



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 34

Agenda Date: September 21, 2023

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Ordinance approving the acceptance of funds, upon award, from Child Care Services Quality Initiative grant in the amount of \$3,996,909.00 for the FY 2024 Child Care Services (CCS) Program and approval of the associated budget and a personnel complement of 23 positions.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes budgetary, grant, and associated contract-related actions for the City's FY 2024 Child Care Services Quality Initiative grant program including:

- a) the acceptance, upon award of a grant from Workforce Solutions Alamo in the amount of \$3,996,909.00 for the period of October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024;
- b) the authorization of a total program budget of \$3,996,909.00 and a personnel complement of 23 positions; and
- c) the approval for the Director of the Department of Human Services to execute any and all documents related to acceptance of this grant, to include acceptance of additional grant funds, if awarded, and in-kind funds as available in the City's budget, in amounts up to 20%.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) administers the State's subsidized childcare program funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG). TWC contracts with WSA to implement the program. Through a competitive process, WSA awards contracts to local agencies to provide program services. For over 30 years, DHS has managed the Child Care Subsidy program in Bexar and 12 rural counties comprising the Alamo Workforce Development Area. The program provides subsidized childcare to families meeting income and other qualification requirements.

TWC also contracts with WSA to implement the Child Care Services Quality Initiative, also known as the Texas Rising Star (TRS) program. This quality initiative provides mentorship to prepare local childcare centers to become TRS providers (or high-quality childcare centers).

On January 22, 2021, the WSA Board awarded the City of San Antonio the Child Care Services Quality Initiative grant to operate the Texas Rising Star program in the Alamo Workforce Development Area with up to four one-year extensions.

ISSUE:

This ordinance authorizes acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$3,996,909.00 for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 and authorizes an associated budget and personnel complement of 23 positions which is an increase of two permanent positions.

The CCQ grant allows DHS to provide services to childcare providers throughout the 13-county WSA service area including Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, McMullen, Medina, and Wilson counties. Currently, DHS serves 160 TRS centers with the overall goal of certifying all current CCS Providers as Texas Rising Star certified by 2024. DHS is responsible for performing Child Care Quality Improvement Activities such as mentoring Texas Rising Star (TRS) providers and providers working towards TRS, providing technical assistance, ensuring proper implementation of Child with disabilities assessments for inclusion rates; and additional programs and special projects structured to increase the number of TRS providers and increase star level for existing TRS providers.

Awarded funding will support the addition of two new positions to provide outreach, engagement, mentorship, and assessment to remaining Child Care Centers to assist them in attaining Texas Rising Star certification.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should authority to accept funding not be approved, WSA would award funding to another agency to operate the Child Care Services Quality Initiative for the Alamo Workforce Board Area. Such an action may delay the provision of services to the community and may negatively impact the implementation of quality standards in childcare centers in the community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$3,996,909.00 for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 and authorizes an associated budget and personnel complement of 23 positions.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance authorizing \$3,996,909.00 for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024; budget and personnel complement of 23 positions. Continuation of the Child Care Services Quality Initiative will ensure uninterrupted services to the community.