

DEPARTMENT: Workforce Development

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Michael Ramsey

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City-wide

SUBJECT:

Updates on the Train for Jobs SA and SA: Ready to Work workforce development programs.

SUMMARY:

This item provides an update on the progress of the Train for Jobs SA program, and the SA: Ready to Work program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Trains for Jobs SA

As a part of the COVID-19 Community Recovery and Resiliency Plan, the Train for Jobs SA program, which launched in September 2020, offers workforce training and education to San Antonio residents who have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of San Antonio has partnered with Workforce Solutions Alamo, Alamo Colleges, Project Quest, Restore Education, Family Service, Chrysalis Ministries, and SA Works 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 and long-term training. The program also offers wraparound services to participants, including skills and career assessments, childcare, transportation, and emergency funding to remove barriers to completion.

Presently, the City and all partners are in negotiations to extend the current contracts so that partners can continue to enroll participants through December 2021. This contract extension will ensure no lapse in enrollment opportunities as Train for Jobs comes to an end and the SA: Ready to Work program begins.

SA: Ready to Work

The SA: Ready to Work program, approved by voters last November, will consist of three core services: tuition assistance for workforce training and degree completion; wraparound services; and emergency financial assistance. The City issued the first of three RFPs for the program on July 6, 2021, for implementation services with proposals due August 31, 2021. Soon to be issued will be the Community Outreach and Marketing RFP as well as the Program Evaluation RFP.

On July 28, 2021 the City held a Workforce Symposium, bringing together various stakeholders within the workforce development ecosystem in San Antonio. The day began with an employer panel followed by national and local workforce experts who spoke about best practices in the workforce development field. More than 170 individuals including representatives from non-profits and employers attended the event and took part in facilitated work session discussions on wraparound services and program evaluation. The City received 37 responses to its survey of the event and overall feedback was favorable with an average 4.4 out of 5-star rating.

ISSUE:

This briefing will include an update on the implementation of the Train for Jobs SA workforce development program including a breakdown of participant demographics, enrollment, training programs and industries, as well as job placements to date. In addition, this briefing will include information on Train for Jobs SA contract amendments, SA: Ready to Work RFPs, and a detailed account of the Workforce Symposium.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.