



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1147, **Agenda Item #:** 34.

2/4/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with University of Texas at Austin to conduct a tobacco-focused community health needs assessment and evaluation to reduce tobacco disparities among LGBTQ communities in the amount of \$55,000 for the term of January 27, 2021 through August 30, 2021, with four twelve-month renewal options each in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$155,000.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$55,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Public Health Department Special Operating Budget from the Texas Department of State Health Services tobacco grant. Funding for Years Two through Five is dependent on future grant awards.

For More Information:

Stephanie Hayden, Director, 512-972-5010; Cassandra DeLeon, Interim Assistant Director, 512-972-6760; Stephanie Helfman, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Program Manager, 512-972-5222; Lucy Thompson, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972- 5045.

Additional Backup Information:

Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in Travis County. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities are disproportionately affected by tobacco use. One in five LGBTQ individuals use tobacco, and LGBTQ individuals are five times less likely to call a smoking cessation quit-line. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has allocated funds to Austin Public Health (APH) from a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to reduce tobacco-related health disparities among LGBTQ communities. The City has been awarded \$217,000 in the Year One budget of a five-year grant program. Funding for Years Two through Five is dependent on the federal budget continuing the program.

In Year One, APH will implement the grantor-required strategies, including conducting a tobacco-focused, LGBTQ inclusive community health needs assessment (CHNA). To meet this grant deliverable, APH is contracting with the University of Texas at Austin College of Education faculty with extensive research expertise in gender, sexuality, and behavioral health. The CHNA will consist of quantitative data analysis of the 2019 and 2020 Quell LGBTQIA (acronym for "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual") Wellbeing Survey emphasizing demographic, physical health, and mental health data. In addition, six to seven focus groups will be conducted with LGBTQ community members who identify as tobacco users, community leaders, and stakeholders to better understand tobacco-related attitudes, beliefs, behaviors, and cessation opportunities. Findings and recommendations from this CHNA will help guide the development and implementation of a work plan to reduce tobacco use among LGBTQ communities, which will be implemented in Years Two through Five of the grant. If exercised in years Two through Five, renewal options would focus on process, impact, and/or outcome evaluation to determine if the project is reaching the intended goal of

reducing tobacco-related health disparities among LGBTQ communities. Evaluation activities will be determined in collaboration with DSHS.

PERFORMANCE

This project supports Strategic Direction 2023 (SD2023) Health and Environment Strategy #1: Promote healthy living and well-being with a particular focus on areas and communities with high rates of chronic disease and high-risk behaviors that lack access to services.

This project is also aligned with APH's SD2023 Goal #2: Prevent and control chronic disease and risk factors.

Goal statements and associated milestones are still being negotiated; however, the following deliverables will be included in Year One:

1. Submit project for Institutional Review Board approval;
2. Create and submit focus group guide;
3. Recruit and conduct six to seven focus groups with LGBGQ individuals who identify as tobacco users, as well as community leaders;
4. Conduct data analysis of the 2019 and 2020 Quell LGBTQIA Wellbeing Survey emphasizing demographic, physical health, and mental health indicators;
5. Create draft CHNA consolidating quantitative and qualitative findings related to the prevention of tobacco use among LGBTQ communities; and
6. Incorporate feedback from APH, DSHS, and other stakeholders, and submit final tobacco-focused CHNA by May 31, 2021.

Strategic Outcome(s):
Health and Environment.