



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 24-4109, **Agenda Item #:** 26.

3/21/2024

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to provide food, preparation, assembly, and delivery of food boxes for the Food is the Best Medicine Program in the amount of \$60,500 for the term of April 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$60,500 is available in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget.

Prior Council Action:

September 14, 2023 - Council authorized negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to provide evaluation services for the Fresh for Less Healthy Food Access projects, on an 8-0 vote with Council Members Alison Alter, Harper-Madison, and Pool absent.

March 3, 2016 - Council approved Resolution 20160303-020, directing the City Manager to develop recommendations for improving access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food, on a 10-1 vote, with Council Member Zimmerman voting nay.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to contract with University of Texas Health Science Center for the purpose of providing food, preparation, assembly, and delivery of prepared meals, prepped food meal-kits, and fresh produce boxes through the Food is Best Medicine Program (Program). This initiative supports Austin Public Health's Fresh for Less Healthy Food Access programs. Research from the Program will aim to decrease food insecurity among women who have recently given birth at Ascension Seton Medical Center Austin. Additional goals are to increase health outcomes among postpartum patients and their newborns. Evaluation of the Program will entail assessing for food insecurity upon admission. The sustainability plan for this Program will include education by community health workers to encourage Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (or SNAP) and Women, Infants, and Children Program (or WIC) application filings by qualifying patients. This could help mothers sustain breastfeeding for their newborn, in addition to reducing the physiological, emotional, and mental effects of stress caused by food insecurity.