

Recommendation:

Approve ADHS Executed RFGA 2025-013 Health Start Program, between the Arizona Department of Health Services and Cochise County Health & Social Services for period of 10/1/2025 through 9/30/2026 in the amount of \$353,000.

Background (Brief):

This is a grant renewal year. The grant was awarded to Cochise County once again. Cochise County Health and Social Services (CCHSS) has received the Health Start grant for over 35 years.

The Health Start Program allows us to promote healthy births and healthy families among Cochise County residents. The program serves pregnant women and families with children up to the age of 2. The purpose is to reduce pregnancy and post-partum risks through a community health worker model where trained health educators act as a guide and mentor using an evidence-based curriculum called “Partners for a Healthy Baby” to support and educate parents about how to raise healthy children. Pregnant women and parents receive guidance and information including what to expect during pregnancy, breastfeeding education and support, nutrition for children and pregnant women, screening for child development, activities to support healthy development and home health and safety.

According to the *Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program Arizona Needs Assessment* there are 971 Cochise County families in need of these services. Monthly, the Health Start Program, utilizing 4 home visiting staff, serves approximately 100 families monthly, providing an average of 400 - 450 intervention visits, in large and small communities in every area of Cochise County.

Fiscal Impact & Funding Sources: This is a grant-funded, Cost Reimbursement grant. The grant will support salary, ERE’s, and expenses for 5.5 FTEs. It also supports educational materials and resources for the families enrolled in the program.

Next Steps/Action Items/Follow-up: Your approval of grant is respectfully requested. No signatures are requested from the grantor.

Impact of Not Approving:

Not approving this item would end Health Start services in Cochise County which provides valuable resources to at-risk families, pregnant women, and children under age 2.