

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	60801	Agenda Number	39.
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Meeting Date:	8/18/2016	Department:	Health and Human Services
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Subject

Authorize award, negotiation, and execution of a 12-month interlocal agreement with AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE to provide childcare quality improvement services in an amount not to exceed \$48,760, with four 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$48,760 per extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$243,800.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$48,760 is included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department. Funding for the initial contract and the renewal options is contingent upon Council approval of funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	On September 8, 2015, Council approved Ordinance No. 20150908-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating Budget.
For More Information:	Shannon Jones, Director, 512-972-5010; Stephanie Hayden, Deputy Director, 512-972-5017; Robert Kingham, Social Services Policy Manager, 512-972-5026, Estella Kirscht, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5039.
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	August 10, 2016 - Approved by The Early Childhood Council on a 7-0-0 vote with Commissioners Brown, Huston, and Son absent.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The Austin Community College Child Development Department (ACC Child Development Department) aims to develop highly qualified childcare staff to improve the quality of child care in the community. The ACC Child Development Department was involved in the development of the School Readiness Action Plan for Austin/Travis County (SRAP) led by United Way, and the Child Development Department's mission, goals, and course content closely align with the overall purpose and goals of the SRAP.

The SRAP includes the goal of having affordable, accessible early education services available for all families, and that early education services are culturally relevant, healthful, engaging, rigorous, and are of sufficient quality to measurably impact school readiness outcomes. The strategy of increasing the "availability of very high quality early care and education centers for low-income families in underserved neighborhoods" is included in the SRAP as an approach to help reach that goal.

High quality child care has been shown to support cognitive, social, and emotional development in young children.

The Child and Youth Development FY 2015 Community Impact Report published by the Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service Research & Planning Division found that in 2015, there were 104 providers that met the accreditation standards required to be considered a high quality child care facility. This is a decrease from 124 available high-quality child care providers in 2008 and 131 high-quality child care providers available in 2014.

The TRAC program aims to increase the number of knowledgeable, skilled early care and education teachers and directors and helps prevent the problems associated with poor quality child care. The program provides scholarships for courses, textbooks, and financial incentives for successfully completing child development courses. Participants in the program are teachers and directors in early care and education settings who are working in centers serving at least 20% families with low income or at least 10 children from low income families. The TRAC program is funded collaboratively with the City of Austin, Travis County, and Workforce Solutions.

One of the Health and Human Services Policies outlined in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan is to “Improve access to quality child care services near homes and workplaces.” This continued investment in the Teacher and Director TRAC program from the City would be consistent with the goals of Imagine Austin and would help meet a critical need for the community.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Performance Measures (estimated):

Output Measure:

Number of Unduplicated Clients Served: 27

Outcome Measures:

Percent of individuals who complete an educational program and demonstrate improved knowledge: 83.33%

Related Business Plan Goals:

Improve maternal, child and adolescent health outcomes from preconception through adulthood.

Promote a healthy community by addressing the needs of vulnerable households.

RELATED DEPARTMENTAL GOAL:

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