



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1791, Agenda Item #: 15.

5/20/2021

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to add 1.0 full-time equivalent grant funded position for the United Way for Greater Austin, Texas Family Connects Program.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$66,863 is available from United Way for Greater Austin. A City funding match is not required. A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

This action will authorize the conversion of a 1.0 current grant-funded temporary employee to a regular position as Registered Nurse Senior that will perform services under the Texas Family Connects Program (Program) grant. Austin Public Health has retained a qualified Registered Nurse for the Program and brings forward this request to ensure retention by providing benefits, including healthcare and retirement. United Way for Greater Austin serves as the administrative and fiscal agent for federal Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funds allocated to Travis County through the Texas Department of Family Protective Services. The MIECHV funds support coalition building and systems-level change benefiting early childhood development and direct home visiting services of federally approved models in Travis County. United Way for Greater Austin is subcontracting with Austin Public Health to implement the Texas Family Connects Program.

Family Connects is a voluntary, short-term nurse home visiting program offered to every family with newborn infants to maximize population reach and community acceptance. The program goals are:

1. To connect with mothers or primary caregivers in order to support parenting skills and self-efficacy.
2. To assess each family's unique strengths and needs.
3. To connect the family with needed community services, such as health care, childcare, and financial and social support in order to promote family functioning and child well-being.

There were more than 16,000 babies born in Travis County last year. Research suggests that 95 percent of families have health needs within the first few weeks of being home. For many families, a single visit from a health professional can provide the support and access to resources that leads to significant, positive outcomes. Families that can benefit from more intensive or long-term support are referred to other appropriate programs.

Converting this temporary employee to a regular grant funded Full Time Equivalents (also known as FTE) will allow the City to retain qualified staff for the duration of this grant.

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

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.