



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 24

Agenda Date: August 29, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of the Child Care Services Quality Initiative Program grant for a total program budget of \$6,647,141.00 and a revised personnel complement.

SUMMARY:

The Department of Human Services (DHS) requests approval of the following actions related to a grant application for the Child Care Services Quality Initiative Program:

- a) Acceptance of a grant award from Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA) in the amount of \$6,647,141.00 for the term October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, with options to renew for four, one-year extensions;
- b) Authorization of a total program budget of \$6,647,141.00 and a revised personnel complement from 23 to 25 positions; and
- c) Approval for the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS) to execute any and all documents related to the acceptance of supplemental grant funds in a cumulative amount up to 20% of the ordinance budget; carry-over of funds; line-item budget revisions; no cost grant term extensions; and modifications to the performance measures, so long as the terms stay within the

general parameters of the intent of the grant.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) administers the Child Care Services Quality Initiative, also known as the Texas Rising Star (TRS) program. TWC contracts with WSA to implement the program for Bexar County and 12 rural counties. Through a competitive process, WSA awards contracts to provide Child Care Quality Initiative services. Since Fiscal Year 2016, DHS has been a grantee for this program. This quality initiative provides mentorship to prepare local childcare centers to become certified TRS providers (or high-quality childcare centers). Furthermore, the grant requires that all childcare vendors be TRS-certified by the end of September 2025.

On February 14, 2024, WSA released a Request for Proposals (RFP) with grant submissions due on April 2, 2024. On March 21, 2024, City Council approved Ordinance 2024-03-21-0192, authorizing the submission of the Child Care Quality Initiative grant application to WSA. During the summer, DHS was awarded the grant for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, with options to renew for four, one-year extensions.

Through this grant award, DHS will provide Child Care Quality Improvement Activities such as mentoring for TRS providers and those working towards certification; technical assistance; professional development training; guidance for implementation of children with disabilities assessments for inclusion rates; and additional programs and special projects to improve quality standards. The goal of this initiative is to improve the quality of care by increasing the number of TRS providers and increasing star level for existing TRS providers.

ISSUE:

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of a Child Care Services Quality Initiative grant award from WSA in an amount up to \$6,647,141.00, an associated program budget, and personnel complement of 25 positions. The term of the grant is for one year between October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, with options to renew for four, one-year extensions.

DHS is requesting the addition of two positions to help with the current caseload, as the overall goal is to ensure that all 628 childcare services providers across Bexar County, and the surrounding 12 counties, achieve and maintain TRS certification by September 30, 2025.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should authority to accept funding not be approved, WSA would award funding to another agency to provide childcare services to the Alamo Workforce Board Area. Such an action may delay the provision of services to the community and may negatively impact currently enrolled children and families.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$6,647,141.00 for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, with options to renew for four, one-year extensions and authorizes a program budget and revised personnel complement of 25 positions.

There is no fiscal impact to the City's General Fund in the form of a cash match.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.