



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-3148, **Agenda Item #:** 23.

10/21/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of agreements to hire one community health worker to engage in COVID-19 response and chronic disease prevention activities, for the term of October 22, 2021 to August 30, 2022 with two 12-month extension options, with the following providers: University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the initial term and each extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$300,000; Housing Authority of the City of Austin in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 for the initial term and each extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$240,000; Central Texas Community Health Centers d/b/a CommUnityCare in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 for the initial term and each extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$240,000; Foundation Communities in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 for the initial term and each extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$240,000; and People's Community Clinic in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 for the initial term and each extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$240,000.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$420,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Public Health Department Special Operating Budget from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the Community Health Worker Train, Deploy, Engage Grant. 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, 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; Stephanie Helfman, Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention Program Manager, 512-972-5222, Ruth Dalrymple, Interim Government Affairs Liaison, Office of the Director, 512-972-5124.

Additional Backup Information:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (also known as CDC) has allocated federal funds to Austin Public Health from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (also known as 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 grant program. Funding for Years 2 to 3 is dependent on availability in the federal budget to

continue the program. This project will train, deploy, and engage community health workers (CHW) in the City's COVID 19 response to address underlying social factors and chronic disease health factors negatively impacting. 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.

Five organizations will provide services as part of this grant: University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School, CommUnityCare, People's Community Clinic, Housing Authority of the City of Austin, and Foundation Communities. Each organization will hire, train, and deploy one CHW in either the Federally Qualified Health Center or affordable housing setting. Each organization will be responsible for:

- Hiring and training of one CHW on COVID-19 responses, social determinants of health screening and referral, and chronic disease prevention and control topics.
- Facilitation of COVID-19 prevention and vaccine engagement opportunities, which may consist of small or larger group presentations, event tabling, door-to-door outreach, and individual conversations or phone calls.
- Screening, referral, and follow-up with clinic patients or affordable housing community residents for social determinants of health using the United Way's ConnectATX tool or other similar social determinants of health assessment.
- Promotion of healthy lifestyle behaviors (nutrition, physical activity, tobacco prevention) and other activities to reduce risk of chronic disease. Depending on the practice setting, CHW's may facilitate health education classes and programs to prevent chronic disease.
- Participation in ongoing project "huddles" and other training opportunities, which will be co-facilitated by Austin Public Health and Dell Medical School.

CHW's at the five organizations will collaborate with eight CHW's at Austin Public Health who will be working in the community setting. By placing CHW's in Federally Qualified Health Centers, affordable housing communities, and community settings, this project will provide services comprehensively across sectors.

This project directly supports the following SD2023 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.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.