



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 43

Agenda Date: June 22, 2023

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Work order to the Master Interlocal Agreement with The University of Texas at San Antonio for evaluation services.

SUMMARY:

This Ordinance authorizes the execution of a work order to the Master Interlocal Agreement with The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) in the amount of \$75,000.00 for a term commencing July 1, 2023, and ending March 31, 2024 for evaluation services for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's (Metro Health) Workforce Development Section.

The work order is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems Grant.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On November 30, 2022, Metro Health was awarded a five-year grant from the CDC through the Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems Grant. The grant includes two components: Workforce Capabilities and Foundational Capabilities.

The intent of the Workforce Capabilities Component is to recruit, retain, support, and train the

public health workforce. This component aims to strengthen the Metro Health workforce via various strategies and best practices, such as the review and revision of internal HR processes, as well as providing training as identified by skills gap assessments. The strategies will also support and align with department-wide plans such as the Metro Health 2.0 Plan and the Workforce Development Plan.

The intent of the Foundational Capabilities Component is to strengthen the health department's overall systems, processes, and policies to ensure a strong core infrastructure needed to protect health and provide fair opportunities for all. Under this component, 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, and retain national public health accreditation.

To meet grant requirements, UTSA will conduct a focused project evaluation on Metro Health's efforts in the area of workforce development. UTSA will survey staff and/or utilize existing workforce data to gain an understanding of staff engagement, satisfaction, retention, and growth. Additionally, UTSA's data analyses will inform their recommendations for Metro Health to enhance staff retention; staff training; and accreditation-related workforce knowledge, skills, and abilities. The retention of a strong, supported public health workforce will be instrumental for Metro Health to ensure improvements in local health outcomes, services, and related social determinants throughout the city.

This work order utilizes the Master Interlocal Agreement with UTSA, for research and technical assistance, approved through Ordinance 2021-08-12-0563 by City Council on August 12, 2021. UTSA is considered by the City of San Antonio to be qualified to conduct research projects and provide technical assistance on the performance of the City's governmental functions, informing assessments and decision-making processes, to address local challenges and improve City services. The Master Interlocal Agreement allows City departments to use its annual budgeted funds to collaborate with UTSA on an as-needed basis for projects, including, but not limited to: academic research; community-based research; program evaluation; best practices studies; data analysis; and survey research.

ISSUE:

Metro Health requests City Council authorize the execution of a work order to the Master Interlocal Agreement with The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) for evaluation services in the amount of \$75,000.00 for a term beginning July 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024, funded by the CDC Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems Grant.

State and federal funding opportunities are often presented in a time-sensitive manner, requiring the ability to initiate and execute grant submissions, amendments, and subsequent sub-awards within prescribed time constraints. UTSA is committed to assisting with grant project evaluation requirements. Approval of this ordinance allows for a proactive and efficient process for the authorization to execute a work order to the Master Interlocal Agreement with UTSA.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should City Council choose not to approve this Ordinance, the department will need to seek an alternate means to achieve the project evaluation requirements of the grant, which will impact the timeline for the evaluation project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This Ordinance authorizes the execution of a work order to the Master Interlocal Agreement with UTSA for evaluation services in the amount of \$75,000.00 for a term beginning July 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024. Funding is from the CDC Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems Grant.

There is no impact to the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the Ordinance authorizing the execution of a work order to the Master Interlocal Agreement with UTSA in the amount of \$75,000.00 for a term beginning July 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024 for evaluation services related to, and funded by, the CDC Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems Grant.