

AGENDA



Thursday, March 25, 2010

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 24**

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$237,559 in grant funds from the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES, WIC PROGRAM, and amending the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20090914-002 to appropriate \$237,559 for building improvements, temporary assistance, additional indirect cost recovery and to add four full-time equivalent positions.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Texas Department of State Health Services, WIC Program. The grant period is October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010. No City match is required.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Shannon Jones, Assistant Director, 972-5410; Donna Sundstrom, Manager, 972-6844; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Prior Council Action: Approved Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget Amendment in Ordinance No. 20091210-014, increasing grant award, December 10, 2009.

The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a preventive program that targets women and children below 185 percent of federal poverty level. The WIC Program provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and nutritious foods to pregnant women, infants, and children up to age five.

The Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) WIC Program requests additional staffing and temporary assistance to establish peer counselors as a core service of the WIC Program and address growth in program participation. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services confirmed the success of peer counselors in increasing the breastfeeding rates in the WIC Program and has made their role a priority by providing additional funding. Program participation has also increased 16.4 percent in the last fiscal year and over 19.3 percent in the last two fiscal years and is expected to continue to expand. This equates to over 60,000 additional benefits issued in the clinic each year.

The additional full-time equivalent positions (FTE) requested include one Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, two Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Seniors, and one Program Supervisor. These FTEs are critical to maintaining services at a high level and enhancing and expanding peer counselor services to meet the demand for services in our community. In addition, the program requested funding to make improvements to a future rental site for the relocation of the Dove Springs clinic.

PERFORMANCE:

HHSD Related Department Goal: Reduce the racial and ethnic infant mortality rates by 10 percent by 2012.

The impact of this action on performance measures includes an increase in the number of WIC clients from 433,133 to 438,000 and an increase in the percent of women enrolled in WIC during pregnancy who subsequently breastfeed their children from 82 percent to 84 percent.