



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-3095, **Agenda Item #:** 102.

9/17/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 2 to the agreement with the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing to provide community health worker training curriculum services, to add funding in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 for a term of September 15, 2020 through September 30, 2021, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$300,000.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$125,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Austin Public Health Department's Operating Budget.

Prior Council Action:

June 20, 2019 - Council approved the negotiation and execution of an agreement with the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing for community health worker training curriculum in an amount not to exceed \$175,000 for a 12-month term ending June 30, 2020, on a 10-0 vote.

For More Information:

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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

May 15, 2018 - the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission passed recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget, including a Community Health Worker Training Program to develop the skills and knowledge of community members to serve as part of the region's health workforce, on an 11-0 vote with Council Member Harper-Madison absent.

Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 2 to the agreement with the University of Texas at Austin (UT) School of Nursing, adding funding in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 for a term of September 15, 2020 through September 30, 2021, for a total new agreement amount not to exceed \$300,000. UT develops and provides culturally relevant training modules for community health worker (CHW) certification continuing education, at no cost to the community. These trainings will align with the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) approved program for CHW certification and continuing education.

Amendment No. 1 added one three-month extension to the initial term beginning July 1, 2020.

The original agreement with the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing for community health worker training curriculum was approved for an amount not to exceed \$175,000 for a 12-month term ending June 30,

2020. One of the barriers to Texas' participation in the nation's effort to transform community health infrastructure is a lack of comprehensive training for lay health workers. While Texas requires basic certification for CHWs and 20 hours of continuing education units (CEUs) every two years, there is a dearth of quality, accessible, culturally specific CEU offerings for CHWs to enhance their performance, maintain certification, and more effectively serve community members. Growing evidence demonstrates that CHWs impact community health by providing trusted, culturally, and linguistically appropriate information and resources to clients.

Carefully designed online education, using adult learning principles, can be as effective as face-to-face training, and is often more accessible to CHWs in both rural and urban communities. This agreement will include both online and face-to-face new CHW training with the following content considerations: 1) cultural, gender, and linguistic congruency, 2) health literacy, and 3) CHW CEU approval from Texas DSHS.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.