

AGENDA



Thursday, October 22, 2009

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

Subject: Approve an ordinance accepting \$383,734 in grant funds from the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES, INFECTIOUS DISEASE INTERVENTION AND CONTROL BRANCH and amending the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20090914-002 to appropriate \$383,734 to provide refugee health screening and add two full-time equivalent grant positions.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Infectious Disease Intervention and Control Branch. The grant period is October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010. No City match is required.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Philip Huang M.D., Medical Director, 972-5408;
Wilmia Perez, Program Manager, 972-6216; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Prior Council Action: Approval of the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Budget, Ordinance No. 20090914-002 September 14, 2009.

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has allocated federal funds to the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) for the provision of comprehensive health screening services to newly arriving official refugees since 1995. Currently, all services are provided with grant funds only.

According to the United Nations, a refugee is defined as a person forced to flee their country of origin for fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion and is unwilling to return that country.

This is a grant that has been active and continuous for the past 13 years and the clients we serve are federally sponsored refugees. Most of those that have been served lately have been from Iraq and Burma. DSHS has granted HHSD an additional \$383,734 for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 for an anticipated increase in refugees arriving in the Austin area during the grant period ending on September 30, 2010 requiring an increase in staff, laboratory and translation services in order to maintain the delivery of services to eligible clients.

Due to the increasing number of new arrivals to the Austin area -- an approximately 62% increase in Fiscal Year 2008-2009 over Fiscal Year 2007-2008 -- the 2.0 new full-time equivalent (FTE) positions are necessary to continue to be able to meet the newest DSHS grant performance measures. HHSD anticipates that this funding will be level, if not increasing for years to come due to the increase in refugees coming to Austin. If for some reason, grant funding no longer becomes available to the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department, the department will try its best to accommodate any grant-funded FTE before the position is eliminated.

One FTE (Administrative Senior), will be responsible for assisting with the preparation and tracking of on-line Health Assessments, medical record duties (e.g., medical record preparation, pulling charts of

returning clients for nurses, placing lab results on charts for provider evaluation, filing charts, purging files and sending records to storage according to procedure), and other duties such as greeting clients, copying, faxing, back-up for TWICES data entry, scheduling appointments and preparing specimen containers. The other FTE (RN Supervisor), will be responsible for coordinating staff to perform duties to assure quality delivery of service in order to meet performance measures and service delivery grantor requirements, including conducting CQI activities (e.g., medical record audits, customer surveys), serving as liaison with DSHS and refugee resettlement agencies (e.g., trouble-shooting with resettlement supervisors when clients with certain health conditions arrive but have not yet been screened), preparing and monitoring budget, recruiting and coordinating interpreters for initial primary care/specialty visits and personnel management (e.g., performance evaluations, nursing training and yearly competency evaluations, hiring).

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.

The new performance measures are designated with an (N) in the list below.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Related Department Goal: Promote a Healthy Community by preventing chronic and communicable diseases and promoting improvements in social/economic/environmental factors that will result in an improved overall health status and a reduction of health disparities.

Initiate screening services within ninety (90) days of refugees' arrival in the United States. Provide health assessments to a minimum of 90% of the refugees arriving or moving to the program service area. Perform physical exams on a minimum of 90% of eligible clients. Initiate or continue immunization series according to recommended immunization schedules for a minimum of 95% of eligible clients. (N) Complete tuberculosis screening and make necessary referrals for a minimum of 95% of eligible clients. (N) Complete hepatitis A, hepatitis B and hepatitis C screening for a minimum of 90% of eligible clients. (N) Complete intestinal parasite screening for a minimum of 95% of eligible clients. (N) Obtain blood lead levels for 90% of eligible clients between 6 months and 16 years of age. (N) Obtain a Complete Blood Count (CBC) on 90% of eligible clients. (N) Submit health assessment/outcome data within ten days of the completion of a health assessment/return of laboratory tests for 100% of eligible clients resettled in, and/or served by the voluntary agencies in the Contractor's service area. (N) Submit triennial reports to the Texas Department of State Health Services Refugee Health Screening Program.

Outcomes/Outputs: 100% of Refugee Health Screening Clinic clients screened for communicable diseases. Number clients screened within 90 days of arrival will increase from 400 to 500.