



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 25-0740, **Agenda Item #:** 9.

5/22/2025

Posting Language

Authorize execution of an interlocal agreement with the University of Texas at Austin and acceptance of \$20,000 in funding for the City's support of a research study on factors affecting the hiring of day laborers by contractors and homeowners. Funding: This item is projected to result in additional revenue of \$20,000 in the Economic Development Department's Operating Budget.

Lead Department

Economic Development.

Fiscal Note

This item is projected to result in \$20,000 in additional revenue in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Operating Budget of the Economic Development Department.

For More Information:

Anthony Segura, Interim Director, Economic Development Department, 512-974-3187; Juan Espinoza, Day Labor Program Manager, 512-974-1261.

Additional Backup Information:

This interlocal agreement with the University of Texas at Austin is for City support of a research study by the IC² Institute titled "Collaborative Research: D-ISN: Track 1: Disrupting Exploitation and Trafficking in Labor Supply Networks: Convergence of Behavioral and Decision Science to Design Interventions." The study's findings and recommendations will help the City's Day Labor program optimize its services and develop solutions to common problems encountered by its clients.

Researchers will interview and survey willing laborers, contractors, and homeowners regarding their experiences offering and accepting work, the factors involved in those decisions, and any work-related abuse they may have witnessed or participated in as part of that process. IC² will pay the City \$20,000 in return for its assistance in facilitating the research.

The City will use its position in the community to promote the study to area employers and prospective clients in the laborer community, as well as providing physical space and access to clients, sharing contact lists for outreach and recruitment purposes, and sharing process and operational data so IC² can study how the labor centers operate and serve constituents.