



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Health & Family Support**

Date: June 27, 2006

To: HEALTH, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Referral to: WAYS & MEANS/BUDGET COMMITTEE

Subject: CONTRACT WITH THE MINNESOTA COUNTIES RESEARCH FOUNDATION AS FISCAL AGENCY FOR THE ECHO (EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND HEALTH OUTREACH) PROJECT

Recommendation:

Council authorization for the proper City officials to contract with the Minnesota Counties Research Foundation as fiscal agent for the ECHO Project for an amount not to exceed \$300,000 over the three year period of July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009.

Previous Directives:

None

Prepared or Submitted by: Becky McIntosh, Director of Planning & Administration
Phone: x2884

Approved by:

Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health

Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval Not Applicable _____
Policy Review Group (PRG) Approval _____ Date of Approval _____ Not Applicable

Presenters in Committee: Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).

Background/Supporting Information Attached

The Department is requesting authorization to contract with the Minnesota Counties Research Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Minnesota Counties, as fiscal agent for the ECHO project. The contract would be for three years and a maximum NTE \$300,000. Payments for ECHO in 2006 and 2007 are projected to be about \$90,000-\$100,000 annually, with portions in 2006 from our department's federal emergency preparedness grant and Steps to a Healthier Minneapolis grant, and the bulk from the fire department from their federal Metropolitan Medical Response System grant. Because these grant funds are targeted to a specific and unique project, and the project is managed fiscally by the Foundation, the PRC approved the request to waive an RFP process.

ECHO is an emergency preparedness project initiated three years ago in the metro region and now state-wide to provide information to limited English speaking families for public health and other emergencies, as well as routine health information (the Steps project is for production and airing of a diabetes program). Information is provided in six different languages on TPT television, web, and phone line with recorded messages. This service is an excellent and well accepted method to distribute routine health information, and is critical in our regional efforts to communicate with hard to reach and special needs populations in the event of an emergency.