



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-2202, **Agenda Item #:** 103.

7/20/2023

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20220817-004) to accept and appropriate \$401,938 in grant funding from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, and add 3.0 full time equivalent grant funded positions, to implement the Go ATX Youth Project.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$401,938 is available from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Truancy Prevention Grant Program, for the project period of September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024. A City funding match is not required. A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

The goal of the Austin Public Health Austin Youth Development Program (AYD) is to provide employment services to youth ages 17 to 22. Youth are considered full-time, temporary employees and are encouraged to participate in training and education programs, such as GED or diploma programs, tutoring, and educational career guidance. In addition, there is a mentoring component that focuses on appropriate behaviors, social skills, interview skills, and setting career/life goals.

The Go ATX Youth Project (Project) will serve as a preventative measure for youth and young adults at risk of not receiving high school credit due to poor attendance. The Project will utilize a nationally recognized evidenced-based curriculum, 40 Developmental Assets, to educate youth ages 14 to 22 on self-worth, critical thinking, and future planning. The Project will have a strong focus on career exploration that will include two-year and four-year college entrance opportunities, apprenticeships, trade work opportunities, and various certifications to provide additional wrap-around services and support to youth, and a licensed mental health practitioner will work with program staff. This will ensure that youth in the Project who need services outside the regular Project offerings, such as additional social services or counseling services, will receive such services at no cost. To this end, the Project is a safe and restorative measure to assist youth in making positive choices and changes for a more positive outcome. The Project will receive youth from Austin Independent School District, Del Valle Independent School District, and Manor Independent School District.

This action will authorize the conversion of 3.0 grant-funded temporary positions to regular full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to perform services under the Go ATX Program. These three positions include a Public Health Program Supervisor and two Public Health Youth Program Specialists. Austin Public Health has retained qualified personnel and brings forward this request to ensure retention by providing benefits, including healthcare and retirement.

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