



COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Recommendation number: 20140806: HIV/AIDS Prevention

WHEREAS, the African American Resource Advisory Commission (the “commission”) is authorized by Austin City Code § 2-1-101 to advise the City Council on issues related to the quality of life for the City’s African American community; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is specifically authorized to recommend programs designed to alleviate any inequities that may confront African Americans in social, economic, and vocational pursuits, including (1) health care; (2) housing, including affordable housing, home ownership, and homelessness; (3) entertainment opportunities for professionals and students; (4) employment; and (5) cultural venues, including museums, theaters, art galleries, and music venues; and

WHEREAS, Austin strives to ensure a stable and livable atmosphere that appeals to all demographics, and the City of Austin is committed to providing outreach to promote the welfare of all its diverse residents; and

WHEREAS, the African American population of Austin/Travis County encompasses 8% of the population (1,095,584—2010 Census), and yet is disproportionately affected by 8 of the 15 leading causes of death; and

WHEREAS, the data shows that while Texas is the fourth leading state among HIV cases, Austin/Travis County has the third highest HIV prevalence rate in the state, of which African American women account for 54% of the *new* HIV diagnoses and 70% of the *combined* HIV and AIDS cases, while comprising 4.5% of the City population; and

WHEREAS, the highest prevalence of HIV in Austin is in zip codes 78723, 78724, 78725, 78742 and 78758, with 78% of HIV infection in African American women heterosexually transmitted; and

WHEREAS, Cardea and the Texas Black Women’s Initiative-Austin will target African American men and women in uniquely different ways to provide HIV/STD preventative education, utilizing a variety of social media and social events as a means of generating discussion, building a strong and informed network of HIV prevention advocates, and establishing call-to-action messages that encourage safer sexual behavior in preventing infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS/STDs), testing and linkage to HIV medical care; and



WHEREAS, Cardea and the Texas Black Women's Initiative-Austin aims to provide critical information and connections that will lead to a greater understanding and reach into the target communities; and

WHEREAS, Cardea and the Texas Black Women's Initiative-Austin will collect data on HIV testing behavior, attitudes about HIV/AIDS and HIV medical services and self-perception of risk.

NOW THEREFORE,

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION HEREBY RECOMMENDS THAT THE AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS AT \$350,000 PER YEAR TO CARDEA AND THE TEXAS BLACK WOMEN'S INITIATIVE-AUSTIN TO:

1. Engage/re-engage African American women and men in HIV/AIDS prevention dialogue;
2. Build coalitions of individuals who will become education and prevention advocates; and
3. Collect data to determine individual perception of risk pre- and post-intervention, HIV testing history, and attitudes about accessing HIV medical care.

Date of approval: August 6, 2014

Record of the vote:

Attest: