

AGENDA



Thursday, May 13, 2010

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 12

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement with WORKSOURCE - GREATER AUSTIN AREA WORKFORCE BOARD d/b/a WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS - CAPITAL AREA WORKFORCE BOARD for child care quality improvement services for the initial term May 1-September 30, 2010, in an amount not to exceed \$331,098 and with a 12-month renewal option in an amount not to exceed \$513,215, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$844,313.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$314,304 is available in the Fiscal Year 2009- 2010 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department. Funding in the amount of \$16,794 is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department Certification Special Revenue Fund. The period of the contract is May 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010. Funding for the renewal option is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Vince Cobalis, Assistant Director Human Services Division, 972-5011; Ron Hubbard, Early Childhood Coordinator, 972-5028; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Prior Council Action: Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Budget approval September 14, 2009.

This Recommendation for Council Action (RCA) will authorize an Agreement with Workforce Solutions (WFS) for child care quality improvement services using the funding that was formerly in the Austin Families, Inc. d/b/a FamilyConnections contract. WFS has experience delivering child care quality improvement services with federal funding and through contracts with the City, Travis County and United Way. WFS and the Austin Community College Child Development Department comprise the Quality Child Care Collaborative that coordinates services with each other and funding agencies.

Services focused on improving the quality of child care programs serving a significant number of low income children are anticipated to include: teacher and director scholarships for college courses and books; support and mentoring for centers working to meet voluntary quality standards; intensive series-based training for directors and teachers; wage supplements for degreed teachers that remain in the classroom; purchase of education materials for providers; mental health/therapeutic consultations for providers serving children with challenging behaviors including assistance in making referrals for mental health services for the children and their families; provision of and training of child care health consultants and playground design and safety consultants; and gap funding to prevent families from losing subsidized child care and improve continuity of care.

With the Success By 6 Program of the United Way and Travis County Health and Human Services, the City Health and Human Services Department engages in ongoing coordination and community planning for child care services. The emphasis includes a number of criteria: targeting low income children below 200% of federal poverty guidelines; series-based, long-term training over short-term; viewing child care center directors as change agents; increased requirements for degreed staff; priority for services to children ages 0 – 3 years then ages 4-5; support of voluntary child care quality standards; and use of demonstrated successful research-based strategies.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Related Departmental Goal: Provision: Social Services – Promote and foster increased self-sufficiency, healthy behaviors, and lifestyle among targeted populations.

Because agreement negotiations are not yet complete, the performance goals described are estimates and may be adjusted as appropriate.

Outputs (unduplicated) May 1, 2010 – September 30, 2010

Number of early childhood development staff receiving training or technical assistance: 350

Number of early childhood teachers receiving wage supplements: 100

Number of child care centers receiving mental health consultations: 20

Number of child care programs that received mentoring, educational materials, health and/or playground consultations: 30

Outcomes

Percent increase in number of centers that meet quality standards: 5%

Percent of teachers receiving wage supplements who remain in the same classroom after 12 months: 85%