



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 40

**Agenda Date:** June 23, 2022

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Health Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Claude Jacob

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$1,575,760 related to COVID-19 expenses and authorizes a city match of \$163,903 from the Health Implementation Plan funded by the General Fund. These funds will be used to cover expenses associated with the COVID testing and treatment center services provided by BCFS Health and Human Services. This ordinance ratifies services provided by BCFS Health and Human Services through June 30, 2022 (\$800,000) and authorizes additional services through December 31, 2022 (\$939,663) on as needed basis.

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$1,575,760 related to COVID-19 expenses and authorizes a city match of \$163,903 from the Health Implementation Plan funded by the General Fund. These funds will be used to cover expenses associated with the COVID testing and treatment center services provided by BCFS Health and Human Services. This ordinance ratifies services provided by BCFS Health and Human Services through June 30, 2022 (\$800,000) and authorizes additional services through December 31, 2022 (\$939,663) on as needed basis.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Spring of 2020, the Federal Government has provided funding through Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) grants to providers that conducted COVID testing and vaccine administration to uninsured patients. These grants came to an end on March 22, 2022 . The loss of funding resulted in a significant drop in the availability for the uninsured residents to receive testing in the City of San Antonio. Prior to this loss of funding, Curative along with multiple other vendors provided approximately 25 testing sites in the city and surrounding area that offered no cost testing to citizens. When the funding was cancelled, the City of San Antonio (CoSA) COVID Team, including Metro Health, SAFD and the Emergency Operations Center, began coordinating to find another option to provide a testing opportunity for symptomatic patients that are uninsured or had limited access. The Test and Treat concept was developed as an attempt to not only provide these patients with the opportunity to receive a COVID test, but to take advantage of the cache of the COVID oral therapy Paxlovid that was purchased by the Federal Government in January of 2022. Dispensing the Paxlovid required several steps, including a Pharmacist to dispense, Medical staff to conduct an exam and evaluate the medical history of the patient, and the storage of the medication onsite. These requirements necessitated the COVID team reaching out to our partners at BCFS to assist with their staff and resources. BCFS has been operating Regional Infusion Centers (RIC) since the first infusion drugs were approved in 2021, and they opened their first RIC in Bexar County in August of 2021.

BCFS has provided over 53,589 infusions, to include 12,867 infusions in the Bexar County area. As the Test and Treat program was developed, the COVID Team consulted with University Pharmacists and their BCFS partners and determined that the center should not only offer the Paxlovid, but the ability to offer the COVID infusion medication for those patients that did not qualify for the oral treatment. BCFS was able to modify their RIC concept on a smaller scale and partner with HEB to provide the Paxlovid at no cost for the patients to pick up through the HEB drive through of the patient's choice. The Test and Treat Center has seen 573 patients since opening and provided 170 total treatments to include 88 doses of the Paxlovid oral treatment.

## **ISSUE:**

This council action authorizes the acceptance of funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$1,575,760 related to COVID-19 expenses and authorizes a city match of \$163,903 from the Health Implementation Plan funded by the General Fund. These funds will be used to cover expenses associated with the COVID testing and treatment center services provided by BCFS Health and Human Services. This ordinance ratifies services provided by BCFS Health and Human Services through June 30, 2022 (\$800,000) and authorizes additional services through December 31, 2022 (\$939,663) on as needed basis.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

This contract is needed to continue the operations of the Test and Treat Center.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance approves the acceptance of funds from FEMA for COVID-19 testing and treatment in an amount up to \$1,575,759.95 and ratifies the execution of a professional services agreement with BCFS Health and Human Services for COVID testing and treatment in the amount up to \$800,000.00 for a term ending June 30, 2022 and further authorizes the option to extend the term to end December 31, 2022, add an additional \$939,663 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,739,663, funded by the FEMA reimbursements with a cash match up to \$163,903.05 from the Health Implementation Plan funded by the General Fund.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.