



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: June 24, 2022

In Control: Economic and Workforce Development Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Workforce Development Office

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Michael Ramsey

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Updates on City workforce development programs.

SUMMARY:

This item provides an update on the progress of four City workforce development programs: (1) Project Quest FY2022 Professional Services Agreement; (2) AlamoPROMISE FY2022 Interlocal Agreement; (3) Train for Jobs SA (TfJSA); and (4) Ready to Work (RTW).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City entered into a professional services agreement with Project Quest valued at \$2 million to provide training and job placement assistance during FY 2022. The purpose of the contract is to strengthen the local economy by developing a skilled and educated workforce and place participants in jobs paying a living wage. Project Quest provides access to associate's degrees, bachelor's degrees, or industry-recognized certifications.

The City also provided \$1,141,593 to the Alamo Community Colleges District to serve AlamoPROMISE Scholars in Year 2 of the contract. The program provides financial support to participating PROMISE students completing college leading to the attainment of necessary skills to enhance economic and social mobility and to hold high-wage, high-demand jobs. City funding provides support for “last-dollar” funding for 640 scholars.

TfJSA offers workforce training and job placement services to San Antonio residents who have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The City partners with Workforce Solutions Alamo, Alamo Colleges District, Project Quest, Restore Education, Family Service, Chrysalis Ministries, and SA Worx to implement the program. Once admitted, participants receive subsidized tuition and stipends while participating in approved training courses, including high-school equivalency preparation, short-term training and long-term training. TfJSA also offers wraparound services to participants, including skills and career assessments, childcare, and transportation to remove barriers to completion.

RTW is a longer-term education and job placement program that launched in May 2022. RTW will offer up to 1,681 residents subsidized tuition for industry-recognized certifications, associate’s degree completion and bachelor’s degree completion in FY 2022. This program is a community collaborative inclusive of pledge employers, official partners, approved training providers, community-based support organizations, technical assistance providers, and community ambassadors coming together to ensure its success.

ISSUE:

This briefing will include an update on the City’s workforce development programs, including a breakdown of participant demographics, enrollment, training programs and industries, as well as job placements to date.

As of May 2022, Project Quest has served 651 unduplicated participants, which is already exceeding its year-end target of 500. Additionally, the organization has helped participants receive 89 degrees or certifications while placing 71 participants in jobs. The average placement wage is \$22.65, which exceeds the \$18.50 target.

As of May 31, 2022, 10,406 participants have enrolled in TfJSA. Of those, 5,463 have enrolled in 5,886 trainings, including high-school equivalency, on-the-job training, short-term training or long-term training. Of those, 69% are women, 65% are Hispanic, and 60% are ages 25-44. Training in medical and information technology account for nearly two-thirds (66.46%) of courses. As of May 31, 4,764 participants have received over \$14.5M in stipends. TfJSA enrollment ended in December 2021; however, residents continue to attend courses, and receive wraparound services, stipends, and job placement assistance through September 2022 (Project Quest through September 2023).

As of June 15, 3,167 people have applied for RTW. Project Quest, Restore Education, and Alamo Colleges have begun assessing applicants for eligibility and case managing participants. Workforce Solutions Alamo will begin intaking applicants in mid-June.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.