



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-3708, **Agenda Item #:** 39.

12/10/2020

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) authorizing 2.0 full-time equivalent grant funded positions from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Emergency Solutions Grant COVID-19 funds.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$235,486.00 is available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Emergency Solutions Grant. A City funding match is not required. A fiscal note is attached.

Prior Council Action:

July 29, 2020 - City Council approved Ordinance No. 20200729-052 to accept and appropriate grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Emergency Solutions Grant to serve homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness who have been economically impacted by COVID-19, on a 10-0 vote with Mayor Adler off the dais.

April 23, 2020 - Council approved Ordinance 04232020-070 to accept and appropriate grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Emergency Solutions Grant to serve homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness who have been economically impacted by COVID-19, on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

On April 8, 2020, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development notified the City of an additional CARES Act award of \$2,354,866 to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance; and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.

This action will authorize the conversion of 2.0 currently grant-funded temporary employees to permanent positions as Public Health Program Coordinators that will coordinate, manage, and oversee all executed contracts funded using Emergency Solutions Grant COVID-19 funds. These Public Health Program Coordinator positions will help fulfill the grant administration requirement, to oversee the use of Emergency Solutions Grant COVID-19 funds with the objective to serve homeless individuals and those at risk of

homelessness who have been economically impacted by COVID-19. APH has retained a qualified counselor for the program and brings forward this request to ensure retention by providing minimal benefits, healthcare, and retirement.

Converting these temporary employees to regular full-time equivalent grant funded positions will allow the City to retain qualified staff for the duration of this two-year grant period. These positions are also included in the grant action plan with full funding provided for the two-year grant period.

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

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.