



# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Policy Discussion - Youth

Economic and Workforce Development  
Committee

May 26, 2022



**HUMAN SERVICES**  
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

**Melody Woosley**  
Director, Department of Human Services

# Presentation Overview

---



- Overview of COVID-19 impact, strategies, and outcomes
- Preliminary community stakeholder meeting feedback
- Overview on COSA processes improvement
- Timeline of Youth ARPA meetings



# Preliminary City Council Feedback

---



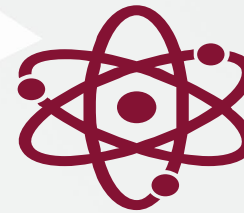
Wraparound Services  
for Youth Aging out of  
Foster Care



Opportunity Youth  
Support Services



Programs that offer  
Positive Childhood  
Experiences



Summer and  
After-school Programs



Gang Intervention  
Programs

# COVID-19 Impact, Strategies, and Outcomes

| COVID-19 Impact                                 | EWDC Priority | Programs/Strategies   | Equitable Outcomes  | Performance Indicators |
|---|---------------|---|---|------------------------|
| Increase in Gang Activity                       | ✓             | Increase gang intervention and prevention programs in areas with high gang activity | Develop targeted prevention programs that incorporate strategies to offer alternative support mechanisms for youth to promote healing and positive pathways for education/employment. |                        |
| Increase in number of Opportunity Youth         | ✓             | Expand existing opportunity youth programs  | Increase capacity of existing organizations to serve additional opportunity youth.  |                        |
| Decrease in access of supports for Foster Youth | ✓             | Track foster youth in current programs; create new support streams for foster youth | Partner with organizations to enable foster youth to access basic services, including housing, support with educational/career goals and coaching.                                    |                        |
| Decrease of School Readiness                    | ✓             | Increase the amount of free After School and Summer Programs                        | Develop high quality out-of-school opportunities focusing on academic loss, developmental relationships and enrichment activities.  |                        |

# Stakeholder Engagement

| Date         | Meeting   | Agencies  |
|--------------|---|---|
| May 17, 2022 | Community Stakeholder Meeting: Gang Intervention and Prevention | 5 Agencies  |
| May 17, 2022 | Community Stakeholder Meeting: Opportunity Youth                | 48 Agencies   |
| May 18, 2022 | Community Stakeholder Meeting: Foster Youth                     | 36 Agencies   |
| May 18, 2022 | Community Stakeholder Meeting: After School and Summer Programs | 45 Agencies   |
| June 2022    | Community Stakeholder Meetings with Youth                       | San Antonio Youth Commission<br>Metro Health Teen Ambassador<br>Ecumenical Center<br>Justice Involved Youth<br>Youth Action Board (SARAH) |

# Stakeholder Input: Impact, Strategies, Outcomes

---

## Impact

- Attendance rates low
- Increased family homelessness & instability
- Youth preference of in person services
- Digital access divide continues to increase with rising costs
- Whole family needing stabilization and basic needs
- Intensity of gang activity more severe
- Volunteer numbers dropped
- Number of placements for foster youth dropped

## Strategies

- Incentivize current programming for youth for retention
- Mentors and coaching for youth
- Staffing retention bonuses
- Family stabilization services
  - Meet basic needs
  - Ease of access to services
  - Allot \$ for training on site staff to navigate city and community services
- Expand communications and marketing for youth and family awareness of services
- Provide incentives such as gas stipends for volunteers
- Provide additional support for foster families (e.g., furniture, home upgrades)

## Outcomes

- **Increase youth and staff retention:** Support current programming for long term sustainability with financial incentives
- **Decrease staff to youth ratio:** relational models needed; more coaches available
- **Increase family support:** Create safety nets to support family stability
- **Increase student academic achievement:** Educational services that meet students where they are at and can offer support to get “caught up”
- **Increase volunteer retention:** Volunteers working with foster youth receive extra funds to work with their youth
- **Increase foster youth space:** Provide funds for foster youth placements who need support to be able to foster youth

# Preliminary Community Feedback on COSA Processes

---

- Stagger RFP deadlines so agencies applying for funding in more than one category are given time to apply.
- Coordinate the RFP processes so an agency only has to submit insurance requirements, financial documents, etc., once even if they submit multiple RFPs.
- Improve community's knowledge of COSA programs to support families (e.g., rental assistance, financial navigators, etc.).
- Review applications for City funding and make processes easier for families to apply and qualify.
- Support innovative programs with additional points in application process and incentives for collaboratives.
- Consider offering more COSA buildings for community programming (e.g., senior centers for after school programs).

# DHS Youth Success Additional Outreach

---

## Reports issued in June 2022

- Foster youth who aged out of the system and organizations participated in focus group to garner feedback on COSA supports to better improve post-secondary outcomes
- Issued a teen mental health survey for 12-19 year olds
- Partnering with Region 20, Bexar county superintendents will be issued a survey on mental health support resources in their schools to develop inventory of supports that currently exist





## Next Steps



| Timeline             |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| May and June         | Stakeholder Input Sessions           |
| July                 | Prepare Proposed Implementation Plan |
| August               | EDWC Approves Plan                   |
| September            | City Council Approves Plan           |
| September to October | RFP Process                          |
| November             | City Council approves RFP Awards     |





# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Policy Discussion - Youth

Economic and Workforce Development  
Committee

May 26, 2022



**HUMAN SERVICES**  
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

**Melody Woosley**  
Director, Department of Human Services