Action: October 16, 2008 - Ordinance No. 20081016-011, increasing grant award.

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

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has awarded special funding for the Health and Human Services Department's (HHSD) WIC program to purchase needed office and medical equipment and supplies such as office chairs, computer privacy screens, copy paper, gauze, and surgical gloves (\$88,634). In addition, DSHS will be implementing new food rules in Travis County and Bastrop County on October 1, 2009. DSHS will reimburse the HHSD WIC program for all expenses associated with additional temporary staff needed for preparation and implementation of these rules (\$31, 553). The new food rules include changes to the food benefits for WIC participants. There will be new allowable foods as well as changes in some of the current food items. These modifications align the WIC food packages with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and current infant feeding practice guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics and will also provide better promotion and support for the establishment of long-term breastfeeding and better accommodation of cultural food preferences. Also, the indirect cost recovery from the grant will increase to reimburse the department and City for administrative support (\$123,000).

There is no anticipated change in performance measures associated with the funding increase.

Statement Required by Corporate Budget Office: 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.