

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: October 5, 2017

Item Number: **013**

Public Health

Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$315,000 in grant funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service and amending the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20170913-001) to appropriate \$315,000 to implement the AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America Program.

Fiscal Note	Funding in the amount of \$315,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund Ordinance No. 20170913-001. A City match of \$45,000 is required. A fiscal note is attached.
<u>Prior Council Action</u>	On September 13, 2017, Council approved the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund Ordinance No. 20170913-001.
<u>For More Information</u>	Stephanie Hayden, Interim Director, 512-972-5010; Dr. Chiquita Eugene, City Wide Program Manager-Youth and Family Services Initiatives, 512-530-3335; Estella Kirscht, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5039..

Additional Backup Information:

AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) is a national service program designed to fight poverty through the utilization of VISTA members committed to serve full-time for a year at a non-profit organization or local government agency for capacity and sustainability building initiatives that deal with

community issues including literacy, health services, economic development, and neighborhood building. AmeriCorps VISTA members are nationally recruited college graduates receiving a monthly living stipend, health benefits, and an educational award at the end of their term of service paid by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS assigns the AmeriCorps VISTA members to various community agencies.

The primary purpose of this grant is for CNCS to provide the City up to 19 AmeriCorps VISTA members to perform volunteer service to strengthen and supplement efforts to eliminate poverty and poverty-related human, social, and environmental problems. Assignments have been identified in the following City departments: Health and Human Services, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Parks and Recreation, Public Works (Neighborhood Partnering), Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs, Mayor's Office, Small Minority and Business Resources and Human Resources Department (Equal Employment Opportunity and Fair Housing Office, and the Youth and Family Services Initiatives Office).

The City's association with the AmeriCorps VISTA Program began in July 2012 with an interlocal agreement approved by City Council between the City and University of Texas, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. There was a continuation in August 2013, which was also approved by City Council. Throughout the duration of the term of the agreements, the City was assigned a total of nine AmeriCorps VISTA members. The City's cost-share for each member was less than \$12,000.

The funding of \$315,000 represents the cost for CNCS to provide AmeriCorps VISTA members benefits for which they qualify, including living allowance, relocation assistance, end of service awards, health coverage, life insurance coverage, and/or child care coverage. Acceptance of these grant funds will have no impact to the General Fund this fiscal year or in future years. The required City match of \$45,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Operating Budget of the Austin Public Health Department. The agreement is subject to annual review and renewal every 12 months.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, the Austin Public Health Department's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.