



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

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 10
AGENDA DATE: Thu 06/24/2004
PAGE: 1 of 2**

SUBJECT: Approve execution of a 12-month contract with FUND FOR CHILD CARE EXCELLENCE, Austin, TX, for childcare quality improvement services in an amount not to exceed \$387,000, with two 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$87,000 per extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$561,000.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding in the amount of \$387,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Approved Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department, Special Revenue Certification grant program. The initial contract period will be July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005. 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, Human Services, 972-5011; Ron Hubbard, Early Childhood Coordinator, 972-5028; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: Child Care Council reviewed and recommended approval, June 8, 2004.

PURCHASING: N/A

MBE / WBE: N/A

Background

The Austin Child Care Council established the Fund for Child Care Excellence (Fund) through a process coordinated by the City Health and Human Services Department (Department). A Blue Ribbon Child Care Task Force in coordination with the Community Action Network made recommendations about the structure and functions of the Fund. The Fund's primary goals are to fund child care and early childhood activities and to raise public awareness about the importance of early childhood development.

One of the Fund's major achievements was the receipt of a three-year, matching grant from the Dell Foundation in 2001. Because of economic conditions and the related difficulty in obtaining corporate and foundation support, a majority of the third-year Dell funding remains unmatched. It must be matched by December 31, 2004, or it will be lost to the Austin community.

Through this collaborative agreement, City funding available for child care quality activities will be used to match the remaining Dell Foundation funding at a ratio of \$1.50 of Dell Foundation match for every \$1.00 of City funds. The initial contract period will be July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005. One hundred percent (100%) of the City funding will pass through the Fund to other nonprofit, social service organizations through subcontracts and fund one-time, three-year projects to meet the goals as outlined in



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the Work Statement. The Fund will not use any of the City funding for its operations. Subcontracts through the Fund with social service providers will provide:

1. Quality Standards Project to support child care providers in meeting the criteria of the Texas Rising Star certification; and in maintaining and improving their Texas Rising Star status.
2. Mentoring Project to provide on-site assistance and materials to childcare providers to improve program quality.
3. Preschool Mental Health Project to create and operate a system of consultations and training for childcare providers in working with children who have mental health and/or behavioral problems and with the children's families using social work graduate students trained in infant and early childhood mental health.

The Department will require that the Fund's subcontracts be reviewed and approved by the Department prior to contract execution.

The Department planned to fund these activities through direct City contracts. However, funding the projects through the Fund will leverage approximately \$550,500 in foundation matching funds. The resulting Dell matching funds will be used by the Fund for its activities and projects. Some the matching funds will be used to expand services provided by other City social service contract funding.

Performance Measures

Related Goals:

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

Outcomes

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Foundation Match received from City funding | \$550,500 |
| Percentage of early childcare programs community-wide that meet quality standards | 13% |
| Percentage of contracted early childcare programs that meet quality standards | 100% |

Outputs

| | |
|--|-------|
| Number of early childhood development staff receiving training or technical assistance | 200 |
| Hours of on-site mentoring or mental health practicum service | 1,950 |
| Increase in number of providers meeting quality standards | 12 |

Requested Council Action

City Council approval is requested to authorize execution of a 12-month contract with FUND FOR CHILD CARE EXCELLENCE, Austin, Texas, for child care quality improvement services in an amount not to exceed \$387,000, with two 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$87,000 per extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$561,000.