



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 41

**Agenda Date:** June 22, 2023

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Health Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Claude Jacob

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Amendment to an agreement with the University of Texas at San Antonio for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's Healthy Neighborhoods Program.

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance authorizes the execution of an amendment to an agreement with the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) for additional evaluation services related to the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's (Metro Health) Healthy Neighborhoods Program in the amount of \$15,000.00, for a total contract value up to \$411,000.00, inclusive of renewals. This agreement is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant for a term ending September 29, 2023.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

On June 21, 2018, City Council authorized the acceptance of funds from the CDC's REACH grant in an amount of up to \$900,000.00 per year for up to 5 years. The REACH grant aims to improve health, prevent chronic diseases, and reduce health disparities among certain racial and ethnic populations. Through the REACH grant, Metro Health proposed to implement culturally tailored interventions to address the preventable behaviors of tobacco use, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity, building on the success of the Healthy Neighborhoods Program.

On September 29, 2022, City Council authorized the acceptance of supplemental funding in an amount of \$459,042.00 in additional REACH COVID-19/Flu funds for a period beginning September 30, 2022 through September 29, 2023. The supplemental funding aims to increase vaccine confidence within low-income communities of color located in the near east, south, and west sides of San Antonio through community engagement events and educational presentations.

The Healthy Neighborhoods Program is an innovative place-based project in which Community Health Workers (CHWs) serve as health educators, connectors, and community organizers to address health disparities in eleven target populations. Under the CDC REACH COVID-19/Flu supplemental grant, Healthy Neighborhoods is currently conducting research about COVID-19/Flu vaccine hesitancy, uptake, and confidence in San Antonio. The aim of the study is to identify the drivers of COVID-19/Flu vaccine hesitancy among African American/Black and Hispanic/Latinx populations in three geographical regions of San Antonio: south, west, and east. The project will also expand its outreach to include other underserved populations within these regions including Spanish-only speakers, recent immigrants, LGBTQ+, and people experiencing homelessness. Based on the project's findings, CHWs will develop and implement culturally appropriate, evidence-based strategies to address vaccine uptake and confidence among the target populations.

On May 2, 2019, through Ordinance 2019-05-02-0362, City Council approved the initial agreement with UTSA, for a term ending September 29, 2019, in an amount up to \$79,200.00, annually, with the option to renew for four, one-year terms and a total compensation amount up to \$396,000.00, inclusive of renewals. Due to supplementary CDC REACH COVID-19/Flu funding, additional grant deliverables have resulted in a need to expand evaluation services. Additional funding in the amount of \$15,000.00, for a total amended contract value up to \$411,000.00, to UTSA will ensure that CDC REACH grant activities are met.

#### **ISSUE:**

Metro Health is seeking City Council authorization to execute an amendment to an agreement with UTSA for additional evaluation services related to deliverables required by the CDC REACH COVID-19/Flu grant, following the evaluation framework provided by the CDC, in the amount of \$15,000.00 for a total contract value up to \$411,000.00. Funds for this amendment are available from the CDC REACH grant budget for a term ending September 29, 2023.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

Should this agreement not be approved, Metro Health will be unable to move forward with the REACH Healthy Neighborhoods Program evaluation plan as funded by the CDC; thus, failing to meet program deliverables as well as failing to scientifically document the REACH program's capacity to improve health, prevent chronic diseases and reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic populations in San Antonio.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance authorizes an amendment to an agreement with UTSA for additional evaluation services associated with Metro Health's Healthy Neighborhoods Program in the amount of \$15,000.00 for a total contract value up to \$411,000.00, inclusive of renewals, for the term ending September 29, 2023. Funding for the agreement is available from the CDC REACH grant budget. There is no impact to the General Fund.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends City Council approve the amendment to the agreement with UTSA for evaluation services of Metro Health's REACH Healthy Neighborhood Program.