



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 18

Agenda Date: October 21, 2021

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Head Start Grant Refunding Application

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes submission of a Head Start grant application and associated grant documents to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and acceptance upon award of federal funds in an amount up to \$25,339,758.00 for the period of February 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023. This item also authorizes total program budget of \$31,674,698.00 including an in-kind match of \$6,334,940.00 and personnel complement of 100 positions for DHS.

This ordinance also authorizes the Director of Human Services to initiate, negotiate, and execute any and all necessary documents including a grant contract, and contract amendments accepting, when approved by HHS: a) carryover funds; b) line item budget revisions; c) modifications to the performance measures so long as the terms of the amendment stay within the general parameters of the intent of the grant; d) no cost extensions; e) supplemental grant funds in an amount up to 20% of the total amount initially awarded; f) reimbursement increases of administrative funds for each participant served; g) one time equipment purchases or defined program services; and h) changes in regulations mandated.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City of San Antonio Head Start Program is a federally funded program administered by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Head Start focuses on the organization and development of the next generation of leaders in our inner-city communities and it encourages our future leaders to advance throughout their educational careers. The programs provide early childhood education, family support, and comprehensive support services to eligible children between the ages of six weeks and five years, and their families. The Department of Human Services Head Start Program (DHS Head Start) is unique in that the partnership between the City of San Antonio, San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) and Edgewood Independent School District (EISD) was developed with the intent of targeting center city school systems that provide a window into the future of our state and nation. The City of San Antonio's commitment to early childhood education is clear as the community has made an investment to young children and their families through local funding of the PreK4SA initiative. As a City managed program, Head Start is in the fore front of initiatives to remove barriers to equity and plays a vital role in this discussion as City Council governs the program alongside the parent run Policy Council.

The DHS Head Start Program serves children at or below the federal poverty line and prioritizes the most vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, experiencing homelessness, and in the foster care system. The program's mission is to prepare children and engage families for school readiness and lifelong success. The DHS Head Start program serves a total of 3,020 children: 777 children in the EISD and 2,243 children in the SAISD. As the program grantee, the comprehensive services approach positively impacts families and holistically addresses the needs of children. DHS Head Start contracts with EISD and SAISD for the provision of educational and disability services, the Metropolitan Health District for dental services, and University of the Incarnate Word for health services.

ISSUE:

On August 18, 2021, DHS received notification from HHS of available funding, for the fourth year of the five-year project period, in the amount of \$25,339,758.00, for the period of February 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023. This ordinance authorizes budgetary, grant, and contract related items to ensure continuation of Head Start Pre-K Program services for the period of February 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023. Funding will provide for DHS's operational costs and provision of direct family and community support and mental wellness services, including a personnel complement of 100 positions, and service provider operations.

The grant application is due to HHS on November 1, 2021. The 2022-2023 Head Start grant application was approved by Head Start Policy Council on September 28, 2021. Awarded grant funds for the 2022-2023 Program Year will provide for the continuation of the Head Start Program services and the City's policy of enhancing early childhood education. The DHS Head Start personnel complement will remain at 100 positions.

ALTERNATIVES:

If this ordinance is not approved, the Office of Head Start would have to identify a different recipient of the grant, which would interrupt services to eligible Head Start families and children. SAISD and EISD would not be able to provide two adult staff members in their PreK classrooms and would not be able to provide high quality ECE and family support services to enrolled three- and four-year-old PreK students.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance approves the submission of a Head Start grant application and associated grant documents to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and acceptance upon award of an amount up to \$25,339,758.00, for the period of February 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023; and authorizing total program budget of \$31,674,698.00 including an in-kind match of \$6,334,940.00 and a personnel complement of 100 positions for DHS.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance authorizing submission of the Head Start grant applications.