

Fiscal Note A fiscal note is attached. Purchasing Language: Prior Council Action: For More Information: Patrick Corona, 512-974-9482; Sharon Aguilar, 512-974-5665; April Thedford, 512-974-9408 Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action: MBE / WBE: Related Items:

Additional Backup Information

The 2011 Report "Child Care in Travis County" prepared by E3 Alliance states that there are 75,774 children five years old and under living in Travis County, a 29% increase over the past 10 years. Almost 1 in 4 children under the age of 5 are living in poverty. Hispanic/Latino and Black/African American children under five years of age have even higher rates of poverty, 37% (over 1 in 3 children) and 44% (nearly 1 in 2 children), respectively. During the 2014 City of Austin Youth Service Provider summit, participants recognized that this gap in service for pre-school aged youth persists even three years after that report.

Integrating physical activity into young children's lives is essential for creating a foundation of movement and activity that they will carry with them throughout the rest of their lives. Physically active children learn habits in early childhood that greatly increase their chances of remaining physically active through their teenage and young adult years and into adulthood.

Since cognitive learning and physical activity go hand-in-hand and reinforce one another in early childhood

development, the Austin Parks and Recreation Department has adopted a Movement-Based Curriculum in which students have an opportunity to learn through movement. Youth who participate in a Movement-Based focused program benefit by having:

- Better social and motor skill development.
- Increased school readiness skills.
- Building developing muscles, bones, and joints faster.
- Reducing fat and lowering blood pressure.
- Reducing depression and anxiety.
- Increased learning capacity.
- Developing healthier social, cognitive, and emotional skills.
- Building strength, self-confidence, concentration, and coordination from an early age.

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department applied for this grant to continue offering the Summer Playgrounds Program to youth ages 6-12 and to expand the program to serve youth ages 4-5.

A City funding match is not required. The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budget to this grant. When the grant funds expire, the Parks and Recreation Department's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.