



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 42

Agenda Date: June 22, 2023

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Approving an agreement and the acceptance of funds in an amount up to \$8,000.00 from the Public Policy Research Institute at Texas A&M University for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's Project Worth Program.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes a one-year agreement with the Public Policy Research Institute at Texas A&M University, through its Texas Youth Action Network (TYAN), and the acceptance of funds in an amount up to \$8,000.00 by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) for participation in the implementation and evaluation of the TYAN's mentor program.

Through the mentor program, Metro Health will provide resources and assistance to a community organization in developing their Youth Adult Partnerships (YAP), promotion of Positive Youth Development (PYD) activities, and community organizing principles. Participation in the mentor program will provide Metro Health access to technical support, professional development, and a collaborative network of other youth-serving organizations across Texas, that can help strengthen and improve Project Worth staff experience and knowledge on positive youth development and youth-adult partnerships.

Funds accepted through this agreement will support Project Worth's Teen Ambassador enrichment

activities, events, meetings, and/or stipends for youth or young adults (Teen Ambassador Alumni or Interns) to aid in the expansion of the Teen Ambassador program to middle and high school campuses.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has contracted with the Public Policy Research Institute at Texas A&M University to implement and evaluate the TYAN. The purpose of the network is to provide resources and assistance to community organizations that wish to develop youth-adult partnerships (YAPs) to incorporate the perspectives of young people between the ages of 10 and 24 into their work. Adults and youth working together is expected to increase adults' commitment and connection with youth and promote positive youth development (PYD).

Metro Health's Project Worth program has historically worked with teens in San Antonio to ensure youth perspectives and voices are incorporated and shared with the community through Project Worth and City initiatives, including various teen pregnancy prevention campaigns, the DreamSA Youth Engagement Initiative, Tobacco 21 Ordinance, and teen dating violence prevention campaigns. In 2013, Project Worth formally began the Project Worth Teen Ambassador program – a volunteer-based leadership development program that provides teens the opportunity to meet with peers from across San Antonio, become civically engaged, and bring action to teen health by sharing their voices, creativity, and ideas.

The Project Worth Teen Ambassadors work closely with Project Worth staff and their fellow Ambassadors on projects that are important to them. They also engage in learning opportunities that prepare them socially and emotionally to pursue their goals after high school. The program is rooted in positive youth development and utilizes strength-based approaches. Project Worth has been identified by the TYAN as a model program for YAP and PYD practices. Participation in the mentor program will strengthen Project Worth's capacity for the Teen Ambassador program and will foster collaboration with a youth-serving community organization in Texas, strengthening their own YAP and PYD practices to further improve youth resources.

ISSUE:

Metro Health is seeking City Council authorization to execute an agreement with the Public Policy Research Institute at Texas A&M University for Metro Health's participation in the Texas Youth Action Network's mentor program and acceptance of funds in an amount up to \$8,000.00, for a term ending April 30, 2024.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should this agreement not be approved, Metro Health will be unable to mentor a youth-serving organization and will not have access to the Texas Youth Action Network's technical assistance, or funds that would strengthen Project Worth's capacity over the next year to help support the Teen Ambassador expansion.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes an agreement with the Public Policy Research Institute at Texas A&M University for Metro Health's participation in the Texas Youth Action Network's mentor program and acceptance of funds in an amount up to \$8,000.00, for a term ending April 30, 2024.

Funding generated through this agreement is for the direct reimbursement for deliverables and there will be no impact to the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends City Council approve the agreement with the Public Policy Research Institute at Texas A&M University and the acceptance of funds in an amount up to \$8,000.00 for Metro Health's Project Worth program.