

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	43866	Agenda Number	43.
Meeting Date:	4/23/2015		Department:	Management Services
Subject				
<p>Authorize execution of an interlocal agreement between the City 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 a one-year period.</p>				
Amount and Source of Funding				
<p>Funding in the amount of \$139,758 is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Financial Services Department operating budget.</p>				
Fiscal Note				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:	Resolution 20131024-085, Ordinance 20131024-084.			
For More Information:	Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager, 512-974-2222			
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	<p>The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission passed a motion to recommend approval of the interlocal agreement to the City Council on March 17, 2015.</p> <p>April 13, 2015 - Unanimously approved by the Health and Human Services Council Committee.</p>			
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				
Additional Backup Information				
<p>The growth of the Asian American population in Austin has been growing rapidly 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.</p> <p>Responding to the demographic trends, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 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 staff to report back to Council by December 2014 with the</p>				

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 No. 20131024-084 that created the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission to advise 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.

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 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.