



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 29

**Agenda Date:** June 23, 2022

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Human Services

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Melody Woosley

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Ordinance approving a grant reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Category B Public Assistance Program in the amount of \$6,130,815 and a city contribution of \$119,842 from the Health Implementation Plan (General Fund) for COVID-19 related expenses; and a grant reimbursement from the National Board Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) in the amounts of \$10,766,014 for expenses related to assistance provided to migrants traveling through San Antonio in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security. This ordinance authorizes the Director of Human Services to accept additional funding, if awarded, in an amount up to 20% of the total amount awarded.

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance approves grant reimbursement from FEMA Category B Public Assistance Program and EFSP in the amounts and terms identified below:

- **FEMA Category B Public Assistance** - Reimbursement request for services from January 1, 2022 thru August 31, 2022 in an amount up to **\$6,130,815** for expenses related to COVID-19. City Council previously authorized the City Manager to seek and accept reimbursement for costs in the amount of \$6,528,848 for the period between April 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. If approved, this action will bring the total reimbursement amount to the City to **\$12,659,663**. This action authorizes a city contribution of \$119,842 for a 10% match for the last two months of this program.

- **EFSP Grant** – Reimbursement request for services from April 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022 in an amount up to **\$10,766,014** for expenses related to assistance provided to migrants traveling through San Antonio in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security. City Council previously authorized the City Manager to seek and accept reimbursement for costs in the amount of \$1,957,888 for the period between January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. If approved, this action will bring the total reimbursement amount to the City to **\$12,723,902**.

The ordinance further ratifies previously authorized contracts and additional necessary contracts and lease agreements for facilities, operations, and support services. Furthermore, this ordinance authorizes the Director of Human Services to accept additional funding, if awarded, in an amount up to 20% of the total amount awarded.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Through FEMA Category B Public Assistance and EFSP federal funding, the City of San Antonio has provided critical migrant assistance and COVID – 19 non-congregate sheltering support services.

### **FEMA Category B Public Assistance**

Since April 2020, the City of San Antonio has funded two non-congregate shelters in hotel facilities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. These facilities have assisted in preventing significant outbreaks from occurring at congregate homeless shelters.

The **Isolation Care Facility (ICF)** provides isolation sheltering for people who have contracted or been exposed to COVID-19 and who cannot safely self-isolate. Since inception, the ICF has served over 4,000 individuals.

The City has also supported **non-congregate sheltering** for people experiencing homelessness who are enrolled in Haven for Hope and are at increased medical risk of contracting COVID-19 or suffering from complications due to COVID-19. Since opening as a functional extension of the Haven for Hope campus, the non-congregate setting has served over 2,000 individuals.

The FEMA Category B Public Assistance Program supports funding of non-congregate sheltering for COVID-19 prevention. The program normally requires a 25% local match; however, the White House authorized that 100% of the costs be reimbursed through July 1, 2022. After July 1, 2022, FEMA will reimburse 90% of the eligible costs incurred.

In December 2021, City Council approved acceptance of reimbursement in the amount of \$6,528,848 for these facilities for the period of April 2021 - December 2021. This ordinance authorizes the acceptance, if approved, of an additional reimbursement amount of \$6,130,815 for a total program amount of \$12,659,663. Furthermore, this ordinance authorizes a City Contribution of \$119,842 for the 10% match for the months of July and August from the Health Implementation Plan (General Fund). The congregate facilities will close by the end of August.

### **FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)**

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) was signed into law,

providing \$110 million to the EFSP to help defray the costs that state and local service agencies (non-profit, faith-based, and governmental) incur in providing shelter, food, and support services to families and individuals encountered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Providers may apply for 100% reimbursement of eligible local costs.

Since January 2021, the Department of Human Services and nonprofit partners, have served more than 185,000 migrants transiting through San Antonio in route to their final destination. Services provided include emergency shelter, food, transportation, and travel assistance as they navigate the immigration process. City Council approved acceptance of EFSP reimbursement for the period January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022, in the total amount of \$1,957,888. This ordinance authorizes the acceptance, if approved, of an additional reimbursement amount of \$10,766,014 for a total program amount of \$12,723,902 to continue to provide services through December 2022. The additional cost includes the lease of a facility to serve as a centralized reception center, support services provided at the airport, sheltering costs, and food.

Operational expenses between October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 remain eligible for 100% reimbursement provided funding is available. The operational cost for the three months is \$2,895,124. In the unlikely event FEMA does not have funding for reimbursement of the operational expenses for these three months, staff will reduce services and will return to City Council with a revised funding plan.

#### **ISSUE:**

This ordinance approves grant reimbursement from FEMA Category B Public Assistance Program and EFSP in the amounts and terms identified below:

- **FEMA Category B Public Assistance** - Reimbursement request for services from January 1, 2022 thru August 31, 2022 in an amount up to \$6,130,815. City Council previously authorized the City Manager to seek and accept reimbursement for costs in the amount of \$6,528,848 for the period between April 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. If approved, this action will bring the total reimbursement amount to the City to \$12,659,663. This action authorizes a city contribution of \$119,842 for a 10% match for the last two months of this program from the Health Implementation Plan (General Fund).
- **EFSP Grant** – Reimbursement request for services from April 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022 in an amount up to \$10,766,014. City Council previously authorized the City Manager to seek and accept reimbursement for costs in the amount of \$1,957,888 for the period between January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. If approved, this action will bring the total reimbursement amount to the City to \$12,723,902.

The ordinance further ratifies previously authorized contracts and additional necessary contracts and lease agreements for facilities, operations, and support services. Furthermore, this ordinance authorizes the Director of Human Services to accept additional funding, if awarded, in an amount up to 20% of the total amount awarded.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

There are currently no other grants available to cover the expenses associated with these programs.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance authorizes the application and acceptance upon award of an additional \$10,766,014.00 from the FEMA National Board of Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) and \$6,130,815 in FEMA Category B Public Assistance for reimbursement.

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Previously Approved</b>	<b>Additional Requests</b>	<b>Total</b>
FEMA Category B Public Assistance (1)	\$6,528,848	\$6,130,815	\$12,659,663
FEMA EFSP	\$1,957,888	\$10,766,014	\$12,723,902

(1) This ordinance also authorizes a City Contribution to cover 10% of the cost for the months of July and August 2022 funded from the Health Implementation Plan (General Fund).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.