



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting May 19, 2026

DATE: May 19, 2026

TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager

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**Interlocal Agreement with Harris County Department of Education for
participation in the Choice Partners Cooperative Program**

CAPTION:

Resolution authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Harris County Department of Education for participation in the Choice Partners Cooperative purchasing program to purchase health benefit services and other goods and services that benefit the City of Corpus Christi.

SUMMARY:

This action will allow the City to participate in the state purchasing program to access contracts from other government agencies through local, regional, and state cooperative purchasing programs, using a competitively bid, cost-saving procurement process.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) has been providing cooperative purchasing services since the 1960's. It was rebranded as Choice Partners in 2012. The cooperative traces its history as one of the first government cooperatives in Texas. As a division of a government agency and former school district, Choice Partners contracts are awarded by the HCDE governing board of trustees. Interlocal government-to-government agreements are between HCDE and the government entity wishing to use the Choice Partners cooperative contract.

HCDE merged its three procurement cooperatives into Choice Partners in 2012 to make purchasing even easier for its cooperative members. To optimize processes, Choice Facility Partners, HCDE Purchasing Cooperative, and the Gulf Coast Food Co-op were combined into Choice Partners national

cooperative. Combining all contract procurement services for education, facilities, food, supplies and services, and technology makes it easy for client members to access the contracts they need.

Choice Partners is a national cooperative. Choice Partners provides quality services, legal procurement, and contract solutions for government entities, including school districts, private and charter schools, colleges and universities, municipalities, counties, and non-profits. Some of the members utilizing the Choice Partners cooperative are City of El Paso, City of Brownsville, City of Garland/Dallas area, City of Pearland and surrounding Houston area, along with multiple Independent School Districts: Irving, Galveston, Houston, and Spring Branch.

The City currently utilizes several cooperatives that allow for expedited purchasing of common goods and services. These cooperatives benefit the City, as their buying power is often increased because they purchase for multiple agencies and entities.

The main purpose of participating in the Choice Partners Cooperative is for the City to procure services for health and wellness screenings and related items including urgent care. Additionally, participation will allow the City to procure potential future services such as drug and alcohol testing services as well as staffing and related services. The benefits of joining Choice Partners Cooperative include that it is free to join, there is no annual minimum usage, it provides access to a multitude of competitively bid contracts as well as access to certified CP team members, and it allows for participation in the Choice Cash Rebate program.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is that City Council could choose not to approve the Interlocal Agreement, which would limit the City's access to necessary health benefits and other goods and services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approval of the interlocal agreement will allow the City to participate in the state purchasing program to access contracts from other government agencies through local, regional, and state cooperative purchasing programs, using a competitively bid, cost-saving procurement process. There is no fiscal impact for the City to enter into the interlocal agreement with Harris County Department of Education for participation in the Choice Partners purchasing program.

FUNDING DETAIL:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the approval of the Interlocal Agreement with Harris County Department of Education for participation in the Choice Partners Cooperative purchasing program to purchase health benefit services and other goods and services that benefit the City of Corpus Christi, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Resolution
Interlocal Agreement