



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	11189	Agenda Number	5.
Meeting Date:	12/8/2011		Department:	Austin Energy
Subject				
<p>Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$200,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant funds from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) as the administering agency, and amending the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Austin Energy Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 201110912-005 to appropriate \$200,000 for weatherization of homes for low-income, elderly, and disabled customers within Austin Energy's service area. Related to item # 68.</p>				
Amount and Source of Funding				
<p>Funding is available from the Department of Energy (DOE) through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) as a result of the ARRA of 2009 for the grant period of September 1, 2009 to February 28, 2012. No match is required.</p>				
Fiscal Note				
<p>A fiscal note is attached.</p>				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:	<p>November 19, 2009 – Approved acceptance of \$2.9 million grant from DOE and an interlocal agreement with Travis County; April 8, 2010 – Approved contracts to complete weatherization services; September 13, 2010 – Approved Austin Energy's Operating Budget including \$2.983 million in additional grant funds from DOE; January 13, 2011 – Approved acceptance of an additional \$86,774 grant from DOE; April 07, 2011 approved acceptance of \$2.1 million from DOE.</p>			
For More Information:	<p>Karl R. Rábago, Vice-President, Distributed Energy Services, 322-6098; Fred Yebra, Director, Energy Efficiency Services, 482-5305.</p>			
Boards and Commission Action:	<p>Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission and the Resource Management Commission.</p>			
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				
Additional Backup Information				

The Department of Energy, through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, has offered Austin Energy ARRA Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) additional stimulus grant funds to weatherize homes for low-income, elderly, and disabled customers within Austin Energy's service area. The additional grant funds have been awarded to the City of Austin/Austin Energy's WAP from TDHCA to allow Austin Energy to complete existing work currently underway at Mount Carmel (a low income apartment complex located in East Austin). This additional funding will also allow Austin Energy to complete the remaining qualified single family units within the time permitted.

TDHCA has notified Austin Energy that its contract will be amended to reflect a voluntary reobligation of funds and a contract extension through February 28, 2012. This additional grant award is based on the successful implementation of Austin Energy's ARRA Weatherization Assistance Program and the work performed by its contractors.

This budget amendment authorizes the City of Austin to accept an additional \$200,000 in grant funds included in the amended version of the contract. This additional allocation of funds will be used to meet the expense of securing the qualified units, the cost of labor, materials and program support costs to weatherize the units. The new budget total for this grant award is \$8,290,874. The grant period now extends from September 1, 2009 through February 28, 2012.

Weatherization Assistance Program Results to Date:

- Contractors have performed: 1,922 "Test-In" assessments, Weatherized 1,260 homes, and 1,340 final "Test-Out" inspections.
- The Weatherization Assistance Program has obligated \$6,118,236.40 to weatherize homes.