



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 22

Agenda Date: May 2, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Office of National Drug Control Policy; 2024 HIDTA Grant Submission and Application

SUMMARY:

An ordinance authorizing the submission of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grant application and acceptance of funds upon award in an amount up to \$2,181,533.00 from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025. This action also authorizes the acceptance of additional grant funds up to 20% of the grant and authorizes a budget and personnel complement of 16 positions which are currently funded with HIDTA funds.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program created by Congress with the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 aids Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions of the United States.

The grant program is administered by the Office of National Drug Control Police (ONDCP). There are currently 33 HIDTAs and HIDTA-designated counties located in all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

The HIDTA mission is to reduce drug trafficking in the San Antonio metropolitan area by instituting innovative narcotic enforcement investigations and the seizure of illegally obtained assets to reduce the profitability of narcotics trafficking.

The San Antonio Police Department HIDTA Initiative consists of eight initiatives:

1. San Antonio Police Department HIDTA Task Force
2. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) HIDTA Task Force
3. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) HIDTA Task Force
4. South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center
5. HIDTA Information Technology Initiative
6. HIDTA Support Services Initiative
7. HIDTA Financial Crimes Initiative
8. Directors Administrative Crimes Initiative

The San Antonio HIDTA Initiative, DEA Task Force, and Homeland Security Investigations multi-agency task force performs drug interdiction operations designed to enhance the Police Department's narcotics enforcement efforts. This program enables the unit to use task force concepts providing the capability to cross jurisdictional boundaries by employing law enforcement officers from local, state, and federal levels. The program targets narcotics organizations by focusing on the middle to upper-level traffickers and investigates the distribution of narcotics and related enterprises. Members of this unit are trained to investigate money laundering, asset structuring, financial auditing, and to apply surveillance techniques necessary to develop intelligence and make arrests.

The South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center and Information Technology Initiative has a two-fold responsibility. The center responds to inquiries from San Antonio and surrounding counties' criminal justice agencies by providing timely intelligence reports gathered from databases of the respective member agencies. Secondly, the center will act as a de-confliction unit for South Texas, which covers an area from Bexar County, south to Brownsville, and west to Del Rio. This section of the center is of paramount importance to the safety of officers in the field. It is responsible for maintaining up to date information gathered from all law enforcement agencies operating in South Texas. With information provided by these agencies, the unit will identify potential conflicts involving officer safety and immediately notify the affected agencies of the potential conflict.

The Support Service Initiative supports and manages the building space occupied by SAPD, amenities, and training facilities. The training facility is managed by the HIDTA Executive Staff and is utilized by the HIDTA Task Force, San Antonio Police Department, and surrounding Law Enforcement Agencies to conduct training and provides additional meeting space for briefs and board meetings.

The South Texas HIDTA Financial Crimes Initiative is a cooperative partnership of Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies encompassing Bexar and Travis counties in south and central Texas. The task force is co-located with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the San Antonio Police Department and Homeland Security Investigations in San Antonio and focuses on mid-to upper-level Mexican drug trafficking organizations, Transnational Criminal Organizations,

terrorist organizations and money laundering organizations operating in the South Texas HIDTA area of responsibility with ties to Mexican transnational criminal organizations. The initiative leads and jointly investigates money laundering targets involved with specified unlawful activities consistent with money laundering activities.

The Director's Administrative Support Office is responsible for the overall administration and operation of the South Texas HIDTA program. Funds are utilized for the rental of facilities for the director's office. Funds will also be utilized for the rental of facilities in the HSI, Support Services, and Financial Crimes Initiatives.

The 16 authorized positions are four Detectives, two Sergeants, one Administrative Associate, four Crime Analysts, three Sr. Crime Analysts, one Client Service Analyst, and one Systems Administrator.

The table below provides the results of this program for calendar year 2023:

2023 Productivity	HIDTA
Arrested Persons	105
Search Warrants Executed	30
Guns Recovered	146
Marijuana Seized (grams)	37,400
Heroin Seized (grams)	39,029
Cocaine Seized (grams)	1,081,674
Methamphetamine Seized (grams)	448,548
Other Drugs Seized (grams)	7,192.7
Cash Seized	\$1,423,232
Gang Contacts/Blue Sheets	0

On April 16, 2024, the Public Safety Committee approved this grant application to move forward to the full City Council for consideration.

ISSUE:

This ordinance authorizes the submission of a grant application and acceptance of upon award in an amount up to \$2,181,533.00 including the acceptance of additional grant funds up to a limit of 20% of the grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) for a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).

ALTERNATIVES:

This grant provides an opportunity for the City of San Antonio to enhance the Narcotics operations of the San Antonio Police Department.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the submission of a grant application and acceptance of upon award in an amount up to \$2,181,533.00 including the acceptance of additional grant funds up to a limit of 20% of the grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) for a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). The grant will fund a total of 16 authorized positions. The total proposed program budget of \$2,181,533.00 is divided into eight (8) related initiatives as follows:

Program Name	Budget	Positions
San Antonio Police Department HIDTA Task Force	\$823,522	6
Drug Enforcement Agency HIDTA Task Force	\$230,388	1
Homeland Security Investigation HIDTA Initiative	\$99,231	
South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center	\$615,299	7
HIDTA Information Technology Initiative	\$186,618	2
HIDTA Support Service Initiative	\$79,408	
HIDTA Financial Crimes Initiative	\$51,889	
Director's Administrative Support Office	\$95,178	
TOTAL	\$2,181,533	16

This ordinance also authorizes the acceptance of supplemental funding in the amount of up to 20% of the original grant award if funding becomes available during the grant period.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the submission and acceptance of funding upon award of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grant.