

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER  
AND THE CITY OF AUSTIN  
FOR A STUDY OF GREEN SCHOOLYARDS AND  
HEALTH PROMOTION IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES**

**Agreement Overview**

Cities Connecting Children to Nature (CCCN) is a national initiative that offers city government and community leaders support and guidance to enhance connections between children and nature. With this support, Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) collaborated with multiple partners to establish the CCCN-Austin implementation plan in 2016. PARD continues to work with community partners to advance the goals of CCCN-Austin.

PARD has received \$341,014 in grant funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to further support CCCN-Austin. PARD, in partnership with the University of Texas Health Science Center, will use the funding to investigate the impact of green infrastructure at joint-use school parks located at Barrington, Cook, and Odom elementary schools. This two-year project will enable PARD to more fully understand the impact of green infrastructure on children's health, to design increasingly effective programming and infrastructure, and to inform the PARD Long Range Plan. Following the grant period, organizations that participate in the CCCN-Austin collaborative, including PARD, will continue to prioritize access-to-nature initiatives within their ongoing programming, and will seek opportunity to expand on those efforts.

**What is the Purpose of the Agreement?**

This is an interlocal agreement between the City of Austin and University of Texas to establish the roles and responsibilities of the parties for the purposes of the RWJF grant.

**What Programs Are Provided?**

- Research related to Cities Connecting Children to Nature

**What is the Term of the Agreement?**

The term for this agreement will begin retroactively on August 15, 2019 and extend through August 14, 2021. Renewal is contingent upon receipt of additional funding, either from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation or other sources.

**What Services and Deliverables Will University of Texas Provide?**

- Lead the development and documentation of research methodology, participant recruitment, collection and analysis of data, and presentation of findings;
- Produce interim and final reports and submit to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and other key stakeholders;
- Prepare invoices and submit payment requests based on deliverables achieved.

**What Services and Deliverables Will the City Provide?**

- Exercise general oversight and management of the project;
- Monitor project activities to ensure compliance with the executed grant agreement with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation;
- Assist with participant recruitment, data collection, analysis, reporting, and presentation of findings;
- Review and approve requests for payment.

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**What are the Next Steps?**

- Request for Parks and Recreation Board action – October 22, 2019
- Request for City Council action – October 31, 2019
- Negotiate and execute agreement with University of Texas
- University of Texas Board of Regents action – TBD