



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1433, **Agenda Item #:** 23.

2/20/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Travis County to coordinate Census 2020 outreach and education services by hiring a program manager.

Lead Department

Planning and Zoning.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$100,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Planning and Zoning Department's Operating Budget.

Prior Council Action:

FY 2018-19 Budget - Council authorized \$100,000 for the 2020 Census effort.

FY 2019-20 Budget - Council authorized \$200,000 for the 2020 Census effort.

For More Information:

Jerry Rusthoven, Assistant Director/ Interim Lead, Planning and Zoning Department, 512-974-3207; Matt Dugan, Division Manager, Planning and Zoning Department, 512-974-7665.

Additional Backup Information:

In April 2020, the United States will conduct a census of its population as required by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Census Bureau manages the process but relies upon local communities to encourage participation in the effort. Achieving an accurate count from the decennial censuses is absolutely critical for local jurisdictions because the annual distribution of federal monies is based largely on the decennial data. Funding details include:

- 1) The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually in grants and subsidies to state and local governments;
- 2) Title I grants to school districts;
- 3) Public transportation and mass transit programs;
- 4) Emergency food and shelter programs;
- 5) Head Start;
- 6) Women, Infants and Children (WIC) food assistance program;
- 7) Programs for the elderly; and
- 8) Data will be used to reapportion Congressional Districts across the country and to redraw Travis County Commissioners precincts and Austin City Council districts.

The County has hired John Lawler to be the Program Manager to coordinate Census 2020 outreach and education efforts. This interlocal agreement will allow both entities to jointly support and fund the program manager's position as census outreach and education are critically important to both entities.