



Agenda Action Form Overview

The Board is requested to approve the Budget Ordinance Amendment to recognize funds in the amount of \$8,000 from the Ann Wolfe Mini Grant for Child Health and Infant Mortality.

Background/Justification

More than 2 million children under age 6 in families with working mothers spend almost 40 hours a week in childcare. With more than 1 in 5 children ages 2-5 years already overweight or obese, obesity prevention efforts must target these children attending childcare centers. Durham County is addressing this through the DINE in Childcare program. DINE in Childcare, funded by the USDA's SNAP Ed program, reaches over 500 children and their parents, as well as staff and directors, at 12 childcare centers serving low-income families. Using the Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAP SACC), which is a gold standard evidence-based tool, the DINE in Childcare program facilitates Policy, Systems and Environmental (PSE) changes to improve children's nutrition and physical activity environments. This Ann Wolfe Mini Grant will enable DINE in Childcare to expand and implement a Farm-to-Early Care and Education (ECE) initiative, which is another evidenced-based model for improving dietary behaviors. Farm-to-ECE is a component of the CDC's framework for obesity prevention known as the Spectrum of Opportunities. Farm-to-ECE core elements include gardening/hands-on learning, nutrition education, and procurement of local foods. This project aims to provide all core elements to students ages 2-5 in participating childcare centers. Funds from this grant will provide materials and resources to build gardens, provide nutrition and gardening education to children, provide lesson plans and activities for staff, and facilitate local food procurement at eight centers currently enrolled in the DINE in Childcare program. By influencing children's eating habits at a young age while food preferences are still forming, through nutrition education, exposure to nutritious, local foods, and fun hands-on gardening activities, this project can shape long-term healthy lifestyle outcomes for these children. By making long-lasting changes to the policies, systems and environments at these childcare centers, this project can make the healthy choice the easy choice for children, staff and directors.

Policy Impact

The DCoDPH Nutrition Division has received an Ann Wolfe Mini Grants in previous years and the Board has approved addition of these funds. Expenditures using the grant funds will comply with all Durham County purchases policies and procedures.

Procurement Background

The Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH) submitted a grant application to the North Carolina Public Health Association for the Ann Wolfe Mini Grant for Child Health and Infant Mortality. Four grants of \$8,000 are awarded annually and the DCoDPH was awarded one of the grants.

Fiscal Impact

The Ann Wolfe Mini Grant funds will allow for additional funding for resources to support health nutrition practices in childcare center participating in the DINE in Childcare program. Grant funds will be used to purchase 1) children's books on healthy eating and where food comes from and 2) garden supplies and 3) fruits and vegetables for the childcare centers.



Recommendation

The County Manager recommends that the Board approve this Budget Ordinance Amendment to recognize funds in the amount of \$8,000 from the Wolfe Mini Grant for Child Health and Infant Mortality.