



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 15

Agenda Date: March 21, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Child Care Services Quality Initiative Grant Application

SUMMARY:

An ordinance authorizing the submission of a Child Care Services Quality Initiative grant application to Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA):

- a) Acceptance of funds upon award in the amount of \$4,044,206.00 for the term October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, with options to renew for four, one-year extensions.
- b) Authorization of a total program budget of \$4,044,206.00 and a personnel complement of 23 positions; and
- c) Approval for the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS) to execute any and all documents related to the acceptance of supplemental grant funds in a cumulative amount up to 20% of the ordinance budget; carry-over of funds; line-item budget revisions; no cost grant term extensions; and modifications to the performance measures, so long as the terms stay within the general parameters of the intent of the grant.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) administers the Child Care Services Quality Initiative also known as the Texas Rising Star (TRS) program. TWC contracts with WSA to implement the program for Bexar County and 12 rural counties. Through a competitive process, WSA awards contracts to provide Child Care Quality services. Since Fiscal Year 2016, DHS has been a grantee for this program. This quality initiative provides mentorship to prepare local childcare centers to become certified TRS providers (or high-quality childcare centers). Most recently on February 11, 2021, the City of San Antonio was awarded the contract to manage the Texas Rising Star Program. In the last 4 program years, TRS staff have worked to certify 100 additional TRS centers. There are currently 189 Texas Rising Star Child Care Centers across the 13 counties that the program supports.

On February 14, 2024, WSA released a Request for Proposals (RFP) with grant submission due on April 2, 2024.

Through this grant award, DHS would be responsible for performing Child Care Quality Improvement Activities such as mentoring TRS providers and those working towards certification, providing technical assistance, ensuring proper implementation of children with disabilities assessments for inclusion rates; and additional programs and special projects. The goal of this initiative is to improve the quality of care by increasing the number of TRS providers and increasing star level for existing TRS providers.

ISSUE:

This ordinance authorizes the submission of a Child Care Services Quality Initiative grant application to Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA) and acceptance of an amount up to \$4,044,206.00, if awarded, an associated program budget, and personnel complement of 23 positions. The term of the grant is for one year between October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 with up to four, one-year extensions.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should submission of the grant application and acceptance of funding not be approved, WSA would award funding to another agency to operate the Child Care Services Quality Initiative for the Alamo Workforce Board Area. Such an action may delay the provision of services to the community and may negatively impact the implementation of quality standards in child care centers in the community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the submission of a Child Care Services Quality Initiative grant application to WSA, acceptance of funds upon award of up to \$4,044,206.00, an associated program budget and personnel complement. The term of the grant is for one year between October

1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 with up to four, one-year extensions. There is no fiscal impact to the City's General Fund in the form of a cash match.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.