



**RCA  
CITY OF AUSTIN  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 9  
AGENDA DATE: Thu 07/28/2005  
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**SUBJECT:** Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES, Austin, TX, and an interlocal agreement with the BRAZOS VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, Bryan, TX. Both agreements will be executed for the period July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, with two 12-month renewal options, for a total three year period ending June 30, 2008, for the provision of HIV service data support through a new HIV services software application called the AIDS Regional Information and Evaluation System (ARIES).

**AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING:** N/A

**FISCAL NOTE:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**REQUESTING** Health and Human  
**DEPARTMENT:** Services

**DIRECTOR'S  
AUTHORIZATION:** David Lurie

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director for Human Services, 972-5011; Mark Pepler, Manager, HIV Resources Administration, 972-5081; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:** N/A

**BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION:** N/A

**PURCHASING:** N/A

**MBE / WBE:** N/A

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**Background**

For more than ten years, the City of Austin has received Ryan White CARE Act Title I and Title III grant funds from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The City of Austin Health and Human Services Department (HHSD), as the administrator of these funds, is required to provide periodic data reports to HRSA and HUD. Additionally, HHSD staff is responsible for conducting program evaluation and performing program monitoring. To support these reporting and program evaluation and monitoring requirements, client-level data has been collected and entered into various software applications (i.e. COMPIS, CAREWare) by subrecipients contracted to provide client services. These software applications, while capable of generating required grantor reports, were not user friendly and frequently required modifications to correct programming errors. Additionally, these programs could not generate aggregate data reports, which required exporting of data into other software applications for analysis. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and other Ryan White CARE Act grantees throughout the state also used these software applications.

To address many of the inherent problems with these software applications, DSHS, in collaboration with



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the County of San Diego, the County of San Bernardino, and the State of California, developed a new internet-based application, the AIDS Regional Information and Evaluation System (ARIES). ARIES application development cost was covered by DSHS and its collaborative partners. The goal of ARIES is to enhance services for clients with HIV by helping providers automate, plan, manage, and report on client data. ARIES centralizes client data, service details, and agency and staff information to maximize the quality of care and services to clients in need. ARIES is now being implemented throughout the State of Texas by Ryan White CARE Act grantees. ARIES is a free, easy-to-use, customizable program for collecting and analyzing a variety of HIV service, clinical, and outcomes information. With a client's permission, agencies can share client records, which result in simplified service referrals, and streamlined eligibility and enrollment processes. ARIES also employs extensive security measures to protect client confidentiality and is HIPAA compliant.

DSHS has contracted with BVCOG to serve as their administrative agent for the Austin area. BVCOG will provide data and technical support as outlined in their agreement and the DSHS agreement provides technical support and assurances that data requests will be addressed within specified time frames. The City, in turn, agrees to provide training on the use of the ARIES application to subrecipients in the Austin Eligible Metropolitan Area.

The interlocal agreements will allow the City to enter into a collaborative relationship with DSHS and BVCOG and allow for the sharing of data that ensures the City is able to meet its grantee reporting requirements, as well as conduct program evaluation and monitoring activities. Approximately 2,800 clients will have data entered into the system.

**Performance Measures**

**HHSD Departmental Goals**

**Prevention/Provision:** Social Services Promote and foster increased self-sufficiency, healthy behaviors and lifestyle among targeted populations

Establish by 2005, a community-wide system to measure the utilization of social services across selected issue areas

**Requested Council Action**

Council is requested to approve execution of an interlocal agreement with the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES, Austin, TX, and an interlocal agreement with the BRAZOS VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, Bryan, TX. Both agreements will be executed for the period July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, with two 12-month renewal options, for a total 3-year period ending June 30, 2008, for the provision of HIV service data support through a new HIV services software application called the AIDS Regional Information and Evaluation System (ARIES).