

FISCAL YEAR 2009 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE -- REP. Michael Burgess (TX-26)

Must be completed and submitted NO LATER than COB March 7, 2008

Please submit completed questionnaire to josh.martin@mail.house.gov

PLEASE NOTE: ALL REQUESTS MUST INCLUDE A FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST ON OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD EXPLAINING THE PROJECT. THIS QUESTIONNAIRE SHOULD ACCOMPANY, NOT REPLACE, A FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST AND ANY OTHER QUESTIONNAIRE

I. PROJECT BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

1. Please provide a formal name for this project:

Early Childhood Development Program

2. Please describe the project and its purpose:

The City of Fort Worth, Texas seeks \$900,000 from the FY09 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill's Department of Health and Human Services' Child Care Development Block Grant program to support key projects that will significantly advance the Early Childhood Matters Initiative. Early Childhood Matters, a community initiative led by the City that impacts the entire region, will help coordinate resources and programs to benefit children up to 5 years of age. Training and materials from Early Childhood Resource Centers will be used by parents, and child care providers.

3. Please outline the project plan, including the finance plan:

The funds will be used to continue two existing early childhood resource centers and start up two new locations in facilities in high need neighborhoods, staff the centers, recruit participants, provide education materials and incentives, provide child care for participants, pay content presenters, and conduct awareness and outreach efforts in the neighborhood.

Of the requested \$900,000:

\$405,000 for project manager and continuation of 2 pilot resource centers

\$495,000 for start-up costs and annual operation of 2 new resource centers in two other neighborhoods.

Each neighborhood resource center provides training, support, educational materials and leadership development for parents, children, and child care staff. Together, the 4 resource centers will reach 500 parents, 280 child care staff, and 1,200 children under five years old. Each \$1 expended for early childhood training will result in savings of \$7 per child due to children not being retained a year at school, taking special education classes, or dropping out of school.

II. BENEFIT TO THE 26th DISTRICT AND/OR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Please explain how this project will improve life, the economy or the general welfare of the 26th District and/or the country at-large. Please be specific (i.e. outline number of jobs created, savings to economy or taxpayers, improve national security):

Upon receipt of the funding, 1,100 neighborhood families and 80 child care center employees would participate within the first 12 months. As a result, more children will be more ready for school, each \$1 expended in early childhood will result in saving of \$7 from children being not being retained a year at school, taking special education classes, or dropping out of school.

2. Please explain why this project should be considered a priority:

In many communities, children are coming to kindergarten significantly behind in development. These students lack even knowing the names of the colors, letters, or the numbers from 1-10. Parents and many child care providers don't understand that learning in the years 0-4 makes a big difference and/or they do not know how to help children learn. Bottom line -- Kids who don't start out right end up dropping out of school.

A multi-goal Community Action Plan for Early Childhood was approved by City Council in October 2004 and has been endorsed by more than 30 community partners. Neighborhood Early Childhood Resource Centers (places for resources, training and support for parents and caregivers) in the neighborhoods have proven to be helpful.

III. REQUEST

1. Amount of money you are requesting:

\$900,000

2. Agency from which you are requesting funds:

HHS/Administration for children and Families

3. Account from which you are requesting funds:

Child Care Development Block Grant

IV. FUNDING HISTORY

1. What is the total project cost and can you provide a federal-state/local-other funding breakdown?

Of the requested \$900,000:

\$405,000 for project manager and continuation of 2 pilot resource centers

\$495,000 for start-up costs and annual operation of 2 new resource centers in two other neighborhoods.

The City continues to aggressively seek additional funding and matching opportunities.

2. Has the project ever received federal funds before? If so, please elaborate.

Yes. FY06: \$687,000 HUD Grant; FY07 Labor/HHS appropriation: \$195,000

3. Has the project received state, local or private funds before? If so, please elaborate.

Initially, a Health and Human Services Early Learning Opportunities Act grant for \$687,000 along with the additional sum of \$125,000 in local matching funds and in-kind contributions enabled this program to establish begin and a base of operations.

4. Can you demonstrate a commitment for future funds from state, local, or private sectors? If so, please elaborate to the extent possible.

The City continues to aggressively seek additional funding and matching opportunities.

5. How do you intend to spend federal funds for this project (operating, construction, studies, equipment purchase, salaries, other)?

This project will require \$900,000 for neighborhood-based early childhood resource centers.
1.) \$405,000 for project manager and continuation of 2 pilot resource centers
2.) \$495,000 for start-up costs and annual operation of 2 new resource centers in two other neighborhoods.

6. Does the project request stem from a currently-funded federal program (i.e., an already existing congressional authorization)? If so, please explain and be as specific as possible.

No.

V. PROJECT HISTORY

1. Please briefly explain the level of support for the project in the local and any other community (if letters of support exist, please attach to this form).

A multi-goal Community Action Plan for Early Childhood was approved by City Council in October 2004 and has been endorsed by more than 30 community partners, including the Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD).

2. Has the project encountered any objections within the local or other interested communities? If so, please describe (if letters or official records exist noting objections to the project, please attach to this form).

No.

3. Please briefly explain the current stage and expected timeline of the project in a great a detail as possible.

A multi-goal Community Action Plan for Early Childhood was approved by City Council in October 2004 and has been endorsed by more than 30 community partners, including the Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD). Initially, a Health and Human Services Early Learning Opportunities Act grant for \$687,000 along with the additional sum of \$125,000 in local matching funds and in-kind contributions

enabled this program to establish begin and a base of operations. Upon receipt of the funding, 1,100 neighborhood families and 80 child care center employees would participate within the first 12 months.

VI. CONTACTS

1. Who is the primary point of contact for the request?

Reid Rector

2. Contact information (telephone and e-mail):

817-392-1296
Reid.Rector@fortworthgov.org

3. Mailing address of entity that would receive the funding?

1000 Throckmorton St.
Fort Worth, TX 76102

VII. TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

1. How much of this request can be spent in fiscal year 2009?

2. If this is a highway, transit, rail, or aviation request, did you check eligibility with the state DOT, FTA, FRA, or FAA?

2a. If yes, did the agency indicate the project is eligible under the account requested?

3. If this is an FHWA request, is the project considered by the state and/or regional transportation officials as critical to their needs?

4. If a highway request, is the project on the state's transportation improvement plan?

PRIORITY PROJECT REQUEST CRITERIA

CERTIFICATION:

Reid Rector, ATTEST THAT THIS PROJECT REQUEST MADE ON BEHALF OF

The City of Fort Worth, TX MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. All appropriations requests must be a priority for the 26th District and/or the country-at large as defined as enhancing life, liberty, or the general welfare.
2. All requests must be a proper and wise use of federal taxpayer dollars and must be justified as such. Projects that include a commitment to match federal funds will receive priority consideration.
3. All requests will be immediately posted on the website and supporting documentation made available to press outlets and interested individuals.
4. None of the funding requested will be used for a building, program, or project that has been named for Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. No request will be made that Congressman Burgess or his spouse has any financial interest.
5. All requests shall be made in accordance with House of Representatives rules, and within Appropriations Committee deadlines. No funding request will be submitted after the deadline established by the Committee

Name of person certifying Reid Rector

Title of person certifying Director, Government Relations

Project name as it will appear in the bill Early Childhood Development Program

Legal name of entity making request City of Fort Worth, Texas

Address 1000 Throckmorton St.
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Reid Rector 03-04-08
Signature Date