



## Recommendation for Action

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**File #:** 21-2589, **Agenda Item #:** 8.

9/2/2021

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### **Posting Language**

Authorize the execution of an interlocal agreement with Del Valle Independent School District to expand access to Dual Language Pre-K4 programs for Austin/Travis County families residing within the District's school boundary who do not meet state eligibility requirements for state publicly funded Pre-K, for a 36-month term through September 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$750,000.

### **Lead Department**

Economic Development.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$638,000 is available from the U.S. Department of Treasury, American Rescue Plan. Funding in the amount of \$112,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budget of Austin Public Health.

### **Prior Council Action:**

June 10, 2021 - Council approved Resolution No. 20210610-077 approving the American Rescue Plan Act Spending Framework and authorizing the City Manager to make the necessary allocations.

### **For More Information:**

Sylvia Holt-Rabb, Acting Director, Economic Development Department, 512-974-3131 and David Gray, COVID-19 Economic Recovery Programs Project Manager, (512) 974-7836.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

This action will authorize the execution of an interlocal cooperation agreement with Del Valle Independent School District (DVISD) to expand access to Dual Language Pre-K4 programs for Austin/Travis County families residing within DVISD's school boundary who do not meet state eligibility requirements for state publicly funded Pre-K, for a 36-month term through September 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$750,000.

City of Austin, Travis County, and DVISD staff actively collaborated to develop an approach for expanding access to dual language pre-kindergarten in DVISD schools. This interlocal cooperation agreement is part of the interjurisdictional approach. The County Court approved matching the City's \$750,000 ARPA allocation on August 3, 2021.

This agreement is aligned with Council's direction in Resolution No. 20210610-077 for City staff to use American Rescue Plan Act funding to expand access to dual-language full-day Pre-K for four-year-old children in Del Valle schools. Specifically, these funds will allow DVISD to supplement and expand access to full-day Dual Language Pre-K for four-year-old children at the district's elementary school campuses with a minimum of 86 percent of families who qualify in the free and reduced lunch program.

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Investing in Pre-K aligns with the community's Success By 6 Coalition Strategic Plan for 2019-2023, which includes the following strategy for Early Childhood Education related to Pre-K:

- Increase the number of eligible three- and four-year-old children enrolled in Public Pre-K in Travis County school districts and other high quality early education settings.

DVISD will assume the following responsibilities because of this interlocal agreement:

- Hire certified teachers and assistant teachers (as needed to adhere to staff-to-child ratios below) for a minimum of nine (9) PreK 4 classrooms.
- Adhere to high-quality staff-to-child ratios (1:10) and maximum class size ratios for four-year-olds (20 children).
- Purchase all furniture, curriculum, equipment and supplies, including but not limited to shelving, easels, blocks, manipulatives, puzzles, rugs, and play kitchen furniture, and invoice the City of Austin for reimbursement, no later than December 31, 2021.
- Screen eligibility for families to ensure they do not qualify for state publicly funded Pre-K.
- Ensure there is no tuition cost for four-year-old children who do not qualify for state publicly funded Pre-K.
- Ensure equitable access to this program with targeted outreach, especially where disparities rooted in systemic inequities continue to persist for communities of color.
- Coordinate with Austin Public Health and other partners to reach out to eligible families about Pre-K and other birth to age 5 resources and programs.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Economic Opportunity and Affordability, Health and Environment, Government that Works for All.