



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-2400, **Agenda Item #:** 8.

7/28/2022

Posting Language:

Authorize an amendment to an interlocal cooperation agreement with Del Valle Independent School District to expand access to Dual Language Pre-K4 programs for Austin and Travis County families who reside within the Del Valle Independent School District's school boundary but do not meet state eligibility requirements for state publicly funded Pre-K, to increase the amount by \$16,000, and extend the agreement for 36 months through September 30, 2024, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$766,000.

Lead Department:

Economic Development.

Fiscal Note:

Funding in the amount of \$16,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget of Austin Public Health.

Prior Council Action:

June 10, 2021 - Council approved Resolution No. 20210610-077 approving the American Rescue Plan Act Spending Framework and authorizing the City Manager to make the necessary allocations.

For More Information:

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Danny Brewer, Program Manager I, Economic Development Department.

Additional Backup Information:

This amendment will add \$16,000 to the interlocal cooperation agreement with Del Valle Independent School District (DVISD) to expand access to Dual Language Pre-K4 programs for Austin/Travis County families who reside within DVISD's school boundaries but do not meet state eligibility requirements for state publicly funded Pre-K, for a 36-month term through September 30, 2024, in a total amount not to exceed \$766,000.

City of Austin, Travis County, and DVISD staff actively collaborated to develop an approach for expanding access to dual language pre-kindergarten in DVISD schools. This interlocal cooperation agreement is part of the interjurisdictional approach. The County Court approved matching the City's allocation on August 3, 2021.

This agreement is aligned with Council's direction in Resolution No. 20210610-077 for City staff to use American Rescue Plan Act funding to expand access to dual-language full-day Pre-K for four-year-old children in DVISD schools. Specifically, these funds will allow DVISD to supplement and expand access to full-day Dual Language Pre-K for four-year-old children at its elementary school campuses with a minimum of 86 percent of families who qualify in the free and reduced lunch program and will allow qualifying families to purchase materials needed to open a new Pre-K/Head Start classroom for three year-olds.

Investing in Pre-K aligns with the community's Success By 6 Coalition Strategic Plan for 2019-2023, which includes the following strategy for Early Childhood Education related to Pre-K:

- Increase the number of eligible three- and four-year-old children enrolled in Public Pre-K in Travis County school districts and other high quality early education settings.

DVISD will assume the following responsibilities because of this interlocal agreement:

- Hire certified teachers and assistant teachers (as needed to adhere to staff-to-child ratios below) for a minimum of nine PreK 4 classrooms.
- Adhere to high-quality staff-to-child ratios (1:10) and maximum class size ratios for four-year-olds (20 children) and a 2:17 ratio for the Pre-K/Head Start classroom for three-year-olds.
- Purchase all furniture, curriculum, equipment and supplies, including but not limited to shelving, easels, blocks, manipulatives, puzzles, rugs, and play kitchen furniture, and invoice the City for reimbursement no later than December 31, 2021, for four-year-old classrooms, and by September 30, 2022 for the three-year old classroom.
- Screen eligibility for families to ensure they do not qualify for state publicly funded Pre-K.
- Ensure there is no tuition cost for four-year-old children who do not qualify for state publicly funded Pre-K.
- Ensure equitable access to this program with targeted outreach, especially where disparities rooted in systemic inequities continue to persist for communities of color.
- Coordinate with Austin Public Health and other partners to reach out to eligible families about Pre-K and other birth to age five resources and programs.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability; Health & Environment; Government that Works for All.