



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

Date: MAY 22, 2006

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

Subject: REQUEST TO ISSUE AN RFP, AND TO SELECT AND CONTRACT WITH VENDOR(S) WITHOUT FURTHER COUNCIL APPROVAL

Recommendation:

Council authorization for the proper City officials to:

1. Issue a Request for Proposals for Health Care Coverage Assistance Services to be provided through the New Family Center (NFC) at Minneapolis Public Schools for up to two school years contingent upon funding and performance, with confirmed funding for the first year through Local Public Health funds.
2. Evaluate the proposals received, select the successful proposal(s), and without further Council approval, enter into the appropriate contract(s) with selected vendor(s) for a total amount not to exceed \$100,000 annually.

Previous Directives:

None

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

Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health

Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval X Not Applicable _____

Policy Review Group (PRG) Approval _____ Date of Approval _____ Not Applicable X

Presenters in Committee: Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health
Patty Bowler, Director of Policy and Community Programs

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

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

Background/Supporting Information Attached

The Department is requesting to issue a Request for Proposals for health care coverage assistance services, and to be able to evaluate and approve for contract(s) the vendor(s) selected through this process without additional Council approval. Since 2000, the department has been in partnership with the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), Children's Defense Fund, and others to support the services at the New Family Center (NFC). Since the inception of the NFC, the department has used a variety of funding streams to support services to the families of children enrolling in MPS who speak limited English.

These services include immunizations, assistance with applications for health insurance (public or private), and assistance in accessing needed community services, with the goal of supporting the family's ability to become self-sufficient.

The model for the provision of services through NFC is being transitioned due to funding reductions. The partners have been working to maintain critical access services at both a north and south site at a lower cost, and one of the decisions has been to contract services to assist families in enrolling in health insurance. The current model will include a mix of funding from third party revenues already collected from prior NFC services, as well as Local Public Health funding. Due to the length of time for planning between multiple partners, and the need to implement services for the next school year by August 1, the department is requesting approval to evaluate proposals submitted, and to contract with selected vendor(s) without further Council action. The RFP requests a minimum of forty hours per week, with the option to increase those hours if needed and fundable within the budget.