



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 5

Agenda Date: April 23, 2024

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Government Affairs

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Sally Basurto

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Resolution for Continued Funding for Migrant Resource Center

SUMMARY:

Briefing on a possible Council resolution in support of continued federal funding for the Migrant Resource Center and status of federal appropriations for these services.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On March 7 staff briefed City Council on the City's response to the increased number of migrants transiting through San Antonio, the Migrant Resource Center, and the federal reimbursements funding the local humanitarian response. The federal government has been providing assistance to communities through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). From 2021, through FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), and more recently through the Shelter and Services Program (SSP). In Fiscal Year 2023 Congress allocated \$800 million to the SSP.

During the meeting, Councilmember Kaur recommended City Council consider and support a resolution urging the federal government to continue providing funds for local governments and nonprofits helping individuals seeking asylum.

At the time of the March 7th briefing Congress had not passed an FY 2024 appropriations bill for DHS. The federal government had been functioning under Continuing Resolutions since October 2023. It was unclear at the time whether additional funding for the SSP would be included in federal appropriations. On March 23 Congress passed an appropriations package which included funding for DHS and included \$650 million for the SSP. Since passage of the FY 2024 appropriations the City has been notified of the initial direct funding allocation to San Antonio area entities under SSP:

City of San Antonio – \$3,000,000
Catholic Charities – \$10,877,226
San Antonio Food Bank – \$2,400,000
Episcopal Diocese of West Texas – \$1,041,370
Interfaith Welcome Coalition – \$500,000

The deadline for applications for direct awards is April 26, 2024.

In addition to this direct allocation, DHS is opening a competitive grant process for an additional \$340.9 million in SSP funding. The deadline for application to the competitive process is June 13, 2024.

Meanwhile, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are in the initial stages of a multi-month FY25 budget process.

ISSUE:

A resolution supporting continued federal funding for the Migrant Resource Center would align with the City’s Federal Legislative Program for the 118th Congress which includes “support Congressional action that provides continued funding to support nonprofits and local government providing humanitarian assistance to migrant families” under the City’s Public Health and Safety priorities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Governance Committee consider a resolution stating Council's position on continued federal funding for humanitarian assistance and the City Council continue to include similar language in the federal legislative program for the 119th Congress.