

Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council Item ID 51661 Agenda Number 16.

Meeting Date: 11/12/2015 Department: Health and Human Services

Subject

Approve negotiation and execution of an amendment to the contract with Latino Healthcare Forum for insurance enrollment educational outreach and navigation services of the Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Marketplace, to add funding to the contract in an amount not to exceed \$142,000, for the period of October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, and add three 12-month renewal options, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 per renewal option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$800,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$142,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department. Funding for the renewal options is contingent upon the availability of funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note					
A fiscal note is not required.					
Purchasing Language:					
Prior Council Action:	On September 8, 2015, Council approved Ordinance No. 20150908-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating Budget.				
For More Information:	Stephanie Hayden, Deputy Director, 972-5017; Robert Kingham, Health and Human Services Manager, 972-5026; Elena Shemilina, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5033.				
Council Committee,					
Boards and					
Commission Action:					
MBE / WBE:					
Related Items:					
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Additional Backup Information

More than 6.3 million Texans, including 1.2 million children, lack health insurance. Uninsured rates in Texas are 1.5 to 2 times greater than the national average, which creates significant problems in the financing and delivery of health care to all Texans. Racial and ethnic minorities are significantly less likely to have health insurance. In Texas, 39% of Hispanics/Latinos, 22% of African Americans, and 20% of other races are uninsured. In Travis County, it is estimated that over 200,000 individuals do not have health insurance.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) was signed into law on March 23, 2010 to reform health care in America. The ACA includes reforms to the affordability, quality, and availability of health insurance, along with new cost cutting measures, rules, and regulations for both public and private health insurance companies, and the health care industry. The ACA aims to increase the number of Americans with access to affordable health insurance. This is done, in part, by providing tax credits to certain individuals and opening competitive, regulated, online health insurance exchanges, or marketplaces, which enable individuals to buy insurance and receive cost-assistance.