

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	60805	Agenda Number	<ITEM_OUTLINE>
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Meeting Date:	8/18/2016	Department:	Health and Human Services
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Subject

Authorize award, negotiation, and execution of a 12-month Interlocal Agreement with WORKSOURCE GREATER AUSTIN AREA WORKFORCE BOARD for early childhood services in an amount not to exceed \$365,868, with four 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$365,868 per extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,829,340.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$365,868 is included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department. Funding for the initial contract and the renewal options is contingent upon Council approval 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:	Shannon Jones, Director, 512-972-5010; Stephanie Hayden, Deputy Director, 512-972-5017; Robert Kingham, Social Services Policy Manager, 512-972-5026, Estella Kirscht, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5039.
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	To be reviewed by the Early Childhood Council on August 10, 2016.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

WORKSOURCE GREATER AUSTIN AREA WORKFORCE BOARD d/b/a Workforce Solutions (WFS) is the largest provider of child care services in Travis County, for both direct child care and child care quality improvement initiatives. Approval of this action will provide continuation of funding for the Quality Child Care Collaborative (QC3). QC3 is managed by WFS in coordination with the City of Austin, Travis County, United Way Success by 6, Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College Child Development Department, and Head Start.

High quality child care has been shown to support cognitive, social, and emotional development in young children. The Child and Youth Development FY 2015 Community Impact Report published by the Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service Research & Planning Division found that in 2015, there were 104 providers that met the accreditation standards required to be considered a high-quality child care facility. This is a decrease from 124 available high-quality child care providers in 2008 and 131 high-quality child care providers available in 2014.

The purpose of the QC3 is to increase the quality of child care in the community by assisting child care facilities in achieving Texas Rising Star Certification and/or attaining national accreditation. QC3 also includes multiple programs aimed to serve low income children and families that include:

- An evidence-based Community Café model is used to foster community empowerment and parent leadership in target neighborhoods. Groups of parents meet monthly to provide peer support, explore ways to increase the “protective factors” in their communities, and to advocate for solutions to community problems/concerns. Funding will pay for training and stipends for parent leaders, food for sessions, and child care.
- Fellowships are available to increase the number of teachers with degrees in centers serving low-income families with the primary goal of retaining highly-qualified and skilled teachers in classrooms with vulnerable children. Child outcomes, teacher retention rates, and center quality will be measured with validated, external tools.
- Training is available for child care providers serving a high number of low income families who currently receive child care subsidies.

One of the Health and Human Services Policies outlined in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan is to “Improve access to quality child care services near homes and workplaces.” This continued investment in the QC3 from the City would be consistent with the goals of Imagine Austin and would help meet a critical need for the community.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Performance Measures (estimated):

Output Measure:

Number of Unduplicated Clients Served: 560

Outcome Measures:

Percent of individuals who complete an educational program and demonstrate improved knowledge: 90%

Percent of individuals who complete an educational program and demonstrate improved knowledge: 80%

Percent of individuals who showed retention in the early childhood education: 94.67%

Related Business Plan Goals:

Improve maternal, child and adolescent health outcomes from preconception through adulthood.

Promote a healthy community by addressing the needs of vulnerable households.

RELATED DEPARTMENTAL GOAL:

Provision: Social Services – Promote and foster increased self-sufficiency, healthy behaviors, and lifestyle among targeted populations.