



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

**Date:** May 22, 2006

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

**Subject:** REQUEST TO APPLY FOR A GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES TO SUPPORT A PROJECT TO VALIDATE AN AUTOMATED, WEB-BASED SCREENING INSTRUMENT FOR PREGNANT WOMEN

**Recommendation:**

Council authorization to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to support a research project to validate an automated, web-based psychosocial screening instrument for pregnant women. Project partners would include two Minneapolis clinics that are Twin Cities Healthy Start sites. The Department of Health and Family Support will apply for a grant of up to \$1,200,000 for the period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2011. Fund/org 0300-860-8618.

**Previous Directives:** None

**Prepared or Submitted by:** Pat Harrison, PhD, Director of Research and Program Development  
Phone: x3883

**Approved by:**

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Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health & Family Support

**Presenters in Committee:** Pat Harrison, PhD, Director of Research and Program Development

**Financial Impact:** (Check those that apply)

Other financial impact (Explain): A grant of up to \$1,200,000 would be awarded to the City of Minneapolis.

**Background/Supporting Information:**

Funding is being requested to support a research project to validate an automated, web-based psychosocial screening instrument for pregnant women. The instrument would identify women at high risk for food insecurity, housing instability, lack of social support, intimate partner violence, depression, cigarette smoking, alcohol use, and illegal drug use, so that they can be referred for appropriate interventions to enhance the likelihood of healthy birth outcomes. Results of structured diagnostic interviews, encounter data, and birth certificate data would be used to validate interview responses. The study would also test the likelihood of risk reporting comparing professional interviewers (registered nurses or licensed social workers) with paraprofessional interviewers (community health workers). The study would also test re-screening versus initial screening only to determine the optimal frequency. Project partners would include two Minneapolis clinics that are Twin Cities Healthy Start sites. An advisory group of mental health, substance use, and domestic violence experts will aid in project design, implementation, and interpretation of study findings.