

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: March 22, 2018

Item Number: 022

Public Health

Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$664,000 from United Way for Greater Austin; and amending the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Austin Public Health Department's Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20170913-001) to appropriate \$664,000 for implementation of the Texas Family Connects Program.

Fiscal Note	Funding in the amount of \$664,000 is available from United Way for Greater Austin. A City funding match is not required. A fiscal note is attached.
For More Information	Donna Sundstrom, Assistant Director, 512-972-5038; Alan Washington, Manager, 512-972-5028, Rachel Farley, Program Coordinator, 512-972-5093, Estella Kirscht, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5039.

Additional Backup Information:

United Way for Greater Austin serves as the administrative and fiscal agent for federal Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funds allocated to Travis County through the Texas Department of Family Protective Services. The MIECHV funds are intended to support coalition building and systems-level change benefiting early childhood development and direct home visiting services of federally approved models in Travis County. United Way for Greater Austin would be subcontracting with Austin Public Health to implement the Texas Family Connects Program.

The City will receive \$664,000 to employ five grant-funded full-time equivalent employee nurse

home visitor and supervisory positions to provide Family Connects resource and referral services to Travis County families for the contract period of June 1, 2018 through May 31, 2019. The five grant funded positions will fill existing reclassified vacant grant positions within the Austin Public Health Department and do not represent new full-time equivalent positions.

Family Connects is a voluntary, short-term nurse home visiting program offered to every family with newborn infants to maximize population-reach and community acceptance. The program goals are:

1. To connect with mothers or primary caregivers in order to support parenting skills and self-efficacy;
2. To assess each family's unique strengths and needs; and
3. To connect the family with needed community services, such as health care, child care, and financial and social support in order to promote family functioning and child well-being.

There were more than 16,000 babies born in Travis County last year. Research suggests that 95 percent of families have health needs within the first few weeks of being home. For many families, a single visit from a health professional can provide the support and access to resources that leads to significant positive outcomes. Families that could benefit from more intensive or long-term support are referred to other appropriate programs.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, Austin Public Health Department's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.

Related Department Goals:

Improve Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Outcomes.

Improve Quality of Life and Reduce the Years of Potential Life Lost Due to Preventable Chronic Diseases.