

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council	Item ID	33373	Agenda Number	21.
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Meeting Date:	6/12/2014	Department:	Human Resources
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**Subject**

Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$185,000 in additional grant funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for a partnership program with the Austin Tenants' Council to protect the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, and amending the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Human Resources Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20130909-001) to appropriate these funds to investigate and settle complaints in discrimination in housing.

**Amount and Source of Funding**

Funding in the amount of \$185,000 is available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fair Housing Act. No City match is required.

**Fiscal Note**

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Joya Hayes, Assistant Director /512-974-3246; Mark Washington, Director /512-974-3202
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

**Additional Backup Information**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has communicated continued funding initiatives to Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) agencies for partnerships with fair housing or other civil rights advocacy organizations to conduct effective and comprehensive fair housing education and outreach to special populations. In support of the 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 code provision, which protects the deaf and hard-of-hearing 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 deaf and hard-of-hearing discrimination issues in the Austin MSA.

The additional funding of \$185,000 includes \$110,000 for the partnership program, and \$75,000 for COA-EE/FHO employees who will process 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 (\$65,000) 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. This amendment is in addition to the amount of \$279,000 currently in FY 2014.