



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Regulatory Services

Date: October 10, 2006

To: Council Member Scott Benson, Chair Health, Energy and the Environment

Referral to: Ways and Means

Subject: Requesting authorization of the appropriate city officials to enter into an agreement with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to accept \$1,000,000 funds for a Healthy Homes Demonstration grant award to reduce allergen triggers in the homes of families whose children have asthma

Recommendation: That your Committee authorize the proper city officials to enter into an agreement with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development accepting \$1,000,000 in funding to be used for Healthy Homes Demonstration in dwelling units within the city of Minneapolis and within jurisdictions of other grant partners. Further, that these funds be appropriated to grants fund 0300-835-8392; further that the appropriation in fund 0300-835-8392-5130 be increased by \$1,000,000.00; further that revenue source 0300-835-8392-3210 be increased by \$1,000,000.00. We also request the creation of a Code Compliance Officer II position to manage the daily operations of grant activities.

Previous Directives: Staff was previously directed to submit grant application

Prepared by: Lori Olson, Deputy Director, Environmental Management & Lisa Smestad, Manager, Environmental Services

Approved by: Burt Osborne, Director, Business Licensing & Environmental Management

Presenters in Committee: Lisa Smestad, Manager, Environmental Services

Reviews

- Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval ___ Date _____
- Policy Review Group (PRG): Approval ___ Date _____

Financial Impact

- No financial impact
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the ___ Capital or X Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Action is within the Business Plan **YES**
- Action requires a change to the Business Plan
- Other financial impact
- Request provided to the Finance Department when provided to the Committee Coordinator **YES**

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification
- City Goals
- Comprehensive Plan
- Zoning Code
- Other

Supporting Information

On September 15, 2006 the City of Minneapolis was awarded a \$1,000,000 Healthy Homes Demonstration (round XIV) grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address allergens, mold and other home-based health hazards that affect children with asthma. The City was awarded a similar grant in 2003 in the amount of \$650,000, and this new grant will allow the City to continue with its efforts to improve indoor air quality for children.

Specifically, families in targeted zip codes with a child under the age of 6 who is diagnosed with asthma will receive a home inspection focusing on safety and asthma triggers. Families may receive products to reduce asthma triggers in their homes such as dehumidifiers, allergen vacuums, allergen pillow and mattress covers, HEPA room air filters, CO detectors, etc. Licensed residential daycares are also eligible for grant enrollment. We anticipate that approximately 300 homes and 30 daycares will participate in grant activities. This project is in partnership with Hennepin and Ramsey Counties.

Results from the 2003 grant indicate that the air quality of the homes of families who participated in grant activities was improved. Results included fewer asthma related emergency room and urgent care visits, less school absences, and a reduction in the need for medication for children with asthma.