



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 36

**Agenda Date:** August 29, 2024

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Health Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Claude Jacob

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Authorizing an agreement with the CDC Foundation for the Data Modernization Workforce Acceleration Initiative.

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance authorizes the execution of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the CDC Foundation for the City of San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's (Metro Health) participation in the Workforce Acceleration Initiative (WAI), and allows Metro Health to participate in additional public health initiatives under the MOA during a five-year term beginning upon execution. The initial initiative under the MOA will allow for the placement of up to three WAI members from the CDC Foundation to support Metro Health for a one-year period. These positions will be 100% funded by the CDC Foundation. There is no fiscal impact to the City's General Fund in the form of a cash match.

This ordinance also authorizes the City Manager or designee to execute an amendment in the following circumstances: (A) no cost extensions up to two years; (B) modifications to the Scope of Work due to the adjustment described in subsection (A) of this Section or for any other reason, so long as the terms of the amendment are reasonably within the parameters set forth in the original Scope of Work; and (C) changes in state or federal regulations mandated by the funding agency.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The CDC Foundation is a nonprofit organization established to help the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) work effectively with outside partners to support CDC projects and extend the CDC's reach. The CDC Foundation partnered with the CDC to create the Workforce Acceleration Initiative (WAI) to strengthen public health agencies'/authorities' (PHA) capacity to deliver information system improvements that are of top priority to each PHA by adding technology and data experts to their teams. This initiative was made possible through CDC's Association of Public Health Laboratories. This initiative aligns well with both Metro Health's SA Forward community blue-print and the Metro Health 2.0 Strategic Plan, to improve data and technology infrastructure.

On May 8, 2024, Metro Health applied to the Data Modernization Workforce Acceleration Initiative (WAI) Request for Application (RFA) and was notified on May 20, 2024 the application was selected for placement of three (3) Workforce Acceleration Initiative (WAI) members.

A Development Operations Engineer will be dedicated to the Enhanced Disease Surveillance System implementation project and will report to Metro Health's Chief of Epidemiology. Metro Health's Operations Section will host a Senior Product Manager and a Business Analyst to work on the replacement of the Electronic Medical Records, Digital Health Department and development of an enterprise-wide case management system for multiple Metro Health programs.

## **ISSUE:**

Metro Health requests City Council authorize the execution of the MOA with the CDC Foundation for a five-year term for Metro Health to serve as a host site to highly qualified and trained CDC Foundation employees at no cost to the City, for a period of one-year, and allow Metro Health to participate in additional public health initiatives during the term of the MOA.

Metro Health has identified a need for such individuals and wishes to take advantage of this opportunity to obtain skilled workers that will assist in these critical areas within the department at no cost to the City.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

Should City Council choose not to approve this ordinance, Metro Health will forgo an opportunity to accept personnel support that would expand, train, and sustain the public health workforce and support Metro Health information system improvement activities and initiatives. Additionally, Metro Health would forgo the opportunity to partner with the CDC Foundation in support of initiatives aimed at addressing specific health issues relating to public health.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The CDC Foundation Data Modernization Workforce Acceleration Initiative (WAI) program provides a salary paid directly to the assignee while they complete their one-year field assignments

at Metro Health. Benefits, including health insurance, vacation, and sick leave, are also paid by the CDC Foundation. Metro Health will use existing resources to provide the required office space, equipment and associated project-based support, supervisory and mentoring time, and assessment of the assignee's professional development. There is no fiscal impact to the City's General Fund in the form of a cash match.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval.