



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: August 9, 2022

In Control: Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Spending Framework for Non-Profit Social Services (Phase II).

SUMMARY:

On February 3, 2022, the City Council allocated \$4 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) for Non-Profit Social Services. This funding was divided in two phases – Phase I: Focus on Immigration Services, Phase II: Non-Profit Social Services. Phase I was approved by Council in June 2022. The Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee will be briefed in an implementation plan for Phase II.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On March 11, 2021, Congress signed into law ARPA which included resources to support local government's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of San Antonio was awarded \$326.9 million in SLFRF. As part of the FY 2022 Budget process, the City Council

approved \$97.50 million to support the City budget and address community needs. The remaining \$229.4 million remained unallocated, and on October 20, 2021, the City Council was briefed and presented with a recommended spending framework, strategic guiding principles, and a community input plan for the use of the ARPA SLFRF.

On November 18, 2021, the City Council approved an additional \$30.0 million for residential utility assistance. Furthermore, in November 2021, the City held community engagement meetings and launched a survey to obtain feedback on the use of the ARPA SLFRF. Additional community engagement meetings were held on December 9, 2021 and January 26, 2022 to obtain further policy direction from the City Council and to discuss community input. Finally, on February 3, 2022, the City Council approved a spending framework for the use of the remaining \$199.4 million in SLFRF received under ARPA. This spending framework supports the continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, addresses community priorities, and allocated funds for City employee retention. The approved spending framework included \$87.8 million recommended for programmatic funding, and of this amount, \$4 million was allocated to Non-Profit Social Services.

From April through June 2022, the Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee (CHECC) received briefings on the impact of COVID – 19 on nonprofit and social services organizations and residents, and feedback from the community and stakeholders. CHECC considered department recommendations over the course of several meetings, and it was determined to carry out the \$4 million investment in two phases.

- Phase I - Focus on Immigration Services.
- Phase II – Non-Profit Social Services.

In Phase I, a total of \$1.5 million was designated for Immigration Services. The implementation plan and associated criteria for distribution was approved by CHECC on May 26, 2022, and the City Council on June 2, 2022. The plan provides support to immigrant serving organizations and services that support noncitizens, including but not limited to permanent U.S. residents, undocumented, asylum seekers, and refugees. The plan is aimed at creating decreased economic security of noncitizens and decreased pathways for citizenship. The City released a request for proposal on June 6, 2022 to identify immigration service organization providers. Proposal evaluations are currently underway, and contract awards are proposed for September 2022.

In Phase II, a total of \$2.5 million was designated for Non-Profit Social Services. The implementation plan will be presented to CHECC for consideration and approval on August 9, 2022. Should CHECC approve the implementation plan, the plan is anticipated to be taken before the City Council for consideration and approval on August 18, 2022.

ISSUE:

The Department of Human Services will utilize the implementation plans for the distribution of ARPA SLFRF to mitigate the impact of the COVID – 19 Pandemic.

The Department of Human Services will present a proposed implementation plan to support local Non-Profit Social Services organizations in the amount of \$2.5 million for a term of two years for CHECC approval. The proposed application process will include key equitable outcomes and performance indicators. If this plan is approved, DHS anticipates taking this plan to the City Council for consideration on August 18, 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The ARPA SLFRF spending framework approved by the City Council on February 3, 2022 allocated \$4 million to Non-Profit Social Services. Of this, \$1.5 million was focused on Immigration Services, and the remaining \$2.5 million towards Non-Profit Social Services. Funds are available from the City's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

There is no impact to the general fund.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should CHECC choose to not approve this item, the Department of Human Services will collect feedback and make updates to the proposed implementation plans for future consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends CHECC approval to forward implementation plans and criteria for funding for Non-Profit Social Services to City Council for consideration.