



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-2343, **Agenda Item #:** 90.

6/11/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the University of Texas at Austin-Dell Medical School, to design and conduct a study of seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 in Austin in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, for a term from August 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$1,449,999.03.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$1,449,999.03 is included in the FY 2019-2020 Austin Public Health Department's Operating Budget. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

SARS-CoV-2 emerged in December 2019 as a highly contagious virus spreading across the world and infecting over 3.6 million individuals. Although Austin has had relatively fewer cases compared to other United States metropolitan areas, as stay at home measures are lifted, there is concern about the potential surge in infection rates that could overwhelm hospitals and lead to higher mortality rates. What is critically needed at this time is immunological survey capability of the Austin population to determine the proportion of individuals who have been infected.

This action will authorize the negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the University of Texas at Austin-Dell Medical School's Design Institute for Health to conduct to design and carry out a study of seroprevalence in Austin with 3 aims: i) identify the best performing serological test(s), ii) determine SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence rate in Austin, and iii) define how long the antibody response to COVID-19 will last. The results of this study could inform modeling of SARS-CoV-2 spread over the following year, which could in turn help guide decisions about further community reopening measures as well as allow identification of individuals who could serve as donors for convalescent plasma. The agreement will not exceed \$1,449,999.03 and is expected to have the term of August 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022. This funding is to provide for all three aims of the study. This study is expected to be completed by September 30, 2022 with aims 1 and 2 of the study completed within the first year of the study and aim 3 of the study will be started in year 1 and completed in year 2.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.