



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** {{item.number}}

**Agenda Date:** September 19, 2024

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Health Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Claude Jacob

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

An agreement with the Food Policy Council of San Antonio, Inc. for the implementation of the Urban Farming Pilot Program.

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance authorizes the execution of an agreement with the Food Policy Council of San Antonio, Inc. (FPCSA) for the implementation of the Urban Farming Pilot Program for the City of San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health)'s Community Health & Safety Division in an amount up to \$60,000.00 for a term beginning upon execution through September 30, 2025. Funding is available from the General Fund FY 2024 Adopted Budget.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Metro Health formed the FPCSA under a Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) grant, awarded in March 2010, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Health and Human Services. The FPCSA was incorporated as a Texas nonprofit in May 2012 and was designated a 501c3 organization in August 2013.

The FPCSA serves as a stakeholder forum to support a healthy, sustainable and just local food system for people, the environment, the economy and community. One of the initiatives of the

FPCSA is urban agriculture; the work promotes the growth of agriculture within the city through policy change, education programs, and collaboration and coordination. Urban farming is the practice of cultivating crops, livestock, or types of food in an urban environment.

Through Ordinance 2023-09-14-0623, City Council authorized funding to the FPCSA for an Urban Farming Seed pilot project. The proposed agreement with the FPCSA will provide seed funding in the form of small grants to at least three urban farms located within San Antonio. Awardees of the Urban Farming Pilot Program will use funds to support a new or established urban farm.

For this pilot project, urban farms include the following categories:

**Community Farms:** communal growing spaces typically run by a non-profit organization which aim to provide produce to the participating community as well as enriching social and educational programming.

**Commercial Farms:** run by for-profit organizations and focus on growing niche produce and use high-efficiency techniques like vertical or soilless farming.

**Institutional Farms and Gardens:** typically associated with a community institution (ex: prisons, hospitals, churches, schools, etc.), do not aim to grow large quantities of produce, but seek to provide positive health, education, and lifestyle opportunities for their respective institutions.

Projects will create new urban farms or expand, enhance, or sustain current urban farms.

#### **ISSUE:**

Metro Health requests City Council authorize the execution of an agreement with the FPCSA for the implementation of the Urban Farming Pilot Program for Metro Health's Community Health & Safety Division in an amount up to \$60,000.00 for a term beginning upon execution through September 30, 2025. Funding is available from the General Fund FY 2024 Adopted Budget.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

Should City Council choose not to approve this ordinance, Metro Health will need to seek an alternate means to provide funding to establish or enhance urban farms.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance authorizes the execution of an agreement with the Food Policy Council of San Antonio, Inc, to implement the Urban Farming Pilot Program in an amount up to \$60,000.00 for a term beginning upon execution through September 30, 2025. Funding is available from the General Fund FY 2024 Adopted Budget.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval.