



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 26

**Agenda Date:** June 6, 2024

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Human Services

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Melody Woosley

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Ordinance accepting the Annie E. Casey Foundation – International Rescue Committee Immigrant Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Education and Career Technical Assistance grant.

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of the Annie E. Casey Foundation – International Rescue Committee Immigrant Youth and Young Adult Education and Career Technical Assistance grant in the amount of up to \$40,000.00 to support the education and career outcomes of immigrant youth and young adults.

Furthermore, this ordinance authorizes the Director of Human Services to initiate, negotiate, and execute any and all necessary documents including a grant contract, and contract amendments; a) carryover funds; b) line item budget revisions; c) modifications to the performance measures so long as the terms of the amendment stay within the general parameters of the intent of the grant; and d) the acceptance of additional funding, if awarded, in an amount up to 20% of the total amount awarded to the grant. The project period will be dated to begin April 01, 2024, through December 31, 2025.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) conducted a site visit to the NXT Level Youth Opportunity Center in November 2023 to better understand how the center was supporting immigrant youth in improving their educational and career outcomes. At that time, NXT Level had just begun receiving participants who had recently resettled in San Antonio from Afghanistan and Syria. Frontline staff felt they did not have the proper training to provide high-quality services to San Antonio's newest residents. Staff discussed the need for additional training on cultural awareness, language support and better understanding of the legal requirements associated with the U.S. State Department's resettlement program.

In March 2024, NXT Level was invited to apply for funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation to receive technical assistance support by IRC, which is a nonprofit organization serving people undergoing humanitarian crises in 50 countries. The IRC is a leading expert on issues impacting refugee, asylees and immigrants world-wide. The COSA Executive Leadership Team approved the application submission on March 14, 2024.

### **ISSUE:**

DHS NXT Level's grant application included a coalition of nonprofits it currently works with to better support youth's education and career outcomes. Communities in Schools, Goodwill Industries, Family Services, Northside ISD, Culturingua, and Workforce Solutions Alamo agreed to join in the technical assistance opportunity.

In April 2024, the IRC informed DHS NXT LEVEL that it was one of six organizations nationwide to be selected to receive up to \$30,000.00 to support participation in receiving in-depth, individualized technical assistance, funding to cover the costs of a two-day workshop, and was also one of three proposals to be awarded an additional \$10,000.00 to implement a pilot project to better serve immigrant youth and young adults. The project period will be dated to begin April 01, 2024, and will last through December 31, 2025.

The coalition of partners will work with DHS to develop professional development modules for staff, specifically to address the unique needs of youth and young adults, ages 16-24, who have resettled into San Antonio with an added focus on youth from Afghanistan, Syria and other Middle Eastern countries. The modules will help staff build out pathways for youth to successfully complete educational goals and improve employment outcomes. Project goals also include the development of an audit protocol to examine an agency's processes and procedures to ensure immigrant youth feel welcome and supported while receiving services. The audit is anticipated to be an easy-to-use free resource that will be made available to all San Antonio-area nonprofits and organizations.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

If this ordinance is not approved, DHS Youth Success Division will not have the most effective tools and knowledge to build the capacity of practitioners to more effectively reach and serve San Antonio's immigrant and refugee youth and young adults in identifying and achieving their

education and career goals.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance authorizes the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS) to accept the Annie E. Casey – International Rescue Committee Immigrant Youth and Young Adult Education and Career Technical Assistance grant in the amount of up to \$40,000.00 for a contract period of April 01, 2024, through December 31, 2025.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance authorizing acceptance of the Annie E. Casey – International Rescue Committee Immigrant Youth and Young Adult Education and Career Technical Assistance grant.