



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: January 21, 2025

In Control: Public Safety Committee

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Office of National Drug Control Policy; 2025 HIDTA Grant

SUMMARY:

Briefing and possible action on the submission of a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grant application and acceptance of funds upon award in an amount up to \$2,174,657 from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026 as well as accepting additional grant funds up to 20% of the grant and authorizes a budget and personnel complement of 14 positions which are currently funded with HIDTA funds.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program created by Congress with the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 aids Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies operating

in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions of the United States.

The grant program is administered by the Office of National Drug Control Police (ONDCP). There are currently 33 HIDTAs and HIDTA-designated counties located in all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

The HIDTA mission is to reduce drug trafficking in the San Antonio metropolitan area by instituting innovative narcotic enforcement investigations and the seizure of illegally obtained assets to reduce the profitability of narcotics trafficking.

Fiscal Year 2025 would be the 32nd year the City of San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) has been awarded this grant.

The San Antonio Police Department HIDTA Initiative consists of eight initiatives:

1. San Antonio Police Department HIDTA Task Force
2. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) HIDTA Task Force
3. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) HIDTA Task Force
4. South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center
5. HIDTA Information Technology Initiative
6. HIDTA Support Services Initiative
7. HIDTA Financial Crimes Initiative
8. Directors Administrative Crimes Initiative

The San Antonio HIDTA Initiative, DEA Task Force, and Homeland Security Investigations multi-agency task force performs drug interdiction operations designed to enhance the Police Department's narcotics enforcement efforts. This program enables the unit to use task force concepts providing the capability to cross jurisdictional boundaries by employing law enforcement officers from local, state, and federal levels. The program targets narcotics organizations by focusing on the middle to upper-level traffickers and investigates the distribution of narcotics and related enterprises. Members of this unit are trained to investigate money laundering, asset structuring, financial auditing, and to apply surveillance techniques necessary to develop intelligence and make arrests.

The South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center and Information Technology Initiative has a two-fold responsibility. The center responds to inquiries from San Antonio and surrounding counties' criminal justice agencies by providing timely intelligence reports gathered from databases of the respective member agencies. Secondly, the center will act as a de-confliction unit for South Texas, which covers an area from Bexar County, south to Brownsville, and west to Del Rio. This section of the center is of paramount importance to the safety of officers in the field. It is responsible for maintaining up to date information gathered from all law enforcement agencies operating in South Texas. With information provided by these agencies, the unit will identify potential conflicts involving officer safety and immediately notify the affected agencies of the potential conflict.

The Support Service Initiative supports and manages the building space, amenities, and training facilities occupied and utilized by SAPD. The training facility is managed by the HIDTA

Executive Staff and is utilized by the HIDTA Task Force, San Antonio Police Department, and surrounding Law Enforcement Agencies to conduct training and provides additional meeting space for briefs and board meetings.

The South Texas HIDTA Financial Crimes Initiative is a cooperative partnership of Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies encompassing Bexar and Travis counties in south and central Texas. The task force is co-located with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the San Antonio Police Department and Homeland Security Investigations in San Antonio and focuses on mid-to upper-level drug trafficking organizations, Transnational Criminal Organizations, terrorist organizations and money laundering organizations operating in the South Texas HIDTA area of responsibility.

The Director's Administrative Support Office is responsible for the overall administration and operation of the South Texas HIDTA program. Funds are utilized for the rental of facilities for the director's office. Funds will also be utilized for the rental of facilities in support of the HSI, Support Services, and Financial Crimes Initiatives.

The 14 authorized position are four Detective Investigators, one Sergeant, four Crime Analysts, three Sr. Crime Analysts, one Client Service Analyst, and one Systems Administrator.

The table below provides the results of this program for calendar year 2024:

2024 Productivity	HIDTA
Arrested Persons	85
Search Warrants Executed	23
Guns Recovered	112
Marijuana Seized (grams)	14,859.3
Heroin Seized (grams)	2,206
Cocaine Seized (grams)	114,801.64
Methamphetamine Seized (grams)	279,065.8
Other Drugs Seized (grams)	39,402.5
Cash Seized	\$703,268
Gang Contacts/Blue Sheets	4

ISSUE:

A briefing on the submission of a grant application and acceptance of upon award in an amount up to \$2,174,657.00 including the acceptance of additional grant funds up to a limit of 20% of the grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) for a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).

FISCAL IMPACT:

This grant does not have an impact on the City’s General Fund. The grant will fund a total of 14 authorized positions. The total proposed program budget of \$2,174,657.00 is divided into eight (8) related initiatives as follows:

Program Name	Budget	Positions
San Antonio Police Department HIDTA Task Force	\$823,522	4
Drug Enforcement Agency HIDTA Task Force	\$230,387	1
Homeland Security Investigation HIDTA Initiative	\$99,231	
South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center	\$608,423	7
HIDTA Information Technology Initiative	\$186,618	2
HIDTA Support Service Initiative	\$79,408	
HIDTA Financial Crimes Initiative	\$51,889	
Director’s Administrative Support Office	\$95,179	
TOTAL	\$2,174,657	14

In the event of supplemental funding becoming available up to 20% of the original grant award would be accepted.

ALTERNATIVES:

This grant provides an opportunity for the City of San Antonio to enhance the Narcotics operations of the San Antonio Police Department.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Public Safety Committee forward this item to the full City Council for approval of the submission and acceptance of funding upon award of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grant.