

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	30142	Agenda Number	12.
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Meeting Date:	2/13/2014	Department:	Health and Human Services
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a 24-month interlocal agreement with the Health and Human Services Commission for Commission training to City of Austin Health and Human Services Department staff to help citizens apply for program benefits through the Your Texas Benefits website at six neighborhood centers.

Amount and Source of Funding

No funding is required.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	On September 9, 2013, during the Budget Adoption Reading, Council increased the Budget of the Health and Human Services Department by \$158,000 to provide staff support for SNAP outreach and enrollment.
For More Information:	Stephanie Hayden, Asst. Director, Community Services, 512-972-5017; Maria Allen, Manager, Neighborhood Services Unit, 512-972-5086; Belinda Hare, Acting Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5855.
Boards and Commission Action:	In April, 2012, the Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB) recommended implementation of an outreach and assistance program to increase participation in the SNAP program to the Austin City Council. In February, 2013, SFPB recommended investment of funding in outreach to the Public Health and Human Services Committee of the Austin City Council. In August 2013, the SFPB reiterated its recommendation that the Austin City Council provide funding and staff support to increase SNAP outreach and enrollment in the 2013-14 budget.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

According to the Texas Hunger Research Project, in 2010, only 47% of eligible Travis County residents were enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Annually, Travis County residents lost an estimated \$195,001,654 in benefits for which they were eligible and \$349,052,961 of economic activity was also lost as a result.

The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) offers a Community Partner Program, through which eligible entities can provide citizens online community-based application assistance for SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, Long-term Care Services and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The City of Austin, Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) proposes to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with HHSC for HHSC on providing online application assistance to citizens at six (6) neighborhood centers. The City of Austin’s neighborhood centers currently provide basic needs services to citizens, including the provision of emergency food; case management and preventive health services. Participation in the HHSC Community Partner program will enable HHSD to reduce barriers to enrollment in SNAP and other HHSC benefit programs