



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 33

Agenda Date: November 18, 2021

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities grant, approves a personnel complement of 9 full-time positions, and authorizes subcontract service agreements. This ordinance also authorizes a personnel complement of 21 full-time positions for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Health Disparities grant, and ratifies two amendments: (1) to an agreement with the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to extend the term through March 31, 2022 and include an additional \$3,200,000.00 increasing the cumulative amount of the contract to \$10,620,704.00 for COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing services and (2) to an agreement with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio to include an additional \$358,912.00 increasing the cumulative amount of the contract to \$558,912.00 to increase COVID-19 variant testing.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance approves the following actions:

A. Authorizes acceptance of funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities (COVID-19 CHW) grant.

Approves a personnel complement of 9 full-time positions funded by COVID-19 CHW grant.

In addition, this Ordinance authorizes the Director of Metro Health to initiate, negotiate and execute any and all necessary documents and grant contracts to effectuate the application and the acceptance of funds for the above referenced grant, and to execute any contract amendments pertaining to this grant in the following circumstances: a) line item budget revisions authorized by the funding agency; b) modifications to the performance measures authorized by the funding agency and listed in the contract so long as the terms of the amendment stay within the general parameters of the grant's intention; c) changes in state or federal regulations mandated by the funding agency; and d) carry-over funds, when ascertained and approved by the funding agency through a revised notice of award; and e) amendments which will provide supplemental grant funds to a grant by the funding agency in an amount up to 20% of the total amount initially awarded to the grant.

B. Authorizes negotiation and execution of agreements related to the COVID-19 CHW grant deliverables:

1. An agreement with University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for program evaluation services in the amount up to \$240,000.00.
2. An agreement with University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for Community Health Clubs in the amount up to \$432,692.00.
3. An agreement with Alamo Community Colleges District's Northwest Vista College to support the formal training of staff and community members through the Community Health Worker Level 1 Certificate Program in the amount up to \$43,000.00.
4. An agreement with San Antonio Area Foundation to administer mini grant funding for community-based organizations to deploy community health workers in an amount up to \$300,000.00.

C. Approves a personnel complement of 21 full-time positions funded by the CDC National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities (Health Disparities) grant.

D. Ratifies contract amendments related to the COVID-19 pandemic response:

1. Amendment to an agreement with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio to include an additional \$358,912.00 increasing the cumulative amount of the contract to \$558,912.00 to increase COVID-19 variant testing.
2. Amendment to an agreement with the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to extend the term through March 31, 2022 and include an additional \$3,200,000.00 increasing the cumulative amount of the contract to \$10,620,704.00 for COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing services.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City of San Antonio began responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic in early February 2020. San Antonio, like many other cities across the country, were impacted by the pandemic including an increased unemployment rate, reduction in city revenues, and impacts on certain economic sectors including the hospitality and travel industries.

As the public health district for unincorporated Bexar County and the City, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) actively addresses the public health functions of policy development, health assessment, and health assurance. To carry out these responsibilities, Metro Health operates evidenced based programs in various settings throughout the County and provides programs to improve and protect the overall health of City residents and visitors. Through various funding streams, Metro Health provides preventive health services, community education, environmental monitoring, emergency preparedness, disease control, supplemental nutrition programs, dental health, and clinical services to prevent communicable diseases. Metro Health staff have been instrumental in the local effort to address the COVID-19 pandemic for more than a year.

This ordinance intends to approve a COVID-19 related grant and agreements. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act of 2020 allocated funds to the CDC, to States, localities, territories, tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health service providers to tribes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the availability of funds to achieve the goal of the CARES Act in preventing COVID-19 and protecting the American people from related public health impacts. The Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities grant is funding allocated by the CARES Act.

A) On May 23, 2021, Metro Health applied to the CDC Community Health Workers for Public Health Response and Resilient Communities grant. This funding opportunity supports efforts in preventing COVID-19 through training and deployment of Community Health Workers (CHWs) to build and strengthen community resilience by addressing health disparities. The following provides an overview of the proposed positions for the CHW Grant. A total of 9 full-time positions will be added as part of Metro Health's Community Health and Safety Division and the new Access to Care section.

| Position Type | Positions |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Health Program Manager | 1 |
| Senior Management Analyst | 2 |
| Management Analyst | 1 |
| Epidemiologist | 1 |
| Health Program Specialist II | 1 |
| Community Health Worker | 3 |
| Total | 9 |

B) As part of the COVID-19 CHW grant, this ordinance authorizes the negotiation and execution of the following agreements to provide services related to the deliverables of the grant award:

1. An agreement with University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for program evaluation services in the amount up to \$240,000.00.
2. An agreement with University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for Community

Health Clubs in the amount up to \$432,692.00.

3. An agreement with Alamo Community Colleges District's Northwest Vista College to support the formal training of staff and community members through the Community Health Worker Level 1 Certificate Program in the amount up to \$43,000.00.

4. An agreement with San Antonio Area Foundation to administer mini grant funding for community-based organizations to deploy community health workers for an amount up to \$300,000.00.

C) On June 17, 2021, through Ordinance 2021-06-17-0446, City Council authorized acceptance of the CDC COVID-19 Health Disparities grant funds in the amount of \$26,596,171.00 and authorized certain agreements funded by the grant. This action will approve an initial personnel complement of 21 full-time positions funded by the Health Disparities grant for Metro Health. These positions will support the Department's Strategic Growth Plan efforts through the following pillars: Mental Health; Violence Prevention, Food Systems; Access to Care; and Technology and Infrastructure. The positions will work to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), provide violence prevention case management services, diabetes self-management and nutrition education, and establish Metro Health's Office of Policy and Civic Engagement and the Access to Care section. Additional positions will support operational efforts.

D) On June 15, 2020, the City executed a Professional Services Agreement with the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, (UTHSCH) to provide COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing services for San Antonio and Bexar County by recruiting, training and deploying COVID-19 case investigators and contact tracers. Since the implementation of the agreement with UTHSCH, the University has:

1. Recruited, trained and hired up to 375 case investigators, contact tracers and supervisors to oversee case investigations and contact tracing.
2. Conducted investigation of assigned positive COVID-19 cases utilizing the State system, Texas Health Trace.
3. Performed source investigation (or backward contact tracing) to identify additional potential sources of infection.
4. Provided close contacts with public health recommendations, including:
 - a. Appropriate quarantine measures based on their living arrangements.
 - b. Overview of signs/symptoms to monitor.
 - c. Guidance on what close contacts should do if they develop COVID-19 signs/symptoms.
 - d. General disease control measures (handwashing, masking, social distancing).

This action ratifies the execution of an amendment to the agreement with UTHSCH to add up to \$3,200,000.00 for the period beginning October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 to continue contact tracing services imperative to the COVID-19 pandemic response. This increases the cumulative amount of the contract to \$10,620,704.00 for the term beginning June 15, 2020 through March 31, 2022.

D) On July 7, 2021, the City executed a Professional Services Agreement with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) to establish Next Generation

Sequencing (NGS) capability to identify SARS-CoV-2 variants in circulation. Since the implementation of the agreement with UTHSCSA, the University has:

1. Utilized NGS capability to conduct genetic sequencing of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) positive specimens for SARS-CoV-2 and identified CDC “Variants of Concern” and “Variants of Interest”
2. Obtained direct test samples from Metro Health and other agencies of public health interest submitted to UTHSCSA for sequencing to characterize local circulating SARS- CoV-2 variants.
3. Submitted de-identified SARS-CoV-2 Bexar County variant data to international databases (GISAID and GenBank) to further contribute to local, state-wide, and national surveillance efforts.

This action ratifies the execution of an amendment to the agreement with UTHSCSA to add up to \$358,912.00 for the term to end March 30, 2022 to continue variant sequencing services imperative to the COVID-19 pandemic response. This will increase the cumulative amount of the contract to an amount up to \$558,912.00 through March 30, 2022.

ISSUE:

Due to the increasing threat of COVID-19 and continued need to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, Metro Health is requesting City Council approve an ordinance to accept a COVID-19 related grant, authorize negotiation and execution of certain agreements for the grant, approve personnel complements, and ratify amendments to agreements: (1) with the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to increase compensation for COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing services, for a total amount not to exceed \$10,620,704.00 for the term through March 31, 2022 and (2) with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio to increase compensation for COVID-19 variant testing, for a total amount not to exceed \$558,912.00 for the term through March 30, 2022.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should this ordinance not be approved, Metro health will not be able to use federal funds and execute COVID-19 related agreements to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Acceptance of funds from the CDC through CARES Act funding, for the Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities grant for an amount up to \$2,400,000.00 for the period beginning August 31, 2021 and ending August 30, 2022. The authorization of a personnel complement is for 9 full-time positions. The funding for the contracts funded by the CHW grant is available in the CHW grant fund. There is no impact on the General Fund in the form of a cash match.

Funding for the initial personnel complement of 21 full-time positions for the CDC Health Disparities grant is available and budgeted in the Health Disparities grant fund. There is no impact to the general fund.

This ordinance ratifies execution of the amendment to an agreement with the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to continue to provide case investigation and contact tracing services for a term ending March 31, 2022 and includes an additional \$3,200,000 which will increase the cumulative amount of the contract to \$10,620,704. Funding is provided and budgeted in the Health Disparities grant fund and the Health Implementation Plan Budget.

This ordinance also ratifies execution of the amendment to an agreement with University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio to continue to provide COVID-19 variant testing services for a term ending March 30, 2022 and includes an additional \$358,912 which will increase the cumulative amount of the contract to \$558,912. Funding is provided and budgeted in the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases (ELC) grant fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.