



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 37

Agenda Date: May 2, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Interlocal agreement between the City of San Antonio Department of Human Services and Texas A&M University-San Antonio to provide graduate-level coursework in early childhood education.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes an interlocal agreement between the City of San Antonio Department of Human Services (DHS) and Texas A&M University-San Antonio in an amount up to \$200,000.00 that administers and acts as the fiduciary agent for the Head Start Summer Institute program. Texas A&M University-San Antonio will support Head Start teachers to obtain up to 18 hours of graduate-level coursework in early childhood education. The contract term is from February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2029.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Head Start program is a federally-funded early childhood education and development program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Head Start program provides education, family support, and medical services to eligible children between the ages of three and five, and their families. DHS provides high quality program services to 2,970 children and their families throughout San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) and Edgewood Independent School District (EISD). Professional development is an integral part of high-quality

early childhood education. Head Start programs are required to provide quality learning opportunities for educators ensuring teachers have experience and coursework in early childhood education.

Since 2012, DHS has contracted with Texas A&M University-San Antonio to provide graduate-level coursework in early childhood education. Over 50 teachers have participated in the Head Start Summer Institute Program, and 33 have continued to complete or are in the process of completing a master's degree. The current interlocal agreement was previously approved by City Council under Ordinance 2019-10-17-0848 and expired on January 31, 2024. The request to approve the interlocal agreement with Texas A&M University-San Antonio will allow for the continued service of 18 hours of graduate-level early childhood education courses for up to 30 Head Start teachers.

ISSUE:

DHS seeks authorization to execute an interlocal agreement with Texas A&M University-San Antonio in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 over five years to provide up to 18 hours of graduate-level education for up to 30 Head Start teachers. Through this agreement, DHS will provide continuous high-quality professional development and tertiary education for teaching staff, which will result in higher-quality research-based work in classrooms, improving student outcomes.

ALTERNATIVES:

If this ordinance is not approved, DHS would need to procure other institutions of higher education to provide graduate-level early childhood education for Head Start teachers. This will delay any opportunity for teachers to enroll in Summer 2024 graduate-level courses.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes an interlocal agreement with Texas A&M University-San Antonio in an amount up to \$200,000.00, from February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2029. Funding is available from the Head Start grant in the FY 2024 Adopted Budget. Funding for subsequent fiscal years is contingent upon the availability of grant funds. There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.