



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 35

Agenda Date: December 12, 2023

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Professional services contract with the San Antonio College for development and training for the Head Start Program

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes a professional services contract with the San Antonio College to provide Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM) training and development for the City of San Antonio's Department of Human Services (DHS) Head Start Program targeting enrolled children, parents, and teachers.

The contract is in a total amount up to \$193,000.00 over a five year term from February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2029, at \$38,600.00 each year

Funding for the contract is available from the federal Head Start Program grant. There is no impact to the General Fund. This ordinance also authorizes amendments, as necessary.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The DHS Head Start Program is a federally funded program administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Head Start Program provides comprehensive, high-

quality early childhood education services to 3,020 children ages three and four-year-old in the San Antonio and Edgewood Independent School Districts.

The Micronaut Program at the Scobee Education Center provides young children an authentic STEM experience. Program staff model best practices in early childhood education aligned to the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines. The Micronaut Program capitalizes on the young child's natural curiosity to explore and learn about the world where they reside. The goal of this service is to educate, promote, and inspire a lifelong passion to learn about and care for our planet.

The San Antonio College - Scobee Education Center is the sole provider for Challenger Center STEM education and planetarium programming in the San Antonio area. The Micronaut Program is a trademarked program of the Challenger Learning Center in the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga licensed to the Scobee Education Center for use in this region. The Scobee Education Center works closely with DHS' Head Start Division for the implementation of Micronaut Center field trips, professional development sessions for Head Start teachers and parents, and Family Mission Nights. During the 2022-2023 program year, 12 teachers attended professional development training sessions, over 200 children attended a Micronaut Mission field trip, and over 30 parents attended training and volunteered with their child's classroom. The program implemented the 1st Annual Head Start Micronaut Mission Day with over 250 people in attendance.

Additionally, the Micronaut Program provides an opportunity for parents and children to experience a college campus and engage with faculty and staff. Parents receive resources and information related to college admission and workforce development programs.

The interlocal agreement is expected to begin on February 1, 2024, and will provide up to 32 Micronaut Missions, two professional development sessions for Head Start teachers and teaching assistants, eight parent education sessions, and two Family Mission Nights annually. This program will also allow for parents, children, and teachers to have the opportunity to experience mission control and a space station simulator at the Santikos Micronaut Center at San Antonio College.

ISSUE:

The federal Head Start program requires grant recipients to provide STEM development and training, of which San Antonio College – Scobee Education Center Challenger Center is the sole provider of the education and planetarium programming in the San Antonio area. The current service provider contract expires on January 31, 2024.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should this professional service contract not be approved, DHS' Head Start Program will experience a delay in the implementation of an authentic STEM education experience and may not align with early childhood education best practices in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance approves a professional service contract with the San Antonio College – Scobee Education Center Micronaut Program to provide STEM development and training for the Head Start Program.

The contract is in an amount not to exceed \$193,000, at \$38,600.00 per year, for the term beginning February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2029. Funding for this contract is available from the Head Start Program grant. There is no impact to the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.