



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** {{item.number}}

**Agenda Date:** October 17, 2024

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Health Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Claude Jacob

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Agreements with the Sustainable Food Center and local corner stores and to increase access to healthy foods in the community.

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance authorizes the execution of Memoranda of Agreements with local corner stores to increase healthy foods in the community for the City of San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's (Metro Health) Healthy Neighborhoods Program for the term October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, with the option to renew for two, one-year terms.

This ordinance also authorizes an agreement with and the acceptance of funds in the amount of \$62,725.00 from the Sustainable Food Center, a non-profit organization, for participation in the Nutrition Incentive Program for the term September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025, with options to renew for three, one-year terms, for a total amount up to \$268,440.00.

Funds received will support approximately 75% of salaries and benefits for one existing full-time, grant-funded, position to carry out the scope of work of the agreement. Metro Health will provide an in-kind match requirement up to \$62,725.00 annually, for a total amount up to \$268,440.00 over the four years, inclusive of renewals.

This ordinance authorizes the City Manager or designee to execute an amendment in the following

circumstances: (A) no cost extensions up to two years; and (B) modifications to the Scope of Work so long as the terms of the amendment are reasonably within the parameters set forth in the original Scope of Work; (C) amendment(s) to the agreement with the Sustainable Food Center which will provide additional funds in an amount up to 25% of the total contract value.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Healthy Neighborhoods Program was established in 2012 to implement childhood obesity prevention initiatives within target neighborhoods. The program's efforts have been aimed at improving the health of communities of color and reducing health disparities. The program works with community leaders and organizations to improve the health of the community through environmental and policy changes that will help families lead healthier lives.

The Healthy Corner Stores program provides healthy and affordable foods and produce to corner stores across San Antonio to increase community access to healthy foods. The program also provides participating businesses with display options like shelving and refrigerators, reduces the cost of produce from wholesale distributors, and promotes the program to potential customers. Through these strategies, a sustainable sales model for affordable produce has emerged in long-standing areas challenged with accessing healthy and affordable food. Since 2020, the Healthy Corner Stores program has grown to maintain agreements with 36 existing stores from prior years.

This action will execute Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) with local corner stores participating in the Healthy Corner Store program, including Afghan Market, Alibaba, Circle Food Mart, La Norteña, Los Jefes, Martin's Food Mart, and Mini Food Mart. This will increase the number of participating stores from 36 to 43. Through these MOAs, the City will provide to the stores subsidized and discounted produce, as well as equipment like shelving and refrigerators to increase access to healthy foods.

As part of the SA Forward Plan, Metro Health plans to increase access to healthy foods in prioritized neighborhoods by expanding the Healthy Corner Stores program to 50 locations by October 2026. By continuing to expand the Healthy Corner Stores program, Metro Health will improve access to nutritious and affordable foods options across San Antonio.

In August 2024, the Sustainable Food Center was awarded a grant from the USDA for their application for the Nutrition Incentive Program. Funded by this grant, the Sustainable Food Center will provide funds to the City to support the expansion of the Double Up Food Bucks program, which matches Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) dollars, dollar for dollar, ensuring that low-income community members can purchase more fresh produce for their dollar.

Funding will support an existing position to expand the Double Up Food Bucks program within San Antonio through the Healthy Corner Stores Program network of member stores. The position will identify, recruit, and provide technical assistance for onboarding the interested stores into the Double Up Food Bucks program and serve as the liaison between the member store and the Sustainable Food Center. As part of the SA Forward Plan, the program will aim for 10% enrollment of Healthy Corner Stores into the Double Up Food Bucks Program within the first year.

**ISSUE:**

This action will authorize the execution of MOAs with local corner stores in San Antonio to support efforts to subsidize produce at a reduced cost in connection with the Healthy Corner Stores Program to improve community health outcomes implemented by Metro Health's Healthy Neighborhoods Program for the term October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, with options to renew for two, one-year terms.

This will also authorize the execution of an agreement with and acceptance of funds in the amount of \$62,725.00 from the Sustainable Food Center for the period beginning September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025, with options to renew for three, one-year terms for a total amount up to \$268,440.00, inclusive of renewals. Funding will support an existing position to help expand the Double Up Food Bucks program within the City of San Antonio through the Healthy Corner Stores Program network of member stores.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Should City Council choose not to approve this ordinance, Metro Health will need to seek an alternate means to increase community access to fresh, healthy foods, such as partnering with local non-profits to bring pop up markets to communities and simultaneously supporting efforts to enroll eligible households in food assistance programs like SNAP and WIC. These efforts would not address increasing food access on a consistent, neighborhood-level approach as the Healthy Corner Stores program aims to do. Additionally, Metro Health will forgo the acceptance of funds from the Sustainable Food Center for collaboration on the Nutrition Incentive Program.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance authorizes the execution of Memoranda of Agreements (MOAs) with local corner stores to increase access to healthy foods in the community for a term beginning October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, with the option to renew for two, one-year terms. Through these MOAs, the City will provide subsidized and discounted produce, as well as equipment like shelving and refrigerators to increase access to healthy foods to the stores.

This ordinance authorizes an agreement with the Sustainable Food Center for Metro Health to support food accessibility and nutrition incentives and the acceptance of funds in an amount up to \$62,725.00 for the term September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025, with options to renew for three, one-year terms, with Metro Health providing an in-kind match of up to \$62,725.00 annually, for a total amount up to \$268,440.00, inclusive of renewals.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval.