

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: October 19, 2017

Item Number: 060

Public Health

Approve negotiation and execution of an agreement with Foundation Communities, Inc. for the provision of health insurance-related services for a twelve-month term through September 30, 2018 in an amount not to exceed \$125,000, with two 12-month renewal options in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 per renewal option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$375,000.

Lead Department	Austin Public Health.
Fiscal Note	A fiscal note is not required.
Prior Council Action	On September 13, 2017, Council approved the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Operating Budget, Ordinance No. 20170913-001.
For More Information	Stephanie Hayden, Interim Director, 512-972-5010; Adrienne Sturup, Acting Assistant Director, 512-972-5167; Vella Karman, Social Services Policy Manager, 512-972-5064; Estella Kirscht, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5039.

Additional Backup Information:

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) was signed into law on March 23, 2010 to reform health care related 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 by providing tax credits to individuals in need of assistance, and opening up competitive, regulated, online health insurance exchanges, also known as Marketplaces. The open enrollment period for the 2018 coverage period extends from November 1, 2017 through December 15, 2017.

During the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget adoption process, Council approved the allocation of \$250,000 in funding to increase access to affordable health insurance for Austin/Travis County residents.

Foundation Communities, Inc. provides affordable homes and free onsite support services for thousands of working families with children, as well as veterans, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. They offer a model that empowers both residents and non-residents achieve educational success, financial stability, and healthier lifestyles. In October 2013, Foundation Communities, Inc. began assisting the Austin's uninsured and underinsured seeking to obtain coverage through the ACA by initiating the Insure Central Texas program. Insure Central Texas is free and open to the community at two locations, including Highland Mall and the Community Financial Center. Education and enrollment assistance are provided in English and Spanish during all hours of operation, and interpreters are available to assist other non-English speaking groups. Education about the ACA and Marketplace insurance is provided to agencies serving individuals with HIV, cancer, diabetes, and other high medical needs.

Program performance measures will be negotiated with the Foundation Communities, Inc. staff. This council item is time-sensitive and must be approved in order to ensure that health insurance services are provided to the community during the limited enrollment period. Funding in the amount of \$125,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Austin Public Health Department budget. Funding for renewal options is contingent upon the availability of funding in future budgets.

Related Departmental Goal: Provision: Social Services - Promote a healthy community by addressing the needs of vulnerable households.