



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 33

Agenda Date: September 21, 2023

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Accepting funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office of Grants Services, for the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Grant.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance approves the acceptance of funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Office of Grant Services (OGS) for the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant, CFDA No. 93.304, in an amount not to exceed \$5,109,495.00 and approving a budget and personnel complement for the period beginning September 30, 2023 through September 29, 2028. There is no impact to the General Fund in the form of a cash match.

Furthermore, this ordinance authorizes the Director of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) to initiate, negotiate, and execute any and all necessary documents and a grant contract to effectuate the acceptance of the referenced grant, and to execute contract amendments pertaining to this contract, to include a) carry-over funds, when ascertained and approved by the funding agency through a revised notice of award; b) line item budget revisions authorized by the funding agency; c) modifications to the performance measures authorized by the funding agency and listed in the contract so long as the terms of the amendment stay within the general parameters of the intent of the grant; d) no cost extensions; e) amendments which will provide supplemental grant funds to the grant by the funding agency in an amount up to 20% of

the total amount awarded to the grant; f) reimbursement increases of administrative funds for each participant served; g) amendments funding one time equipment purchases or defined program services; and h) changes in regulations mandated by the funding agency.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Chronic diseases are the leading causes of death and disability in the United States, largely driven by preventable health behaviors. Health behaviors such as tobacco use, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity are linked to chronic conditions, premature death, and disability. Chronic disease and their outcomes disproportionately impact racial and ethnic populations including African Americans/Blacks, Hispanic/Latino Americans, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The REACH grant aims to improve health, prevent chronic diseases, and reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic populations with the highest risk by supporting culturally tailored interventions to address policies, systems, and environmental drivers of low physical activity level and poor nutrition, by strengthening collaboration with our Healthy Neighborhoods Program over the course of a 5-year grant period.

In 2018, the CDC awarded Metro Health a total of \$3,960,000.00 through the REACH grant over a period of five years, beginning September 30, 2018 through September 29, 2023. During this period, the REACH grant supported improved access to healthy foods and referral services between the clinical sector and community-based programs, improved lactation policies and spaces at community sites, and the promotion of tobacco-free living through cessation policies. In 2022, Metro Health was awarded additional supplemental funding up to \$459,042.00 through the REACH grant to support COVID-19 and Flu vaccine awareness.

On April 7, 2023, Metro Health submitted a competitive grant application for the new five-year REACH Grant and applied for the following components.

Component A – Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Early Care and Education (ECE) Nutrition: Within the Nutrition Strategy, The REACH Healthy Neighborhoods Program will promote nutrition guidelines and healthy associated food procurement at food pantries and faith-based organizations using the Leah's Pantry Nutrition Pantry Program model, which is included in the USDA's SNAP-Ed Toolkit and will support initiatives utilizing a prescription for produce model. Within the Physical Activity Strategy, REACH Healthy Neighborhoods Program will work across sectors to design and/or implement neighborhood improvement plans that support active routes to daily destinations. Within the ECE Strategy, the program will provide Technical Assistance to ECE sites implementing the Go NAPSACC tool, an evidenced based tool that improves feeding policies and practices at ECE sites.

Component B – COVID-19, Flu, and Other Adult Vaccines: REACH Healthy Neighborhoods will build upon existing strengths and capacity and utilize the Community Health Worker model to develop community-based and culturally and linguistically tailored strategies, practices, and messages to increase awareness, confidence, demand, and access for flu, COVID-19, and other recommended adult vaccines.

The priority populations this grant will focus on are African American/Black and Hispanic/Latinx communities in San Antonio. The REACH Healthy Neighborhoods Program will work in three geographic regions on the West, South, and East sides of the urban core. The West region is more than 90% Hispanic/Latino and experiences a higher rate of poverty than other regions, with 32.5% of the population living below the federal poverty threshold. In the South region, nearly 90% of the residents in this region are Hispanic/Latino and 23.6% are living below the federal poverty threshold. In the East region, 71.2% of residents are Hispanic/Latino and 14.7% are non-Hispanic Black.

Through the most recent competitive REACH grant application process, Metro Health was awarded \$1,021,899.00 per year. This ordinance will approve the acceptance of funds in an amount up to \$5,109,495.00 from the CDC for the five-year grant period.

ISSUE:

The REACH grant aims to provide funding for community organizing to enact environmental and policy changes to promote increased access to healthy foods, reduce barriers to physical activity, increase adult vaccination uptake, and improve childhood nutrition with a special focus on engaging racial and ethnic populations in San Antonio for the period of September 30, 2023 through September 29, 2028. This is the second five-year REACH grant awarded to Metro Health.

Metro Health requests City Council approve the acceptance of funds in amount up to \$5,109,495.00 from the CDC for the REACH grant for the period beginning September 30, 2023 through September 29, 2028, and authorize a budget and personnel complement.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should City Council choose not to approve this ordinance, Metro Health will forego acceptance of the REACH grant funds from the CDC and will not be able to continue programs that support the work of the Healthy Neighborhoods Program through the REACH grant.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance approves the acceptance of funds in an amount up to \$5,109,495.00 from the CDC, Office of Grants Services, for the REACH grant for the period beginning September 30, 2023 through September 29, 2028. This ordinance will also authorize a budget and personnel complement of 10 positions.

There is no impact to the General Fund in the form of a cash match.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.