

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	12930	Agenda Number	6.
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Meeting Date:	3/8/2012	Department:	Emergency Medical Services
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Subject

Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$186,523 in Healthy People grant funds from the ST. DAVID'S COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, and amending the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Emergency Medical Services Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund Ordinance No. 20110912-005 to appropriate \$186,523 for vehicles and supply costs related to the Emergency Medical Service's Community Health Paramedic Program.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available from the St. David's Community Foundation for the grant period of February 1, 2012 to January 31, 2013. No match is required.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Ernesto Rodriguez, Director 972-7148
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

Low priority calls constitute more than 10% of total EMS incidents and are continuing to grow. Additionally, on average there are over 10,000 frequent (three or more times per month) patients treated annually. Frequent users, with low priority needs, impacts the entire emergency healthcare system by increasing response times, drawing on limited resources, and overcrowding emergency rooms.

The EMS Department's Community Health Paramedic Program is designed to intervene when individuals either disproportionately use emergency care or are at risk, due to current circumstances, of becoming such a user. The Community Health Paramedic initiates patient contact via an in-home visit and assesses their living environment and physical well-being. Based on this assessment, the Community Health Paramedic, along with collaborating agencies when needed, determines if resources are available to assist the patient and links the patient to these resources. Resources can include assistance with housing, connection to public transportation, disease management, and referral to health and/or mental health care. Subsequent visits and phone calls are conducted, sometimes including long-term monitoring.

The acceptance of these funds will allow EMS to purchase three emergency response-capable vehicles for the EMS Community Health Paramedic Program. The funds will also provide the on-board radios and computers, cardiac/defibrillator monitors, medical bags stocked with advanced life support supplies, as well as certain mental health and social services training for the employees in the program, and office furniture and equipment.

The General Fund will not be impacted by the City's acceptance of this grant.