



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

**AGENDA ITEM NO.:** 6  
**AGENDA DATE:** Thu 01/12/2006  
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**SUBJECT:** Approve execution of a 12-month services agreement with INDIGENT CARE COLLABORATION (ICC), Austin, TX to provide project management, research and technical assistance services for the City in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.

**AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING:** Funding in the amount of \$75,000 is available in the 2005-06 Special Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant. The service agreement is from December 1, 2005 through November 31, 2006.

**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:** Adolfo Valadez, M.D., MPh., Medical Director, 972-5408; Wilma Perez, Unit Manager, 972-6216; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:** N/A

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

**PURCHASING:** N/A

**MBE / WBE:** N/A

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**Background**

The City's Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) recently accepted a \$75,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to improve access to and the exchange of certain healthcare data among healthcare providers, with emphasis on immunization data. Using this funding, the City will enter into an agreement with the Indigent Care Collaboration (ICC) under which the ICC will be responsible for the following:

1. Project Management.
2. Identify and report on existing best practices and models for health information exchange in use in other Texas cities and counties.
3. Define existing data exchange applications and information exchanges used by HHSD, the ICC, and local healthcare providers, and identify and prepare reports about health information exchange programs used by healthcare providers in other major Texas cities. Help HHSD define objectives for linking to health information exchange applications and data exchange programs.
4. Analyze gaps between existing data, applications, information exchange systems and implementation of the HHSD objectives for immunization health information.
5. Define possible technical solutions to optimize current systems, implement new systems, or integrate existing systems with new systems.
6. Assist HHSD upon request in creating an RFP / RFI for any external systems that may be desired as part of the technical solution options.
7. Coordinate and lead multiple meetings with public and private safety net providers to address needs and current practice related to health information exchange.

The ICC has developed a fully operational health information exchange system for the uninsured in a three-county



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area based on a Clinical Data Repository. As of August 1, 2005, the I-Care system contained over 400,000 unduplicated patients and 1.6 million encounters, captured electronically on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis from 46 locations, including 13 hospitals, 30 clinics, 2 physician networks, and a local mental health authority.

Because of the aforementioned items, sole-source paperwork was completed to request ICC as the contract agency.

**Performance Measures**

**Grant Goals**

- The ICC shall research, identify, and prepare reports on existing best practices and models for health information exchange networks, including immunization health information exchange among health care providers in Austin and other major Texas cities.
- ICC shall complete strategic planning sessions with health providers identified by City and ICC.

**Primary Outcomes/Outputs Expected from ICC**

- Provide report to City that identifies the current health information exchange practices and programs used by health providers, both private and public, in major Texas cities, including Houston and San Antonio, and identify best practices and models for exchanging health information.
- Define possible technical solutions to improve current systems, implement new systems, or integrate existing systems with new systems in general and specifically for immunization system improvements.
- Create long-term strategic plan to explore opportunities for improving patient care and public health through the interactive exchange of health information among local health care providers, all in compliance with patient privacy and other applicable laws, by:
  1. Working with HHSD to create a steering committee to help guide and manage the proposed project
  2. Research and help create a strategic plan for improving health data exchange.
  3. Determine feasibility of a pilot project to improve data reporting among providers, including state health department.

**Requested Council Action**

Council is requested to approve execution of a 12-month services agreement with INDIGENT CARE COLLABORATION (ICC), Austin, TX to provide project management, research and technical assistance services for the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department, in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.