



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 11

**Agenda Date:** May 9, 2024

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Health Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Claude Jacob

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Accepting funds from HRSA for the Healthy Start Initiative in an amount up to \$5,408,333.00 for the period May 1, 2024 through March 31, 2029.

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of funds upon award in an amount up to \$1,008,333.00 for a period beginning May 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025, and up to \$1,100,000.00 annually in subsequent years, for a total amount up to \$5,408,333.00 through March 31, 2029, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), for the Healthy Start Initiative grant, and authorizes a budget and personnel complement of 11 positions. There is no impact to the General Fund in the form of cash match.

Furthermore, this ordinance authorizes the Director of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District to initiate, negotiate, and execute any and all necessary documents to effectuate the acceptance of the referenced grant funds, and to execute contract amendments pertaining to this contract, 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 contract 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

the grant by the funding agency in an amount up to 20% of the total amount awarded to the grant inclusive of this ordinance; 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 regulations mandated by the funding agency.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Since 2001, Metro Health has received funding from HRSA to operate the San Antonio Healthy Start (SAHS) program. SAHS is one of 101 Healthy Start sites throughout the nation, and one of five sites in Texas. SAHS began as a case management program focusing on increasing early prenatal care and has since expanded to serve 600 women and children through care coordination, health education, linkage to health insurance, fatherhood support services, mental health services, and lactation support services. SAHS seeks to reduce health disparities in infant and maternal mortality, improve poor birth outcomes in Bexar County, and reduce the incidence of maternal and infant morbidity, mortality, prematurity, and low birth weight births among African-American and Hispanic populations experiencing these disparities.

According to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Center for Health Statistics Birth & Death Database, there were 432 infant deaths from 2019 to 2021 in Bexar County. SAHS targets a project area within Bexar County with the highest three-year Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) that is at least 1.5 times higher than the national average. The targeted zip codes make up 12.4% of Bexar County and a combined rate of 8.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, resulting in a total of 142 infant deaths within the target area.

On December 15, 2023, Metro Health submitted an application to HRSA for a new five-year competitive grant cycle for the Healthy Start Initiative in support of SAHS. Funding will support a total of 11 full-time positions, the continued operations of the SAHS program, and provide ongoing services for up to 250 pregnant women, up to 175 women in the inter-conception period between pregnancies and their children, 25 fathers or partners, and up to 250 community members annually.

### **ISSUE:**

As the current HRSA Healthy Start Initiative grant will end on April 31, 2024, Metro Health requests City Council authorize the acceptance of funds upon award from HRSA in the amount up to \$5,408,333.00 over a five-year period beginning May 1, 2024 through March 31, 2029.

Funding will support the continuation of the San Antonio Healthy Start (SAHS) program to address the high infant mortality, health disparities in infants, and poor birth outcomes in Bexar County, and specifically address the maternal and infant morbidity, mortality, prematurity, and low birth weight births among African-American and Hispanic populations.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

Should City Council choose not to approve the acceptance of funds, Metro Health will forgo the opportunity to accept funding that would support the continuation of the San Antonio Healthy Start program.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of funds in an amount up to \$1,008,333.00 for a period beginning May 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025, and up to \$1,100,000.00 annually in subsequent years, for a total amount up to \$5,408,333.00 over a five-year period through March 31, 2029, from HRSA for the Healthy Start Initiative grant.

This ordinance also authorizes a budget and personnel complement of 11 existing full-time positions. There is no impact to the General Fund in the form of a cash match.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval.