



**Grant**  
**CITY OF AUSTIN**  
**RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 6**  
**AGENDA DATE: Thu 02/05/2004**  
**PAGE: 1 of 2**

**SUBJECT:** Authorize acceptance of grant funds from the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC), in the amount of \$45,000, and approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Office of Emergency Management Operating Budget of Ordinance No. 030909-01, to appropriate grant funds to the Office of Emergency Management Special Revenue Fund for support of the continuance of a Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program.

**AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING:** Funding is available in Fiscal Year 2003- 2004 from the Texas Association of Regional Councils for the grant period January 1, 2004 - August 31, 2004. No City match is required.

**FISCAL NOTE:** A fiscal note is attached.

**REQUESTING** Management Services - Office of **DIRECTOR'S**  
**DEPARTMENT:** Emergency Management **AUTHORIZATION:** Steve Collier

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lindy McGinnis, Emergency Plans Officer, 974-0465;  
Steve Collier, Director, 974-0461

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:** A CERT grant to begin the program was approved by the City Council on July 17, 2003.

**BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION:** N/A

**PURCHASING:** N/A

**MBE / WBE:** N/A

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The Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) Program trains volunteers to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their neighborhoods. A CERT is a realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will initially be on their own after a disaster, and their early reactions in their neighborhoods can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities, put out small fires, provide basic medical first aid, search for and rescue victims safely, and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective. When emergencies occur, CERT members give critical support to first responders and provide immediate assistance to victims.

This program was initiated by the City of Austin in July, 2003. The program began with four pilot teams consisting of 5-15 members per team. This grant request will continue the program with funding for training and equipment for an additional 65 members.

CERT members will be recruited from neighborhood associations, participants in the downtown Building Owners and Managers Association, through the Red Cross Club at the University of Texas, Austin area disaster relief organizations, Travis County, and the Austin Independent School District. All team members will be trained in the basic CERT curriculum developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in addition to local modules designed for hazards specific to Austin. The CERT program will have a representative at the Austin/Travis County Emergency Operations Center.



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This grant will provide for basic response equipment for the volunteers including radios, rain gear, helmets, flashlights, first aid equipment, and miscellaneous other rescue equipment. It will also fund a part-time, temporary employee and printing for instructional materials.

This grant addresses the departmental goal of preventing or lessening the loss of life and property from the effects of major emergencies and to help return the community to normal following a major emergency or disaster. It also addresses the OEM program objective to provide coordination, emergency information, and warning to the public, City departments, and other public safety agencies so they can effectively react to emergencies and disasters.

Program effectiveness of this grant will be measured as follows:

1. Better integrate training and CERT volunteer opportunities with the City of Austin Disaster Ready Austin Volunteer program.
2. Recruit and train sixty-five CERT team members to FEMA curricula with the addition of a local needs module.
3. Percentage of CERT team members that rate the CERT training as good or excellent.

**ORDINANCE NO.**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS AND AMENDING THE FY 2003-2004 OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OPERATING BUDGET OF ORDINANCE NO. 030909-01 TO APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

**PART 1.** The Council authorizes the acceptance of \$45,000 in grant funds from the Texas Association of Regional Councils.

**PART 2.** The Council amends the FY 2003-2004 Office of Emergency Management Operating Budget of Ordinance No. 030909-01 to appropriate \$45,000 in grant funds to the Special Revenue Fund to support continuance of the Citizen Emergency Response Team Program.

**PART 3.** The Council finds that the need to amend the budget constitutes an emergency, a grave public necessity, and an unusual and unforeseen condition that could not, by reasonable diligence, have been included in the original budget for the current fiscal year. Because of this emergency, this ordinance takes effect immediately on its passage for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

**PASSED AND APPROVED**

\_\_\_\_\_, 2004      §  
§  
§  
§      \_\_\_\_\_  
Will Wynn  
Mayor

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
David Allan Smith Shirley A. Brown  
City Attorney City Clerk

## OPERATING BUDGET FISCAL NOTE

DATE OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:  
WHERE ON AGENDA:  
DEPARTMENT:

2/5/2004  
ORDINANCE  
Office of Emergency Management

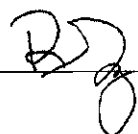
Subject: Authorize acceptance of grant funds from the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC), in the amount of \$45,000, and amend Ordinance No 030909-01, the FY 2003-2004 Approved Operating Budget, Office of Emergency Management Special Revenue Fund, by appropriating grant funds for support of the continuance of a Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program.

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

	Approved Budget 2003-2004	Impact of this Action	Amended Budget 2003-2004
Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)	\$0	\$45,000	\$45,000
TOTAL	\$0	\$45,000	\$45,000
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00

Source: Funding in the amount of \$45,000 is available in FY 2003-2004 from the Texas Association of Regional Councils for the grant period January 1, 2004-August 31, 2004. No match is required by the City of Austin.

Budget Office:



Date:

1/13/04