



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 22

Agenda Date: December 12, 2023

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Accepting funds in an amount up to \$236,150.00 from the Food Research & Action Center, Inc. (FRAC) Equitable Access in Child Nutrition Programs (EA-CN) Grant

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of funds upon award from the Food Research & Action Center, Inc. (FRAC) cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS) for the Equitable Access to Child Nutrition Program (EA-CN), CFDA No. 10.579, in an amount up to \$236,150.00 for a period ending November 6, 2025. There is no impact on 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 a grant contract to effectuate the acceptance of the referenced grant, 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; 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:

On October 3, 2023, Metro Health submitted an application to FRAC for the Equitable Access to Childhood Nutrition (EA-CN) project.

FRAC improves the nutrition, health, and well-being of people struggling against poverty-related hunger in the United States through advocacy, partnerships, and by advancing bold and equitable policy solutions. FRAC was awarded a \$2 million cooperative agreement from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to conduct and support research on expanding access to federally funded child nutrition programs. The EA-CN project aims to investigate systemic barriers and social and environmental protective factors to child nutrition programs among Black and Latino youth, ages 12-18, from low income and low food access areas of San Antonio.

In Bexar County, Black residents are 3.19 times more likely to be food insecure than Non-Hispanic Whites, and Hispanic/Latino residents are 2.53 times more likely to be food insecure than Non-Hispanic Whites. Summer and afterschool nutrition programs are designed to address these disparities in food insecurity. However, the data indicate Black and Hispanic/Latino youth continue to face systemic barriers, rooted in historical inequities, that lead to negative health outcomes.

Metro Health's project will promote health equity by recruiting key community stakeholders through the support of Empower House SA and San Antonio Public Library (SAPL). Key community stakeholders will include youth, parents, and service providers/staff. Metro Health will utilize the City's Master Research Agreement to contract with a local university to complete the research design, implementation, and analysis of the project, with direct oversight from Metro Health.

The project will be organized in three phases. Phase I will include recruiting community partners and coordinating logistics to conduct focus groups and key informant interviews. Community sessions, including focus groups and key informant interviews will make up Phase II. Phase II will include the design and administration of a survey and identifying systemic barriers and social and environmental protective factors to participation in child nutrition programs among Black and Latino youth. Feedback obtained will help standardize a definition for "high-quality foods". The project team will share findings back with key community stakeholders and revise action plan/recommendations with their input. Phase III will be dedicated to analyzing data from surveys, synthesizing findings from the community sessions, and summarizing innovative solutions.

Metro Health requests City Council authorize the acceptance of funds upon award in an amount up to \$236,150.00 from the FRAC EA-CN Grant and execution of an agreement with FRAC. These funds will support the identification of barriers and strategies for equitable access to child nutrition programs for a period through November 6, 2025. Metro Health's project aligns with SA Forward priority areas of Food Insecurity & Nutrition, and Health Equity & Social Justice, and

with the work of the Food Insecurity Workgroup's goal of reducing food insecurity among San Antonio residents by 2026.

ISSUE:

Metro Health requests City Council authorize the acceptance of funds in an amount up to \$236,150.00 from the FRAC cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS), for the Equitable Access in Child Nutrition Programs (EA-CN) Grant and execution of an agreement with FRAC for the period ending November 6, 2025.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should City Council choose not to approve this ordinance, Metro Health will not be able to use these funds to identify barriers preventing the equitable access to child nutrition programs in San Antonio.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of funds in an amount up to \$236,150.00 from the FRAC Equitable Access in Child Nutrition Programs (EA-CN) Grant to support the identification of barriers and strategies for equitable access to child nutrition programs for a period through November 6, 2025. There is no impact on the General Fund in the form of a cash match.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.