



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-3083, **Agenda Item #:** 39.

10/14/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the University of Texas at Houston Health Sciences Center for evaluation activities related to training, deployment, and engagement of community health workers in COVID-19 response and building resilient communities, for an initial term of October 15, 2021 through August 30, 2022, and two 12-month extension options, each in an amount not to exceed \$150,000, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$450,000.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$150,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the Train, Deploy, and Engage Grant provided the grant funding and future funding for Years 2 to 3 is dependent on future grant awards.

Prior Council Action:

September 30, 2021 - Council approved 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 U.S. 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, and Engage Grant, on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

Adrienne Sturup, Acting Director, 512-972-5010; Cassandra DeLeon, Chief Administrative Officer Disease Prevention Health Promotion Division, 512-972-6760; Ruth Dalrymple, Interim Government Affairs Liaison, Office of the Director, 512-972-5024.

Additional Backup Information:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has allocated federal funds to Austin Public Health from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security 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 grant program. Funding for Years 2 to 3 is dependent on the federal budget continuing to fund the program. This project will train, deploy, and engage Community Health Workers in the City's COVID-19 response and will 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." The Eastern Crescent faces significantly higher poverty rates than Travis County overall.

This interlocal agreement will support program evaluation activities conducted by the University of Texas at Houston School of Public Health-Austin Campus (UTHealth) for process, impact, and outcome evaluation of the project. The CDC requires that 10% of grant funds be utilized for program evaluation. UTHealth has created an evaluation plan for this project, which was submitted with the grant application and accepted by the CDC.

The deliverables and related activities include the following:

Deliverable	Activities
D-1 Evaluation Steering Committee	A-1 Develop an evaluation steering committee A-2 Hold regular meetings of evaluation steering committee
D-2 Develop outcomes and process evaluation instruments and protocols	A-1 Collaborate with recipients of evaluation technical assistance, notice of funding opportunity to refine evaluation plan, and adjust protocols as needed A-2 Develop pre/post assessments and skills certifications and/or other assessments for TRAIN strategies: IR1, IR2, IR3 A-3 Create online survey for community organizations and/or other assessment for DEPLOY strategy IR4 A-4 Create partnership tracking log and/or other tools for DEPLOY strategy IR4 A-5 Create activity tracking log, attendance sheets, fidelity checklists, self-administered questionnaires, online assessment tracking tool, online fidelity tool, follow up surveys, pre/posttests, and/or other tools needed for Engage Strategies: IR6 and IR7
D- 3 Secure IRB approval	A-1 Submit IRB application
D-4 Conduct annual participatory inquiry workshops	A-1 Determine content/agenda; facilitate meeting
D-5 Collect process data in accordance with evaluation and performance measure plan	A-1 Collect pre/post assessments and skills certifications and/or other assessments for TRAIN strategies: IR1, IR2, IR3 strategies A-2 Create online survey for community organizations and/or other assessment for DEPLOY strategy IR4 A-3 Create partnership tracking log and/or other tools for DEPLOY IR4 strategy A-4 Create activity tracking log, attendance sheets, fidelity checklists, self-administered questionnaires, online assessment tracking tool, online fidelity tool, follow up surveys, pre/post-tests, and/or other tools needed for ENGAGE IR6 and IR7 strategies

D-6 Develop Year 1 report, including two success stories	A-1 Review and provide feedback on Austin Public Health and sub awardee success stories A-2 Develop draft of Year 1 report summarizing data and key learning from Year 1 of the project A-3 Communicate findings from Year 1 to stakeholders through presentations and other methods
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This project directly supports the following Strategic Direction 2023 Health and Environment Strategies:
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
Strategy #2: Provide and/or support initiatives that can connect those seeking wellness and medical care with the appropriate providers, and help them navigate and overcome critical barriers to obtaining health and mental health services (e.g. getting to appointments, cost of care)

This project is also aligned with Austin Public Health Strategic Direction Goal #2 (Prevent and control chronic disease and risk factors) and Goal #6: (Prevent and control the spread of HIV, STI's, TB, and vaccine preventable diseases within the general population).

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.