



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Commission on Immigrant Affairs

Recommendation Number: 20210301-2b: Funding for Healthcare Navigation and Liaison Programs
Benefiting Austin's Immigrant Communities

WHEREAS, immigrant communities in the City of Austin report a need for healthcare access services that remove language barriers and help navigate administrative healthcare systems; and

WHEREAS, targeted community health navigation programs provide access to city and local health and wellness resources through patient advocacy, health navigation education, self-sufficiency resources, interpretation/translation support, referrals to local resources, and eligibility & application assistance; and

WHEREAS, programs already exist including the Austin Asian Community Health Initiative and the Latino Healthcare Forum's PromoSalud program, among others, providing these resources to local Spanish-speaking, Chinese, Burmese, Korean, Nepali, Taiwanese, Vietnamese, Syrian, Iraqi, and other Arabic speaking communities; and

WHEREAS, some of these programs, namely, the Arabic and Chinese programs, run through the Austin Asian Community Health Initiative, are presently funded by emergency grants that will expire; and

WHEREAS, the community identified a need to maintain and continue all existing programs permanently, and to expand current services to additional communities and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes the public health benefit of these services to the City's immigrant communities and the community at large, particularly during the global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, some of these programs are already receiving funding from Austin Public Health, demonstrating the City also values these services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Commission on Immigrant Affairs recommends the City increase its funding to permanently maintain existing health navigation and liaison programs, and that Austin Public Health seek additional opportunities to fund these initiatives and partner with the local organizations providing these services.

Date of Approval: March 1, 2021

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 9-0 vote with Samuel Adair and Glenn Rosales absent

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jim', written in a cursive style.

Staff Liaison