



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 13

**Agenda Date:** October 17, 2024

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Solid Waste Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** David Newman

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

2024-2025 Alamo Area Council of Governments Regional Solid Waste Pass-Through Grant

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$57,000 for FY 2024 and \$30,000 in FY 2025 to fund recycling education materials and resources from the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) representing the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). These Regional Solid Waste Pass-Through Grants support environmental programming efforts related to recycling, solid waste stream reduction and municipal enforcement of anti-dumping laws. This ordinance also authorizes the acceptance of funds, the ratification of contracts between the City and AACOG for any of the grants awarded, and allows for supplemental grant applications, and their acceptance if awarded, should AACOG make additional funds available during their 2024-2025 grant cycle.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Since 1996, the TCEQ has provided statewide grants to area Councils of Government for distribution to local agencies, municipalities, counties, and public school districts. These funds are generated by fees imposed by the State on volumes of disposed municipal solid waste. Historically

the City of San Antonio's Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) has been awarded most of these grants, with Code Compliance, Public Works, Health, Parks and Recreation, Convention, Sports and Entertainment Facilities, and the City Clerk's Office receiving funding from this program in the past as well. Since 1996, the City has received over \$5 million in funding from this program.

This year's grant cycle covers the 2024-2025 State of Texas Biennium. There will be only one call for applications for projects during this time. The AACOG Resource Recovery Advisory Committee will decide which projects will be funded and when those projects are to be funded for FY 2024 and FY 2025.

### **ISSUE:**

The purpose of the grants is to enable the City of San Antonio to expand its efforts to reduce the generation of waste through education, to encourage recycling efforts, and minimize illegal dumping within City of San Antonio. This ordinance is in alignment with the City Council's policy of seeking intergovernmental assistance for enhancing environmental sustainability.

Funding will be used for educational and outreach programs, enhancing the current ReWorksSA program, and increasing illegal dumping advertising.

Of the total \$87,000 award, the FY 2024 award of \$57,000 will be directed to the SWMD's Education and Outreach division for recycling and composting educational materials to distribute to the San Antonio student population during presentations. Specifically, the funding would be utilized for children's books and activity guides. Funding would also be used to purchase recycling containers for local businesses to help them establish a recycling collection program in the workplace. The FY 2025 award of \$30,000 will be utilized to continue and enhance a robust, integrated campaign to heighten community awareness of the major problem illegal dumping is in San Antonio. This campaign is entitled "FIGHT DIRTY" and the goal for future years is to keep that phrase as recognizable as 'Don't Mess With Texas.'

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

An alternative to submission and acceptance of this grant would require the identification of other City funding to enhance existing recycling and solid waste reduction efforts.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$57,000 for FY 2024 and \$30,000 in FY 2025 to fund recycling education materials and resources from the Alamo Area

Council of Governments (AACOG) representing the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). There is no cash match requirement and no impact to the City's General Fund.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance to accept FY 2024 and 2025 TCEQ Regional Solid Waste Pass-Through Grants.