



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION 20170308-6aiii

Date: 03/08/2017

Subject: Letter of Support for Texas Home Visiting RFA

Motioned By: Kyle Holder

Seconded By: Jacquie Porter

Recommendation

The City of Austin Early Childhood Council supports and recommends the Austin City Council be in support of the collaborative Travis County application for Texas Home Visiting Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program funding (HHSC RFA No. 530180003). Please see attached letter.

Description of Recommendation to Council

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), seek to implement the Texas Home Visiting grant program, as directed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal and Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. The purpose of the Texas Home Visiting grant program is to support community-driven approaches to enhancing maternal child health, parent child attachment, child development, child safety, family stability, and school readiness in eligible communities. DFPS will award grants to local Texas communities, to be matched at an amount negotiated between DFPS and the community, to meet the needs of vulnerable children and families in accordance with this Request for Applications (RFA). United Way for Greater Austin is planning to submit a proposal in response to the RFA as lead agent and will subcontract direct services for home visiting services.

Rationale:

Funding under the MIECHV program would enable our local collaborative to greatly expand access to current early childhood interventions in the City of Austin/Travis County, to fill critical gaps with new initiatives, and continue to develop the capacity of our collaborative to identify and address needs within our community. The eligible home visiting models are set by the federal government and the list includes some that our community currently implements – Parents As Teachers, Nurse/Family Partnership, Healthy Family America, Play and Learning Strategies-Infant.

Vote

For: Members Alvarez, Elsner, Harrison, Holder, Paver, Porter, Sanchez, and Wren

Against: None

Abstain: Members Son and Huston

Absent: Member Overton

Attest:



Austin Public Health

Early Childhood Council



Chairperson
 Larry Elsner

Vice-Chairperson
 Monica Sanchez

Members
 Raul Alvarez
 Rebecca Harrison
 Kyle Holder
 Aletha Huston
 Roscoe Overton, Sr.
 Rhonda Paver
 Jacqueline Porter
 Brook Son
 Sebastian Wren

Early Childhood Council
 Austin Public Health
 P. O. Box 1088
 Austin, Texas 78767
 Attn: Cindy Gamez
 (512) 972-6216

March 8, 2017

Mahsa Azadi
 Procurement Project Manager
 1100 W 49th Street
 Austin, Texas 78756

Dear Ms. Azadi,
 The City of Austin Early Childhood Council supports and recommends the Austin City Council be in support of the collaborative Travis County application for Texas Home Visiting MIECHV program funding (HHSC RFA No. 530180003).

The Early Childhood Council currently leads the "Ready Communities" work team of the School Readiness Action Plan for Austin/Travis County – and is committed to effectively addressing systems-level issues that impact the well-being of children and families in our community. The Early Childhood Council has a representative on the United Way School Readiness Action Plan Leadership Team, and several additional Early Childhood Council members also serve in on the Leadership Team because of their additional affiliations.

Funding under the MIECHV program would enable our local collaborative to greatly expand access to current early childhood interventions in the county, to fill critical gaps with new initiatives, and continue to develop the capacity of our collaborative to identify and address needs within our community.

We appreciate the opportunity for our community to apply for this support under the MIECHV program. The Early Childhood Council is committed to providing ongoing support and active engagement in this collaborative. We look forward to the Health and Human Services Commissions response to the application on behalf of our collaborative.

Yours Sincerely,

Larry Elsner
 Chair of the Early Childhood Council