Thursday, December 10, 2009

Health and Human Services RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 10

Subject: Approve an ordinance accepting \$22,031 in grant funds from the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, and amending the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance 20090914-002 to appropriate \$22,031 for Ryan White Part A HIV Emergency Relief Grant Program services.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration. The grant period is from March 1, 2009 to February 28, 2010. 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.

On September 18, 2009, the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) received a Notice of Grant Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the Ryan White Part A Emergency Relief Project Grant approving a carry over request from the previous grant year in the amount of \$22,031 for a total grant award of \$4,100,770.

The Ryan White Part A program goal is to improve outcomes for individuals living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) by ensuring access to and maintenance in HIV primary care and the provision of supportive services such as case management, food bank, transportation and health insurance continuation. These services are necessary to maintain individuals in the system of HIV care and prolong their quality of life. Services are provided throughout a five-county service delivery area, which includes Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays and Williamson Counties.

The Austin Area Comprehensive HIV Planning Council (HIV PC), which is responsible for prioritizing services and allocating Ryan White Part A funds for HIV services, decided to fund additional health insurance premium and cost sharing assistance services with the carry over funds. These services provide financial assistance for eligible individuals living with HIV to maintain a continuity of health insurance or to receive medical benefits under a health program. The \$22,031 added through this amendment will be awarded administratively to AIDS Services of Austin, Inc. to provide approximately 55 health insurance premium payments.