

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: April 12, 2018

Item Number: **012**

Public Health

Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$25,000 in grant funds from the National League of Cities and amending the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 201709013-001) to appropriate \$25,000 for the Cities Supporting a Strong Prenatal to Age 3 Agenda.

Lead Department	Austin Public Health.
Fiscal Note	Funding in the amount of \$25,000 is available from The National League of Cities. A City funding match is not required. A fiscal note is.
For More Information	Donna Sundstrom, Assistant Director, 512-972-5038; Cynthia Gamez, Program Supervisor, 512-972-6216, Rachel Farley, Program Coordinator, 512-972-5093, Estella Kirscht, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5039.

Additional Backup Information:

The City was one of 12 cities invited by the National League of Cities (NLC) to apply for the Cities Supporting a Strong Prenatal to Age 3 (PN-3) Agenda, a one-year technical assistance initiative. This initiative is an opportunity to build on the collective work done by our community over the past six years to develop the Austin/Travis County School Readiness Action Plan (SRAP). The NLC PN-3 grant will enhance the work being done in Austin through the SRAP to strengthen supports for families of young children, and improve early childhood education and services.

While the SRAP focuses on school readiness for all children under the age of six, our community has made the most significant progress in initiatives for children ages three to five. This technical assistance opportunity will bolster our focus on programmatic and policy strategies on behalf of the youngest members of our community, children ages 0 to 3, and throughout the prenatal period. It will also help us develop consistent and effective messaging to raise awareness and support across all sectors for early learning.

In 2013, the City was selected by NLC to participate in the Municipal Leadership to Promote Educational Alignment for Young Children technical assistance initiative. No funding was involved. Both the Mayor and the Austin Independent School District Superintendent submitted letters of support to NLC for the initiative. Based on this previous work with NLC, the City was invited to apply for the PN-3 Agenda grant.

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Ready Families: Families are financially secure and have access to resources that provide them with the knowledge, skills, confidence and social supports to positively nurture the health, safety and development of their children, especially during the critical ages of birth to three when brain development is central and has long-lasting implications.
- Ready Early Education Services: Children and families are informed and able to access high-quality early learning environments that demonstrate positive developmental outcomes for all children before they enter kindergarten (including children with unique developmental and cultural needs) through competent, responsive, and caring relationships.
- Ready Health and Mental Health Services: When babies get what they need from the start-nurturing experiences at home, high-quality child care, and access to health screenings and supports-they become healthy kids who are ready to learn and engage with the world. Children receive early and regular developmental screenings and immunizations and are linked to accessible, coordinated, integrated, and responsive basic needs, and physical, dental and mental health services, including services for children with developmental delays.
- Ready Communities: Our brains develop faster between the ages of zero and three than any later point in life. If we wait until kindergarten to invest in kids, we're starting too late. Public and private sectors in Austin/Travis County work together to ensure that the community has the resources and infrastructure to deliver services to children and their families, while also providing a safe and healthy environment in which to raise children.

SHORT-TERM GOALS

- Communities can help parents by providing parents with the unique tools, information, and guidance they need at a time when they are most overwhelmed. Pilot a postpartum home visiting model for new parents that includes assessment, education, and resource referrals that will be universally available for all births in Austin/Travis County. (Goals for numbers served: 2,000 in year one and 16,000 once scaled up)
- Increase community awareness about the importance of the early years in conjunction

with parent education on caring for children under three and information on how to access early childhood services targeted at parents and caregivers. (Goals for number served: 600 people in year one)

- Increase the number of low-income children ages 0-3 in high-quality early-care and education settings, including Early Head Start. (Goal for numbers served: 1605 by the end of 2018, which represents a 10% increase over the 2014 goal)
- Sustain, expand and foster new partnerships with City, County, and local business leaders to align policy and funding with the SRAP.

The grant covers a period from March 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018, for an amount not to exceed \$25,000. The City is not required to match funds.

Performance Measures

Related Department Goals

- Improve Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Outcomes from preconception through young adulthood
- Improve Quality of Life and Reduce the Years of Potential Life Lost Due to Preventable Conditions

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