



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

Date: August 14, 2006

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

Subject: REQUEST FOR STEP 5 FOR JANELLE PERALEZ

Recommendation: Council approval for Janelle Peralez to start at step 5 rate of pay for the federally funded position of Family Support Specialist III/Steps Coordinator, from fund/org 0300-860-8615.

Previous Directives: None

Prepared or Submitted by: Patty Bowler, Director of Policy and Community Programs, x3009

Approved by: _____
Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health & Family Support

Approved by: _____
Pam French, Director of Human Resources

Presenters in Committee: Patty Bowler

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

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

Background/Supporting Information Attached

The Department of Health and Family Support is requesting that Janelle Peralez start at Step 5 of the Family Support Specialist III salary scale for the position of Steps to a Healthier Minneapolis Coordinator. This position is funded by a federal grant through September, 2009, and the department has sufficient funds to accommodate this recommendation.

Ms. Peralez has a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition and is a Registered Dietician, and has a Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of Minnesota. For the past three years she has worked for the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a Public Health Prevention Specialist. In that capacity, Janelle chose to work at MDHFS for two years to develop the Maternity Case Management Center of Excellence project. For the last year has she has ably served as the interim Steps Coordinator. In this role, she coordinates a staff team that develops interventions to reduce diabetes, obesity and asthma by addressing three related risk behaviors—poor nutrition, physical inactivity and tobacco use and exposure.

She has the requisite experience to manage a major grant program and works very well with internal and external grant partners including the Minneapolis Public Schools and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. She also has experience with culturally diverse and low-income families essential to addressing health disparities of minority populations in Minneapolis. Her background includes extensive community volunteer service, both domestically and in Cuba and Guatemala to utilize her bilingual and bicultural skills, to improve cross-cultural understanding and address inequities experienced by communities of color.