

OPERATING BUDGET FISCAL NOTE

DATE OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:
CONTACT DEPARTMENT(S):
FUND:

9/2/21
Austin Public Health
Special Revenue

SUBJECT: Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance no. 20200812-001) to accept and appropriate \$1,432,565 in grant funds from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and to add 8.0 new full-time equivalent grant positions, for the Chronic Disease Community Health Worker Train, Deploy, Engage Grant.

CURRENT YEAR IMPACT:

	2020-2021 Approved	This Action	2020-2021 Amended
Special Revenue Fund			
HHS Grant	0		0
Grant Period: 8/2021-08/2022		1,432,565	1,432,565
Total	0	1,432,565	1,432,565
FTEs	0.00	8.00	8.00

FIVE-YEAR IMPACT:

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Total Revenue	1,432,565	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	1,432,565	0	0	0	0
Net Impact	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is allocating federal funds to Austin Public Health from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (or CARES) Act of 2020 for DP21-2109 – Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities. The City has been awarded \$1,432,565 for the Year 1 budget of a three-year Chronic Disease Community Health Worker Train, Deploy, Engage Grant Program. Funding for Years 2 and 3 is dependent on the availability of funding in the federal budget to continue the program. This project will train, deploy, and engage Community Health Workers (CHW's) in the COVID-19 response to address underlying social factors and chronic disease health factors negatively impacting communities of color in Travis County. The catchment area of this project is the entirety of Travis County, and priority populations are Hispanic/Latinx and Black/African American communities located predominately in the 15 Eastern zip codes of Travis County known as the "Eastern Crescent." These zip codes face significantly higher poverty rates than Travis County overall.

This project will enhance training, deployment, and engagement of CHW's within Austin/Travis County to support COVID-19 prevention and vaccine promotion efforts, increase access and linkages to social and health services, and improve health through resilience/chronic disease prevention interventions. This project will significantly expand CHW programs in Austin and Travis County by funding CHW positions in community, clinical, and public and affordable housing sectors. CHW's will conduct engagements with the community to enhance vaccine confidence and uptake through presentations, block walking, small group conversations, and other methods to connect individuals to vaccine resources. Using the United Way's ConnectATX platform, CHW's will provide screening, referral, and follow-up to address social determinants of health. CHW's will also receive training on resiliency/chronic disease prevention curricula (such as evidence-based programs for physical activity promotion, diabetes education and prevention, and tobacco cessation) and provide these curricula throughout the three years of the project to address underlying chronic conditions that have led to disproportionate COVID-19 outcomes. Program evaluation activities will be supported through a contract with the University of Texas School of Public Health-Austin Campus. This action will authorize creation of eight regular grant-funded positions, which are necessary to complete project deliverables.

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.