



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1884, **Agenda Item #:** 20.

4/23/2020

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Austin Public Health Department Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20190910-001) to accept and appropriate \$838,004 in additional grant funds from the Texas Department of State Health Services to support the Coronavirus 2019 response in alignment with the Public Health Crisis Response Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Response.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$838,004 is available from the Texas Department of State Health Services. The grant period is March 15, 2020 through March 15, 2021 and allows for pre-award costs that date back to January 20, 2020. A City funding match is not required. A fiscal note is attached.

Prior Council Action:

On September 10, 2019, Council approved Ordinance No. 20190910-001 to adopt the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget, which authorized \$750,000 in grant appropriation for the Public Health Preparedness grant activities.

For More Information:

Stephanie Hayden, Director, Austin Public Health, 972-5010; Janet Pichette, Chief Epidemiologist, Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness Division, 972-5486; Lucy Thompson, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5045.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

N/A.

Additional Backup Information:

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Community Preparedness Section, is allocating \$838,004 in additional grant funds to perform required and allowable activities in support of the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) response. Required activities of the Public Health Crisis Response Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Response agreement include:

Surveillance, Laboratory Testing, and Reporting

1. Conduct surveillance to identify cases, report case data in a timely manner, identify contacts, characterize disease transmission, and track relevant epidemiologic characteristics including hospitalization and death.
2. Conduct surveillance to monitor virologic and disease activity in the community and healthcare settings.
3. Implement routine and enhanced surveillance to support the science base that informs public health interventions that mitigate the impact of COVID-19, including understanding clinical characteristics; infection prevention and control practices; and other mitigation requirements.

4. Establish or enhance core epidemiological activities to support response, such as risk assessment, case classification, analysis, visualization, and reporting.
5. Conduct surveillance to monitor disruption in the community caused by COVID-19 and related mitigation activities (e.g. school closures and cancellation of mass gatherings).
6. Conduct surveillance to monitor disruption in healthcare systems caused by COVID-19 (e.g. shortages of personal protective equipment).

Community Intervention Implementation Plan

1. Developing a brief COVID-19 community intervention implementation plan that describes how the local jurisdictions will achieve the response's three mitigation goals:
 - a. Slow transmission of disease,
 - b. Minimize morbidity and mortality, and
 - c. Preserve healthcare, workforce, and infrastructure functions, and minimize social and economic impacts.

The funding will be used for a new amendment contract term of March 15, 2020 through March 15, 2021.

Performance Measures:

- Number of cases investigated by Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance team
- Percent of all infectious diseases reported that result in the implementation of intervention strategies
- Number of emergency preparedness plans reviewed

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, the Austin Public Health Department's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.