



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 26

**Agenda Date:** April 11, 2024

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Human Services

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Melody Woosley

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Interlocal Agreement between the City of San Antonio and Alamo Colleges District for the Department of Human Services (DHS) Training for Job Success Program

**SUMMARY:**

An ordinance authorizing an interlocal agreement with the Alamo Colleges District to support the DHS Training for Job Success (TFJS) program to assist income-eligible residents with tuition assistance and associated educational items including textbooks, uniforms, equipment and other educational support services using Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds awarded by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA).

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The City of San Antonio's Department of Human Services (DHS) is the designated Community Action Agency (CAA) and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) eligible entity for San Antonio and Bexar County. DHS has operated the Community Action Program since 1979. CSBG funding is provided by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). CSBG grant funding supports several DHS programs and services including free one-on-one financial counseling and benefits navigating assistance through the City’s Financial Empowerment Center, emergency assistance to low-income CPS Energy ratepayers through the Utility Assistance program, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) free tax preparation program, and job training support to assist low-income residents obtain a high demand occupations to include: RN, LVN, CDL drivers, Physical and Occupational Therapists, and HVAC technicians. Enrolled participants significantly increase their household income through the Training for Job Success (TFJS) program. In Calendar Year 2023, TFJS program graduates increased their annual income by nearly 300%; the annual average income was \$15,189.00 and participants’ income increased to an average of \$43,300.00 after completion of the TFJS program with a degree and/or certification. The TFJS program has partnered with SA: Ready to Work to expand the reach of programs services.

**ISSUE:**

This agreement allows the DHS Training for Job Success program to offer tuition assistance and other affiliated support services to eligible participants working to accomplish educational goals in high-demand career fields. The primary goal of the CSBG funding is to transition individuals and families out of poverty and promote financial self-sufficiency for residents at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). CSBG Funds are dedicated to support tuition, textbooks and affiliated materials, equipment, and supplies (together, “Affiliated Items”) needed for the completion of such programs. DHS seeks a seven-year agreement with Alamo Colleges to provide the services. DHS staff will continue to provide case management to program participants, helping them overcome barriers to completing educational goods.

The City is the only designated CSBG-eligible entity for Bexar County and Alamo Community Colleges are the designated educational institutions used for CSBG-eligible program participants enrolled in the TFJS program. In 2023, the TFJS program served 66 household members transition out of poverty. The TFJS program is a partner of the SA: Ready to Work program. Participants enrolled in SA: Ready to Work through TFJS as a partner are eligible for tuition assistance.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

If the ordinance is not approved, services provided by the TFJS program will be interrupted.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This agreement will commence on January 1, 2024, and remain in effect through December 31, 2030, contingent upon the availability of grant funds. The agreement is for an amount up to \$260,769.00 through December 31, 2024, and \$300,000.00 annually thereafter, for a total amount up to \$2,060,769.00.

Funding is available from the Community Services Block Grant. Funding for subsequent fiscal years is contingent upon City Council approval of the annual budget and funds. There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund in the form of a cash-match.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval.