



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 27

Agenda Date: December 15, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Accepting funds from the Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems Grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount up to \$25,534,666.00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems Grant for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District to advance public health infrastructure and workforce for the period of December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2027, and authorizing a personnel complement of 46 full-time positions.

Furthermore, this ordinance authorizes the Director of 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 annually 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 state regulations mandated by the funding agency.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On June 16, 2022, the notice of funding opportunity was released by the CDC for the Public Health Infrastructure Grant. This grant is supported by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This multi-component grant will help ensure that U.S. public health systems are ready to respond to public health emergencies like COVID-19 and to meet the evolving and complex needs of the communities and populations they serve.

The grant includes the following components: Workforce, Foundational Capabilities, and, Data Modernizations.

On August 12, 2022, Metro Health applied for the Workforce and Foundational Capabilities components. Metro Health was not eligible to apply for the Data Modernizations component as a result of receiving the ELC Epi Expansion grant as a pass-through from the State and not directly from the CDC.

On November 30, 2022, Metro Health was awarded \$25,534,666.00 over a five-year grant project period. Of this, \$20,545,201.00 is a one-time disbursement and the remaining \$4,989,465.00 in funding is subject to federal budget appropriations and will be divided evenly among each budget period, distributed annually over the five-year grant project.

Component	Time Frame	Amount
Workforce	12/01/2022-11/30/2027 (5 years)	\$20,545,201
Foundational Capabilities	12/01/2022-11/30/2027 (5 years)	\$4,989,465 (\$997,893 per year)
	Grand Total	\$25,534,666

The intent of the Workforce component is to create a new Workforce Development Section and reinforce and expand the public health workforce. The grant activities will make improvements in the areas of hiring new staff, retaining existing staff, supporting and training new and existing staff, and strengthening relevant workforce planning systems, processes, and policies. Metro Health was awarded a one-time disbursement of \$20,545,201.00 in funding to support the addition of 12 new positions and the retention of 34 existing positions to strengthen grant implementation and supplement the funding for Metro Health’s SA Forward Plan over the next five years.

The intent of the Foundational Capabilities Component is to strengthen recipients' overall systems, processes, and policies to ensure a strong core infrastructure needed to protect health and provide fair opportunities for all. Metro Health will receive \$997,893.00 annually for a total amount up to \$4,989,465.00 over the 5-year grant period. Under this initiative Metro Health aims to strengthen organizational administrative competencies such as conducting quarterly reviews of the impact of CDC grants, SA Forward, and Metro Health 2.0 (the department's new internal strategic plan) and retain national public health accreditation.

Additionally, Metro Health aims to enhance external communications by increasing public awareness of foundational public health services through community and external partners. Through this effort, community partnership will be reinforced and will assist in achieving a strong core infrastructure for public health.

More so, Metro Health will strive to improve equity by addressing leadership, governance, and strategic planning. Through this grant, Metro Health will provide training resources for internal and external staff to build competencies in coalition building and resource coordination, thereby ensuring an appropriate, rapid response to future emergencies.

Lastly, with this funding Metro Health will implement plans to transition from COVID-19 emergency response to other emergency response and preparedness projects. Metro Health also plans to work with the Bexar County Health Collaborative to complete a Community Health Improvement Plan to strengthen public health and future preparedness efforts.

Metro Health's proposed five-year CDC-funded project was designed to achieve a three-part goal:

- I. Build a stable foundational infrastructure and a strong, diverse workforce capable of delivering accessible, affordable, high-quality public health services.
- II. Ensure that our population – regardless of location, demographic, social status, or any other factor – has access to quality public health care and prevention.
- III. Build a collaborative system of care that integrates public health, behavioral health, and health care.

ISSUE:

Metro Health requests City Council approve the acceptance of the Public Health Infrastructure Grant for an amount up to \$25,534,666.00 from the CDC for the period of December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2027 and authorize a personnel complement.

SA Forward

\$9,128,578.00 in grant funding will support Metro Health's SA Forward efforts, including 22 full-time positions currently funded through the Health Disparities grant. This funding will support SA Forward positions in the priority areas of Data and Technology Infrastructure, Health Equity and Social Justice, Mental Health and Community Resilience, and Violence Prevention. More so, funding will support the Policy and Civic Engagement (PaCE) Office to continue their work on health equity policy solutions.

Workforce

\$11,416,623.00 in grant funding will support Metro Health's Workforce efforts, including 24 positions of which 12 new positions are enhancement to Metro Health existing programs. The funding will be used to hire a Workforce Administrator and create a Workforce Development Section to strengthen and retain Metro Health's workforce. The grant activities will make improvements in the areas of hiring new staff, retaining existing staff, supporting and training new and existing staff, and strengthening relevant workforce planning systems, processes, and policies.

Foundational Capabilities

\$2,489,465.00 in grant funding will support Metro Health's Foundational Capabilities activities. The funding will be used to support a contractor to evaluate the grant program and a communications agency to improve the effectiveness of health communications conducted by the department. The grant activities will improve overall systems, processes, and policies to ensure a strong core infrastructure needed to protect health and provide fair opportunities for all. Additionally, activities will strengthen accountability and performance management with the department expecting to receive reaccreditation from PHAB in 2025. This will be done by initiating a quarterly review of the impact of the CDC Health Disparities Grant, SA Forward and Metro Health 2.0. Additionally, funding will be used to implement plans to transition from COVID-19 emergency and other emergency response and preparedness projects.

Partnering agencies

\$2,500,000.00 in grant funding will be sub-awarded to external partners. The funding will be used for mini grants, staff training in Results Based Accountability and health in all policies, community rental space, and an agreement with the Health Collaborative to conduct the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

ALTERNATIVES:

Should City Council choose not to approve this ordinance, Metro Health will not be able to expand programs that support public health infrastructure efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount up to \$25,534,666.00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems Grant for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District to advance public health infrastructure and workforce for the period of December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2027, and authorizing a personnel complement of 46 full-time positions. There is no fiscal impact to General Fund.

The Public Health Infrastructure Grant aims to provide funding to improve critical public health infrastructure needs. This investment will help ensure that U.S. public health systems are ready to respond to public health emergencies like COVID-19 and to meet the evolving and complex needs of the communities and populations they serve.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends City Council authorize the acceptance of up to \$25,534,666.00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the Public Health Infrastructure Grant for the period of December 1, 2022, through November 30, 2027 and authorize a personnel complement.