

AGENDA



Recommendation for Committee Action

Health and Human Services Committee	Item ID	43885	Agenda Number	3.
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Meeting Date:	4/15/2015	Department:	Health and Human Services
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Subject

Consider and develop recommendations on an interlocal agreement between the City of Austin and the University of Texas at Austin in the amount of \$139,758 to cover the costs of research and evaluation in support of the Asian American Quality of Life Initiative for over a one-year period.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$139,758 is available from the Management Services fund.

Fiscal Note

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	Resolution 20131024-085, Ordinance 20131024-084
For More Information:	Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager
Boards and Commission Action:	The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission recommended approval of the interlocal agreement to the City Council on March 17, 2015.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The growth of the Asian American population in Austin has been increasing in recent years. An estimated 90,000 Asian Americans live in the greater Austin area. This population has doubled in Travis County since 2000, and represents the fastest growing demographic group in Central Texas. The City Council's Public Health and Human Services Committee has discussed the challenge of delivering health and public services to the Asian American population due to the diverse languages and cultures represented.

Responding to the demographic trends, the City Council adopted 20131024-085 on October 24, 2013, directing the City Manager to (1) conduct facilitated discussions of the Asian American quality of life (AAQOL) issues in Austin; (2) develop strategies to address the findings of the Asian American Health Assessment, the facilitated discussions and the Community Scorecard; and (3) report back to the Council with recommendations for enhanced or new City programs and practices. The resolution directed that staff report back to Council by December 2014 with the recommendations. Given the nature and complexity of the effort, staff requested extensions, most recently on November 26, 2014. At that time staff estimated a completion date of February 2016.

In addition, the Council adopted Ordinance 20131024-084 that created the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission to advise the City Council on issues related to the Asian American Resource center and provide on-going guidance and support for the City's AAQOL initiatives.

Should Council approve the interlocal agreement with the University of Texas (UT) at Austin, staff will be well positioned to accomplish the goals of the AAQOL initiative, which is now estimated to be complete in April 2016. UT brings expertise to address the primary challenges of diversity of culture, diversity of language, and hard to reach communities.

The Asian American Quality of Life (AAQoL) survey aims to conduct surveys with 2,500 Asian Americans in Austin to explore their health and service needs. Self-identified Asian Americans representing five major ethnic groups (Chinese, Vietnamese, Asian Indian, Korean, and Filipino) aged 25-85 are eligible to participate in the survey. Through self-administered or interviewer-assisted surveys, participants will answer questions pertaining to their demographics, physical and mental health, psychosocial and cultural resources, neighborhood social capital, and quality of life.

The unique experiences and challenges of diverse groups of Asian Americans will be assessed at individual, interpersonal, and community levels. This one-year project will include a series of activities: (1) master questionnaire development, (2) translation, (3) ethnic community assessment, (4) recruitment and survey implementation, (5) data management and analysis, and (6) write-up and presentation. Findings from the AAQoL survey will be presented to the City of Austin staff, the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission, and the Council's Health and Human Services Committee. This will then guide the development of public policies and programs in response to the identified needs, in much the same way some of the outreach, engagement and research informed the African American and Hispanic/Latino quality of life initiatives.