

City of Fort Worth, Texas

# Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 08/12/25

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 25-0675

LOG NAME: 17UNTHSC FY26

SUBJECT

(CD 8) Authorize Execution of Agreement with the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth to Accept Funding in an Amount Up to \$450,000.00 from the State of Texas for Operations of the Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center as Well as Renovations and Upkeep of Buildings on the James E. Guinn School Campus, Authorize Use of Interest in an Amount Up to \$5,000.00 and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the execution of an agreement with the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth to accept and receive funding from the State of Texas in an amount up to \$450,000.00 during the State's Fiscal Year 2026 for operation of the Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center as well as renovations and upkeep of buildings on the James E. Guinn School campus;
2. Authorize the use of interest earnings in an amount up to \$5,000.00 for the purpose of the award; and
3. Adopt attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Other Fund, in an amount up to \$455,000.00, subject to receipt of the funds, for the purpose of funding operations of the Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center as well as renovations and upkeep of the James E. Guinn School campus.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to execute an agreement with the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth (UNTHSC) to accept and receive funding from the State of Texas in an amount up to \$450,000.00 during the State's Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. This M&C also authorizes the use of interest earnings in an amount up to \$5,000.00 for a total amount up to \$455,000.00 to be appropriated in the Grants Operating Other Fund for operation of the Fort Worth Business Assistance Center (BAC) as well as renovations and upkeep of buildings on the James E. Guinn School Campus.

Beginning with the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas (2005), the State's Biennial General Appropriations Act has appropriated the amount of \$6 million to the UNTHSC for joint economic development and technology commercialization activities of UNTHSC, TECH Fort Worth and the City of Fort Worth (City) for renovations at the James E. Guinn School Campus and Business Assistance Center operations.

In the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas during its regular session as part of Senate Bill (S.B.) 1 (General Appropriations Act for the 2026-2027 Biennium), the State approved funding in the amount of \$2,913,082.00 for the partnership between the City and UNTHSC for the two years beginning September 1, 2025. Of this grant, the amount of \$2,013,082.00 has been appropriated to UNTHSC and TECH Fort Worth and the remaining amount of up to \$900,000.00 is allocated to the City during this biennium to be received in two installments. During the biennium, the City will receive up to \$450,000.00 during FY2026 and will receive up to \$450,000.00 in FY2027.

These funds will be used to administer the operations of the Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center (BAC), including three positions in the Economic Development Department, one position in the Property Management department, and programming with other partners housed at the historic James E. Guinn Campus. In addition, portion of the funds will be used for renovation and maintenance of the Guinn School campus.

Salary and Fringe will be funded in an estimated amount up to \$410,000.00. Any remaining funds are utilized for additional small business education resources for the BAC. Indirect costs do not apply to this agreement. No matching funds are required. The table below shows the positions and the estimated % of salary and fringe that are anticipated to be charged to this program.

Position	Estimated % of Salary & Fringe to the Program
Administrative Assistant (00000369)	100%
Economic Development Specialist (10002560)	100%
Economic Development Coordinator (00760028)	100%
Facilities Coordinator (00760097)	100%

If these funds become unavailable, the Economic Development department would determine a transition plan to discuss where funding would come from for this program.

There is no Grant Application Repository number as the Economic Development department doesn't apply for these funds. Funding is based on a contract between the City and UNTHSC for the purposes as stated above.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This contract will be with a governmental entity, state agency or public institution of higher education:  
University of Texas Health Science Center

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations, receipt of the grant and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, in the Grants Operating Other Fund. The Economic Development Department (and Financial Management Services) will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Economic Development Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is an advance grant.

**Additional Information Contact:** Ori Fernandez 2606