



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
22-184276

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Agenda Date: May 10, 2022

In Control: San Antonio Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Pre-K 4 SA

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Dr. Sarah Baray

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Pre-K 4 SA Competitive Grants Approval

SUMMARY:

This item includes a staff briefing and Board action to approve entities and initiatives receiving funding from the Pre-K 4 SA Competitive Grants Program with a cumulative value of up to \$9,383,958.00 for the 2022-2024 grants cycle.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Pre-K 4 SA competitive grants were approved during the original vote in 2012. The vision for these grants was to provide additional full-day and/or enhanced prekindergarten services in existing programs for 1,700 students per year.

The application for partner districts and schools for Cycle 4 of the Competitive Education Grants for Pre-K Four Programs was released on February 25, 2022 and responses were due on April 11, 2022.

ISSUE:

To achieve the goal of systematically creating a comprehensive, high-quality early learning system in San Antonio, Pre-K 4 SA's Competitive Grants will fund projects to expand or enhance high-quality educational opportunities for four-year-olds in San Antonio, particularly programs that target underserved students. Funding will be distributed among two categories: 1) public and charter schools and 2) private and parochial schools.

Pre-K 4 SA conducted a multi-stage evaluation process to review applications, conduct applicant interviews, consider projects and funding in alignment with Pre-K 4 SA strategic goals, and recommend funding for the 2022 and 2023 school years.

1. As part of the application process, applicants were required to submit an early learning program evaluation based on the National Institute for Early Education Research 15 Essential Elements for High-Quality Pre-K, and an early learning strategic plan with their application. This provides insight in to the alignment of an applicant's early learning program vision and the needs of the program with the investment from the Competitive Grants program funds.
2. Staff review proposals and budget to formulate a recommendation for executive management's review and consideration. Executive management, which includes the Pre-K 4 SA CEO and Assistant City Manager, review and finalize awards for the Pre-K 4 SA Board of Directors' approval.
3. Award recommendations from this process are presented to the Board of Directors for consideration and approval.

Based on this evaluation process, Pre-K 4 SA staff recommend awarding two-year Competitive Education Grant contracts to 9 applicants (2022-2024 grant cycle) with an overall value not to exceed \$9,383,958.00, which includes \$5,888,958.00 in Competitive Grants awards, \$3,000,000.00 for goods and services for child development centers in the Shared Services Alliance, and \$500,000.00 for the Educare Innovation site. Child development centers will receive the award value in a bundle of services, materials, and professional development.

To implement the grant awards, a contract template agreement for each category will be utilized with all awarded agencies. Public/charter and private/parochial awardees will receive grant awards in the form of reimbursements. Pre-K 4 SA will purchase and donate all materials and services to provide development centers with the value of awards. The contract template agreements are included in the attachments.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funds are budgeted and available in the FY 2023 Pre-K 4 SA Operating Fund as approved by the Pre-K 4 SA Board of Directors. Future contract year funds are contingent upon approval of the annual operating budget by the Board of Directors.

ALTERNATIVES:

If the Board of Directors does not approve the recommended awardees and award amounts, awardees will be unable to deploy their proposed early learning plans resulting in the delay of goods and services to students and teachers at the start of the 2022-23 school year.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends Board approval of the entities and initiatives receiving funding from the Pre-K 4 SA Competitive Grants Program with a cumulative value of up to \$9,383,958.00 for the 2022-2024 grants cycle.