

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

|                     |                |       |                      |     |
|---------------------|----------------|-------|----------------------|-----|
| Austin City Council | <b>Item ID</b> | 14328 | <b>Agenda Number</b> | 15. |
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| <b>Meeting Date:</b> | 4/26/2012 | <b>Department:</b> | Human Resources |
|----------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|

**Subject**

Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$163,704 in grant funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fair Housing Act; and amending the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Human Resources Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20110912-005) to appropriate \$163,704 to provide additional funding to investigate and settle complaints of discrimination in housing;

**Amount and Source of Funding**

Funding in the amount of \$163,704 is available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fair Housing Act, for the project period of April 10, 2013. No City match is required.

**Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note attached.

|                                      |                                                                                   |
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| <b>Purchasing Language:</b>          |                                                                                   |
| <b>Prior Council Action:</b>         |                                                                                   |
| <b>For More Information:</b>         | Carla Scales, Assistant Director / 974-1356; Mark Washington, Director / 974-3202 |
| <b>Boards and Commission Action:</b> |                                                                                   |
| <b>MBE / WBE:</b>                    |                                                                                   |
| <b>Related Items:</b>                |                                                                                   |

**Additional Backup Information**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently communicated its new initiative for discrimination issues in the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) community. In support of the new initiatives, the City of Austin Equal Employment/Fair Housing Office (COA-EE /FHO) is proposing a partnership with the Austin Tenants' Council (ATC) to enforce its ordinance, which protects the LGBT community in the City of Austin. As such, HUD has awarded the COA-EE /FHO additional funding for a partnership program with ATC to conduct community education and paired fair housing testing related to LGBT discrimination issues in the Austin MSA.

The additional funding of \$163,704 includes \$89,500 for the partnership program associated with initiative related to LGBT and \$74,204 for COA-EE /FHO to hire two temporary employees, one to work full time and the other one part time, to support the HUD processing of complaints in general to include complaints generated by ATC's paired testing and file them with HUD. The COA-EE /FHO will be the sole recipient of HUD funding, and will pay ATC's partnership portion (\$45,000) based on performance of agreed upon roles and responsibilities over time.

Acceptance of these additional grant funds will have no impact to the General Fund this fiscal year or in future years. This is a special initiative and one-time grant amendment for a partnership program which will not receive continued funding when the project is completed. Depending on the success or need identified in this initiative, COA-EE /FHO may seek future grant funding to conduct other similar initiatives.