



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

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 4
AGENDA DATE: Thu 02/26/2004
PAGE: 1 of 2**

SUBJECT: Approve execution of Amendment No. 2 to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Austin, Travis County, and the Travis County Juvenile Board for the Truancy Court Program for the period of October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004, in an amount not to exceed \$32,245 with two 12-month extension options not to exceed \$32,245 per extension option, for a total amendment amount not to exceed \$96,735.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding in the amount of \$32,245 is available in the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Approved Operating Budget for the Health and Human Services Department, General Fund. Funding for the extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

REQUESTING Health and Human
DEPARTMENT: Services

**DIRECTOR'S
AUTHORIZATION:** David Lurie

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director for Human Services, 972-5011; Donna Jackson, Program Manager, 972-5017; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: Approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin, Travis County and the Travis County Juvenile Board for the Truancy Court Program on September 26, 2002.

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

PURCHASING: N/A

MBE / WBE: N/A

Background

Truancy Court is a partnership between the Austin Independent School District, the Travis County Juvenile Board, Travis County, and the City of Austin. The program is designed to intervene with chronic truants at the students' home school. It provides supervision, referrals to community services, and regular review of a student's progress towards reduced truancy. For the 2003-04 school year, Truancy Court will provide services to Mendez Middle School, grades 6th through 8th and Travis High School 9th graders, including repeat students. During this fiscal year, the program will expand to include Fulmore Middle School grades 6th through 8th.

Truant students are given the option of participating in this deferred prosecution program or having their case heard through a formal adjudication process. Upon successful completion of the program, the court dismisses all charges against the juvenile.



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Between January 30, 2002, and May 24, 2002, 154 juveniles were referred to the Truancy Court Program. Of these juveniles, 99 were placed on deferred prosecution. The average time to process a case from referral to the first Truancy Court hearing was 42 days, which is significantly less than experienced in the traditional juvenile court system. For the 2002-03 program year, 252 students were referred with 126 males and 126 females being referred predominately from Travis High School (223). A total of 89% of the youth completed the program successfully. In 2003-2004, a 98% completion rate is projected due to programmatic improvements and redistribution of case managers.

Related Department Goals

Promote and foster increased self-sufficiency, healthy behaviors and lifestyle among targeted populations.

Performance Measures

Outputs

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Total number of <i>unduplicated</i> clients referred through truancy court | 252 |
| • Total number of <i>unduplicated</i> Mendez Middle School students referred | 5 |
| • Total number of <i>unduplicated</i> Fulmore Middle School students referred | 79 |
| • Total number of <i>unduplicated</i> Travis High School students referred | 168 |
| • Total number of <i>duplicated</i> youth entering the deferred prosecution or probation program | 127 |
| • Total number of clients completing the program | 124 |
| • Total number of <i>unduplicated</i> clients successfully completing deferred prosecution or probation | 88 |

Outcomes

- | | |
|--|------|
| • Truancy rate reduction | 34% |
| • Number of truancy case dispositions | 320 |
| • Percent of youth successfully completing the program | 98%* |
| • | |

*(98 percent of the 127 youth/clients (duplicated) who have entered the program will complete successfully.)

Requested Council Action

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