

AGENDA ITEM #5

MEETING: Community Health, Environment, & Culture Committee

DATE: December 14, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT: City of San Antonio Boards and Commissions Childcare Subsidy Pilot

SUMMARY:

This presentation provides information on the FY 2022 City of San Antonio Boards and Commissions Childcare Subsidy Pilot Project.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In November 2018, City Council unanimously approved a resolution supporting the safety, health, and economic opportunity of women. The resolution noted that women have been underrepresented on appointed boards and commissions – a finding that was also identified in the 2019 Status of Women in San Antonio report. On July 1, 2019, former District 5 Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) to explore opportunities to provide free childcare at meetings of the City's Boards and Commissions to increase participation of parents of young children, especially women.

During the FY 2022 Budget development, City Council approved, \$10,000 in funding for staff to launch a pilot program to fund childcare for parents who volunteer on City Boards and Commissions. The FY 2022 City of San Antonio Budget was adopted on September 16, 2021.

ISSUE:

The Department of Human Services (DHS), in coordination with the City Clerk's and the City Attorney's Office, explored several options to provide childcare support to City Boards and Commissions which included: Onsite childcare; blanket per diem reimbursement; childcare provider reimbursements; and parental/guardian subsidy (determined to be the best option).

Cost reimbursement for childcare has been determined to be allowable under the City Charter as an incidental benefit or reimbursement of costs for board service, like parking vouchers or meals and is not considered compensation.

Prioritization for assistance, should funding be unable to fully meet the needs of members, will be given to members who have two or more barriers to Board/Commission participation and state a financial need for childcare reimbursement. The selection and reimbursement processes are based on parent/guardian self-attestation.

Advertisement on the availability of childcare subsidy assistance began with a soft launch in November 2021 with full implementation planned for March 2022.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.