



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of June 12, 2010**

DATE: May 21, 2010

SUBJECT: WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program Grant Funds

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Appropriate \$79,987 from the Virginia Department of Health (101.374802) to the Department of Human Services (101.55104) in FY 2010 to continue the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program through contracted services, and authorize the County Manager's designee to enter into the revised Memorandum of Agreement and service agreements for consultants.

ISSUES: This is a request to appropriate federal U.S. Department of Agriculture Women, Infant and Children (WIC) funds passed through the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to continue to implement and administer the breastfeeding peer counselor program.

SUMMARY: Peer counselors provide breastfeeding education and support for 900 pregnant and breastfeeding women receiving WIC services in Arlington. As part of a VDH requested change in the County's Memorandum of Agreement with VDH, peer counselors who are currently direct VDH hires will be converted to consultants for Arlington DHS. The \$79,987 in new VDH funds covers the costs of contracted peer counselor services, travel reimbursement and communication expenses.

BACKGROUND: The Arlington WIC program has three part-time breastfeeding peer counselors who were hired as VDH wage employees in early FY 2010. The peer counselor's salaries and travel expenses are currently paid directly by VDH. VDH has requested that the peer counselors be converted to consultants hired and paid by Arlington DHS. Arlington received a revised Memorandum of Agreement from VDH which provides grant funds to continue to implement and administer the program. This new funding agreement will require a change in the status of the peer counselors. VDH will reimburse Arlington for actual expenditures incurred for the provision of peer counselor services.

County Manager: MB

County Attorney: MATT SAM

Staff: Therese Panagis, Public Health, DHS

FISCAL IMPACT: None. All expenditures are covered by the grant. The new state appropriation will fully fund the costs of the program. No local match is required. Any funds not spent in FY 2010 will be carried over into FY 2011.