



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-2058, **Agenda Item #:** 43.

6/20/2019

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing to provide community health worker training curriculum services in an amount not to exceed \$175,000 for a 12-month term ending June 30, 2020.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$175,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Austin Public Health Operating Budget.

Prior Council Action:

September 11, 2018 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20180911-001, adopting the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Austin Public Health Operating Budget that includes \$175,000 in new funding for community health worker training on a 10-1 vote, with Council Member Troxclair voting no.

For More Information:

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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

May 15, 2018 - the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission approved recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget, including a Community Health Worker Training Program to develop the skills and knowledge of community members to serve as part of the region's health workforce, on an 11-0 vote.

Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute an agreement with the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing to develop and provide culturally relevant training modules for community health worker (CHW) certification continuing education, at no cost to the community. These trainings will align with the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) approved program for CHW certification and continuing education.

One of the barriers to Texas' participation in the nation's effort to transform community health infrastructure is a lack of comprehensive training for lay health workers. While Texas requires basic certification for CHWs and 20 hours of continuing education units (CEUs) every two years, there is a dearth of quality, accessible, culturally specific CEU offerings for CHWs to enhance their performance, maintain certification, and more effectively serve community members.

Growing evidence demonstrates that CHWs impact community health by providing trusted, culturally, and linguistically appropriate information and resources to clients. Carefully designed online education, using adult

learning principles, can be as effective as face-to-face training, and is often more accessible to CHWs in both rural and urban communities. This agreement will include both online and face-to-face new CHW training with the following content considerations:

- 1) Cultural, gender, and linguistic congruency
- 2) Health literacy
- 3) CHW CEU approval from Texas DSHS