

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	55690	Agenda Number	15.
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Meeting Date:	2/25/2016	Department:	Health and Human Services
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Subject

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund Operating Budget (Ordinance No. 20150908-001) to transfer out \$160,000 to the General Fund; and amending the General Fund Operating Budget (Ordinance No. 20150908-001) to transfer in \$160,000 from the Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund; and to appropriate \$160,000 to increase expenditures in the Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget for childcare services for families in the Passages Program.

Amount and Source of Funding

One-time funding in the amount of \$160,000 is available from the FY 2015-2016 Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached detailing the transfer of funds from the Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund to the General Fund. The Health and Human Services Department requirements are being increased to fund this program.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	February 11, 2016 – Council approved Resolution No. 20160211-018 directing the City Manager to identify ongoing funding in the amount of \$160,000 for childcare services for families in the Passages Program and bring an item for Council consideration no later than February 25, 2016.
For More Information:	Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer / 974-2638; Shannon Jones, Director / 974-5030
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

This budget amendment is in response to Council adopting Resolution No. 20160211-018, directing the City Manager to identify ongoing funding in the amount of \$160,000 for childcare services for families in the Passages Program and bring an item for Council consideration no later than February 25, 2016. Upon approval, this item will provide one-time funds for this program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. Staff from the Health and Human Services Department has reviewed their FY 2016 budget and were unable to identify ongoing funds that could be redirected for this program. Additionally, through the first quarter of FY 2016, no additional revenue or reduced expenses are projected in the General Fund Operating Budget to be reprogrammed for this program. Therefore, this budget amendment utilizes one-time funds from the Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund in FY 2016 rather than the General Fund Operating Budget. Ongoing funding for this program will need to be identified as part of the FY 2017 budget process.

This action is generally consistent with the City's adopted General Fund Financial Policy No. 12, which limits the use of the Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund to providing financial stability during economic downturns and which authorizes the use of up to 1/3 of the reserve for capital items or other one-time costs. While this action is not being taken at budget adoption, it is a use for a one-time cost. In FY 2017, ongoing funding will need to be identified to be budgeted within the Health and Human Services Department or Social Services Contracts Operating Budgets to continue this effort.

This action is not consistent with the City's adopted General Fund Financial Policy No. 3, which states that to improve financial planning and control, budget amendments should be infrequent and limited to cases where:

- funding is required to address extraordinary circumstances resulting from a natural disaster, a public health emergency, or other similar critical need that could not have been reasonably anticipated when the budget was adopted; or
- there is verifiable evidence of significant costs or risks associated with delaying funding until the next budget cycle; or
- errors or omissions in the Council Approved Budget require correction.