

AGENDA



Thursday, June 10, 2010

**Addendum
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 70

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin, Travis County, the Austin Independent School District, and the University of Texas for the provision of services as a partner under a Promise Neighborhood grant proposal submitted to U.S. Department of Education by the University of Texas. The partnership will also involve multiple non-profit agencies.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$2,408,876 is available in the FY2009-2010 Operating Budgets of the Austin Police, Austin Public Library, Health and Human Services, and Parks and Recreation departments. Funding for the program period is contingent upon future budgets.

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

For More Information: Cobalis, Asst. Director for Human Services, 972-5011; Stephanie Hayden, HHSD Manager, 972-5017; Laura Polio, Interim Agenda Coordinator, 973-5010.

The City staff has provided assistance to the Austin Achievement Zone Steering Committee and The University of Texas at Austin to develop the Promise Neighborhoods grant application. The U.S. Department of Education through the office of Innovation and Improvement is funding the Promise Neighborhoods grant to applicants across the United States to replicate the Harlem Children's Zone. The Department will award one year planning grants for projects in up to 20 of the nations most distressed communities.

The first year of the grant will result in awards up to \$500,000 for the planning grant recipients. During this planning term, the applicant must demonstrate how they will design a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of children in distress and high poverty neighborhoods. These efforts will improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children in the most distressed communities by utilizing partners from the community to develop strategies that will enhance youth development through a continuum from "cradle-through-college-to career solutions or continuum of solutions". These strategies will build a firm foundation for children, youth and families with the ultimate goal of reducing the cycle of poverty. In addition, families will receive training and education that will assist in the eradication of generational poverty and the situations that allow poverty to continue. When youth enter the program, they will be taught skills which will empower them and ultimately increase their learning ability.

This Interlocal will demonstrate the City's existing commitment, along with other partners, in supporting the grant application. The City of Austin, Austin Independent School District and Travis County Commissioner's Court Joint Subcommittee has agreed to receive quarterly reports at their meetings to stay abreast of the progress of the Promise Neighborhood grant initiatives.

The applicant is the University of Texas at Austin, Department of Education. The City of Austin will continue to support the current services being provided in the St. Johns center where City staff is housed. The departments co-located there include the Austin Police, Austin Public Library, Health and Human Services, and Parks and Recreation. The services they provide include; but are not limited Northeast District Representatives, police assistance, out of school time services for children and youth, senior nutrition services, library services, case management, basic needs assistance, public health nursing prevention and education services, Women, Infant and Children nutritional services, immunizations and vaccines for adults and children. The City's financial contribution to the St. Johns center from the General Fund and grant funding is estimated at \$2,408,876.

Recommendations

Staff recommends that the City of Austin become a partner with the following entities - Austin Independent School District, Austin Promise Neighborhood Initiative Fund, Austin Stone Community Church, City of Austin, Communities In Schools of Central Texas, Iglesia Familiar Ebenezer, St. John Community School Alliance, Travis County, University of Texas at Austin and United Way - to support the Promise Neighborhood grant application.

Related Goal:

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

Performance Measures

N/A