

AGENDA



Thursday, December 9, 2010

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 18**

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$154,094 in grant funds from the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES, INFECTIOUS DISEASE INTERVENTION AND CONTROL BRANCH, and amending the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Health and Human Services Operating Budget of Ordinance No. 20100913-002 to appropriate \$154,094 for the Refugee Health Screening Program to provide refugee health screening and to add a 0.25 full-time equivalent position.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Infectious Disease Intervention and Control Branch, Austin, Texas. The grant period is October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011. No City match is required.

For More Information: Philip Huang M.D., Medical Director, 972-5408;
Wilmia Perez, Program Manager, 972-6216; Charles Kemp, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has allocated federal funds to the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department for the provision of comprehensive health screening services to newly arriving official refugees since 1995. Currently, all services are provided with grant funds only.

Health and Human Services has been granted an additional \$154,094 for Fiscal Year 2010-2011, bringing the grant total to \$1,157,094. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement anticipates a 29% increase in the number of official refugees who will resettle in the Austin service area during the current grant period ending on September 30, 2011. Thus an increase in staff, laboratory and translation services will be needed in order to maintain the delivery of services to eligible clients. The approval of a 0.25 new full-time equivalent position shall be utilized to increase the current 0.75 FTE Nurse Practitioner position to a 1.0 FTE, to perform physical assessments, secure and evaluate patient medical histories, provide counseling to families on general health care, preventable illnesses, chronic diseases, and nutrition by following standardized protocols and clinical guidelines.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute to this grant or to the funding of these positions. When the grant funds expire, the Health and Human Services Department's need for the positions will be evaluated and the positions may be eliminated.