



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-2353, **Agenda Item #:** 63.

7/29/2021

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to add 1.0 full-time equivalent grant position for the Integrated HIV Programs for Health Departments to Support Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative Program PS20-2010 Grant.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$725,179 is available from the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A City funding match is not required. A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

This action will authorize the addition of 1.0 full-time equivalent grant position that will serve as a Disease Surveillance Specialist (DSS) in the Austin Public (APH), Health Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness Division's Disease Surveillance Program under the PS20-2010 (EHE) Grant. Funding was approved in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget for this grant and this item is only seeking approval to add one new grant position utilizing these existing grant funds.

The DSS position will participate in Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) cross-agency initiative, which builds on the on-going activities funded through the Integrated HIV Surveillance and Prevention Programs for Health Departments.

At the local level, the position, in collaboration with HHS, will establish community teams to tailor and implement strategies to: diagnose all people with HIV as early as possible after infection; treat the infection rapidly and effectively to achieve sustained viral suppression; prevent new HIV transmissions by using proven interventions, including pre-exposure prophylaxis and syringe services programs; and respond quickly to potential HIV outbreaks to get needed prevention and treatment services to people who need them.

The EHE Initiative will leverage critical scientific advances in HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and outbreak response by coordinating the successful programs, resources, and infrastructure of multiple HHS agencies and offices. This project supports Austin Strategic Direction 2023 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 who lack access to services. This project is also aligned with Austin Public Health Strategic Plan 2020-2025, Goal # 2: Prevent and control chronic disease and risk factors. Goal statements and associated operational measures are currently under negotiation; however, APH will provide periodic report on progress toward performance measures as required.

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

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.