



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 16

Agenda Date: February 22, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

FY 2025 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Air Monitoring and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Air Monitoring Whole Air Grants

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of funds upon award in an amount up to \$214,897.00 from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's (Metro Health) Public Center for Environmental Health (PCEH) local air monitoring efforts for a period beginning September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025.

This ordinance also authorizes the acceptance of funds upon award in an amount up to \$412,774.00 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for participation in the Whole Air Program to support field operations and sample collection activities for a term beginning June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025.

In addition, this ordinance authorizes the finalization of programmatic funding for the maintenance and delivery of essential public health services within Metro Health. This action also authorizes a proposed program budget and personnel complement of four grant-funded, full-time positions. There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund in the form of a cash match.

Furthermore, this ordinance authorizes the Director of Metro Health to initiate, negotiate, and execute any and all necessary documents and grant contracts to effectuate the application and acceptance of the referenced grants, and to execute contract amendments pertaining to these contracts, to include: a) carry-over funds, when ascertained and approved by the funding agency through a revised notice of award; b) line item budget revisions authorized by the funding agency; c) modifications to the performance measures authorized by the funding agency and listed in the contracts so long as the terms of the amendment stay within the general parameters of the intent of the grant; d) no cost extensions; e) amendments which will provide supplemental grant funds to a grant by the funding agency in an amount up to 20% of the total amount initially awarded to the grant; f) reimbursement increases of administrative funds for each participant served; g) amendments funding one time equipment purchases or defined program services; and h) changes in state regulations mandated by the funding agency.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Metro Health actively addresses the public health functions of policy development, health assessment, and health assurance. To carry out these responsibilities, Metro Health operates evidenced based programs in various settings throughout Bexar County.

Metro Health's PCEH was established to protect the environment for residents in San Antonio. Since air quality has a potential health impact, air monitoring and follow up measures to address the problems identified are important public health efforts.

The TCEQ has contracted with the City for the PCEH to manage local air monitoring efforts. Through these efforts, PCEH operates, maintains, and validates data from air particulate matter monitors, and operates continuous air monitoring stations that measure ozone, nitrous oxides, and sulfur dioxide, as well as associated meteorological parameters.

Metro Health receives approximately 57% of its total budget support through contract and grant awards in both direct funding and federal pass-through funding. These two grant awards will support a total of four existing grant-funded, full-time positions. Since 2007, this support has been authorized by City Council through a block submission of grant applications and renewals most recently on January 26, 2023 through Ordinance 2023-01-26-0029, as well as individual actions.

Service delivery and personnel complement needs are anticipated to remain consistent with the FY 2024 Adopted Budget and planned resources for the TCEQ Air Monitoring federal pass-through grant. For over twelve years, Metro Health participated in the Whole Air Program through a contract with TCEQ. Since FY 2016, DHS has invited Metro Health to apply for direct federal funding through its Whole Air Program, which has been awarded each year.

Metro Health requests authorization to apply and accept upon award approximately \$627,671.00 in grant funding from TCEQ and DHS through this ordinance. A list of the grantors, grant amounts and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) numbers is attached as Table 1.

ISSUE:

Historically, the State of Texas and DHS have provided funding to the City of San Antonio for service delivery in health and disease prevention related to air quality monitoring. Currently, this includes a program grant through TCEQ and a program grant through DHS.

State and federal funding opportunities are often presented in a time-sensitive manner, requiring the ability to initiate and execute grant submissions, amendments and subsequent awards within prescribed time constraints. Approval of this ordinance allows for a proactive and efficient process for the timely execution of state and federal funding requests. This comprehensive approach maximizes Metro Health, City administration, and City Council resources, expedites the annual funding processes, and provides City Council with a concise illustration of grant support and Metro Health programs.

Acceptance of grant funds from the TCEQ and DHS continues the long-standing practice of utilizing grant funds to support some of the local public health programs of the City.

ALTERNATIVES:

Approval of this ordinance will facilitate the efficient acceptance of funds through ongoing grants from state and federal agencies and leads to seamless continuity of Metro Health's local air monitoring services.

Alternatively, each of the two grants could be accepted separately. This would require individual City Council consideration, action, time, and processing causing potential delays in funding, resources, and service delivery. Alleviating inefficient processing delays allows personnel and City resources to be utilized proactively, effectively, and efficiently to advance the public health efforts of Metro Health.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of funds upon award from TCEQ in an amount not to exceed \$214,897.00 and DHS in an amount not to exceed \$412,774.00, for a cumulative total of \$627,671.00, and authorizes acceptance of any prior year carry-forward support, as allowed by the funding agency.

These two grant awards will support a total of four grant-funded, full-time positions. These positions will allocate time to both grants. There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund in the form of a cash match.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.