



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: June 24, 2022

In Control: Economic and Workforce Development Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Framework for Youth Services

SUMMARY:

This item requests approval of a proposed plan for the use of ARPA funds for youth in the amount of \$10 million to address the impact of COVID-19 on youth.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On March 11, 2021, Congress signed into law ARPA which included resources to support local government's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of San Antonio was awarded \$326.9 million in State and local Fiscal Recovery Funds. As part of the FY 2022 Budget process, the City Council approved \$97.50 million to support the city budget and address community needs. On November 18, 2021, Council approved an additional \$30.0 million for utility assistance. The remaining \$199.4 million remained unallocated and was intended to be awarded following a community engagement process that began in the fall of 2021.

On October 20, 2021, the City Council was briefed and presented with a potential spending framework, strategic guiding principles, and a community input plan for the use of the ARPA State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. In November 2021, the City held community meetings and launched a survey to obtain feedback on the use of the ARPA Funds. Additional meetings were held on December 9, 2021 and January 26, 2022 to obtain further policy direction from the City Council and to discuss community input. Finally, on February 3, 2022, City Council approved a spending framework for the use of \$199.4 million in State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds received under ARPA. This Spending framework supports the continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, addresses community priorities, and allocated funds for City employee compensation/benefits/retention. The approved spending framework included \$87.8 million recommended for programmatic funding, and within this amount \$10 million was allocated to Youth.

On April 26, 2022 and May 24, 2022, the Economic & Workforce Development Committee (EWDC) received a briefing on the impact of COVID – 19 on youth. The Department of Human Services (DHS) conducted four community meetings with 42 organizations to ascertain the impact the pandemic had on their programs and participants. Potential strategies were also identified to support gang prevention, youth aging out of the foster system, enrichment of youth during out-of-school time, and opportunity youth with ARPA funding.

ISSUE:

DHS will present a proposed plan to support youth serving organizations in the amount of \$10 million for a term of two years for EDWC approval. If this plan is approved, DHS plans to take this plan to the City Council for consideration on August 18, 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The ARPA State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Spending Framework approved by the City Council on February 3, 2022 allocated \$10 million to Youth Services.

DHS is proposing release of a competitive RFP for the use of ARPA funds for youth in the amount of \$10 million over two years.

ALTERNATIVES:

As an alternative, allocated funding could be awarded through a larger competitive process later this year.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends EWDC approval of the proposed plan to move forward to the City Council for consideration at the “A” Session on August 18, 2022.