



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 11

**Agenda Date:** August 4, 2022

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Health Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Claude Jacob

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities Grant Award with a personnel complement and associated subcontract service agreements.

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), for the Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities Grant in the amount of \$2,400,000.00 annually for a period beginning August 31, 2022, and ending August 30, 2024, for a total amount not to exceed \$4,800,000.00. The funding is intended to train and deploy CHWs and strengthen COVID-19 recovery efforts. This ordinance also approves continuation of the existing personnel complement of 9 full-time positions, and authorizes the negotiation and execution of amendments related to the COVID-19 CHW grant deliverables and in support of SA Forward implementation:

1. An amendment to an agreement with University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Institute for Health Promotion Research for program evaluation services to add an additional \$480,000 for a total cumulative amount up to \$720,000.00 through August 30, 2024.
2. An amendment to an agreement with University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for Community Health Clubs to add an additional \$918,144.00 for a total amount up to \$1,298,077.00 through August 30, 2024. The total amount for this contract reflects that the parties agreed to and executed an agreement in FY 2022 to reduce the contract from a total of \$432,692.00

to \$379,933.00 based on a shorter contract term beginning in January 2022 through August 30, 2022.

3. An amendment to 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 to add an additional \$86,000.00 for a total amount up to \$129,000.00 through August 30, 2024.

4. An amendment to an agreement with San Antonio Area Foundation to continue administering mini grant funding for community-based organizations deploying community health workers to add an additional \$1,100,000.00 for a total amount up to \$1,400,000.00 through August 30, 2024.

Furthermore, this ordinance authorizes the Director of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) to initiate, negotiate, and execute any and all necessary documents and a grant contract to effectuate the acceptance of the referenced grant, and to execute contract amendments pertaining to this contract, to include a) carry-over funds, when ascertained and approved by the funding agency through a revised notice of award; b) line item budget revisions authorized by the funding agency; c) 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 intent of the grant; d) no cost extensions; e) amendments which will provide supplemental grant funds to the grant by the funding agency in an amount up to 20% of the total amount awarded to the grant; f) reimbursement increases of administrative funds for each participant served; g) amendments funding one time equipment purchases or defined program services; and h) changes in regulations mandated by the funding agency.

Finally, this ordinance authorizes the Director of Metro Health to execute Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) that enhance program services with no exchange of funds associated with the grant-funded program, including Data Use Agreements and Business Associate Agreements.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Metro Health recently released a five-year strategic direction through the SA Forward Blueprint for 2021-2026. The plan responds to pandemic-related lessons learned around health disparities, social justice, public health capacity, and the state of the public health workforce. As part of the SA Forward plan, Metro Health continues working to address the public health impacts of COVID-19 through the Access to Care priority area.

On May 23, 2021, Metro Health applied to the CDC Community Health Workers for Public Health Response and Resilient Communities Grant (CHW Grant). The CDC announced the availability of funds to achieve the goal of the CARES Act in protecting the American people from the public health impacts of COVID-19. 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. Through Ordinance 2021-11-18-0878, City Council authorized the acceptance of funds from the CDC for Year 1 of the CHW Grant for a period beginning August 31, 2021 through August 30, 2022. On April 21, 2022, Metro Health submitted a continuation grant application for the CHW Grant.

Through this funding, Metro Health will continue its partnership with the Bexar County CHW Partnership (BCCP) and engage CHWs in a strategic planning process to guide the implementation of the strategies of the CHW Grant. To support CHWs within Metro Health and the community, a CHW Training and Technical Assistance hub was created within Metro Health's Access to Care section. Within this section, a Program Manager oversees all aspects of the CHW Hub. The CHW Hub provides training and support to CHWs internal and external to Metro Health, expands partnerships and collaborations with organizations that hire and support CHWs, and deploys of a team of CHWs to connect individuals being released from Bexar County Jail to health care and other services.

A professional development team of the CHW Hub will ensure that hiring practices and training provide what CHWs need to be successful. This will result in increased retention in a career with high potential for burnout.

An external-facing team of the CHW Hub will support strategic partnerships with academic, clinical, and community-based organizations that employ CHWs. This team will support capacity-building and foster connections among the many types of community health workers in San Antonio and Bexar County.

This funding allows Metro Health to subcontract with UT Health to train 115 CHWs to form neighborhood Community Health Clubs in San Antonio's east, west and south sides, with 20 participants each. Community Health Clubs are facilitated peer groups dedicated to catalyzing social change through knowledge sharing, normalizing preventive behaviors (e.g. social distancing, hand washing, vaccination), and collective action to address social determinants of health.

Additionally, Metro Health will contribute to the cultivation of community resiliency by subcontracting with the San Antonio Area Foundation, an organization specializing in awarding seed funding, to create, implement, and provide support to community-based organizations

Lastly, Metro Health will continue its work with CHWs with current grant funding to engage the community. One alignment will be with a CDC-funded REACH grant housed within Metro Health's Healthy Neighborhoods program. Metro Health will also work closely with the Advancing Health Literacy to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19 grant project, funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, and collaborate with the Bexar Health Collaborative and federally qualified health centers to promote referrals and increase continuity of care among our most marginalized residents.

The following provides an overview of the positions that are currently funded by the Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities Grant. A total of nine full time positions will continue to be supported through the CHW Grant.

<b>Position Type</b>	<b>Positions</b>
Health Program Manager	1
Senior Management Analyst	2
Epidemiologist	1
Health Program Specialist II	2
Community Health Worker	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>

Through Ordinance 2021-11-18-0878, City Council also authorized the following initial agreements relating to the CHW Grant for a period through August 30, 2022.

1. An agreement with University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Institute for Health Promotion Research for program evaluation services in an amount up to \$240,000.00.
2. An agreement with University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for Community Health Clubs in an amount up to \$432,692.00. However, the parties agreed to and executed an agreement in FY22 for a lesser amount up to \$379,933.00 based on a shorter contract term beginning in January 2022 through August 30, 2022.
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 an 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.

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

1. An amendment to an agreement with University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Institute for Health Promotion Research for program evaluation services to amend the scope of services and add an additional \$480,000 for a total cumulative amount up to \$720,000.00 through August 30, 2024.
2. An amendment to an agreement with University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for Community Health Clubs to amend the scope of services and add an additional \$918,144.00 for a total amount up to \$1,298,077.00 through August 30, 2024.
3. An amendment to 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 to amend the scope of services and add an additional \$86,000.00 for a total amount up to \$129,000.00 through August 30, 2024.
4. An amendment to an agreement with San Antonio Area Foundation to continue administering mini grant funding for community-based organizations deploying community health workers to amend the scope of services and add an additional \$1,100,000.00 for a total amount up to \$1,400,000.00 through August 30, 2024.

## **ISSUE:**

Due to continued health disparities that CHWs are positioned to address, Metro Health is requesting City Council authorize the acceptance of funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities Grant for an amount not to exceed \$2,400,000.00 annually for a period beginning August 31, 2022, and ending August 30, 2024, for a total amount not to exceed \$4,800,000.00, authorize the negotiation and execution of amendments to agreements related to grant deliverables, and approve a personnel complement. Metro Health will use the funding to expand the CHW workforce and strengthen community resiliency by addressing health disparities.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

Should this ordinance not be authorized, Metro Health will forgo an opportunity to accept funding that would expand, train, and sustain the public health workforce to support jurisdictional COVID-19 prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery initiatives

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities Grant in the amount of \$2,400,000.00 annually for a total amount up to \$4,800,000.00 for the period beginning August 31, 2022 and ending August 30, 2024, authorizes the execution of Memoranda of Agreement that enhance program services with no exchange of funds associated with these grant-funded projects, authorizes the negotiation and execution of amendments to agreements relating to grant deliverables, and authorizes a personnel complement of 9 full-time positions.

This ordinance also authorizes amendments to agreements with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for evaluation services for a total amount up to \$720,000 and for Community Health Clubs for a total amount up to \$1,298,077, with Northwest Vista College for a total amount up to \$129,000, and with the San Antonio Area Foundation for a total amount up to \$1,400,000 through August 30, 2024 for the delivery of grant deliverables.

There is no impact on the General Fund in the form of a cash match.

Subsequent grant periods will be funded through non-competing continuance applications based on availability of funding.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends City Council authorize the acceptance of funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities Grant in the amount of \$2,400,000.00 annually for a total amount not to exceed \$4,800,000.00 for the period of August 31, 2022 through August 30, 2024, authorize the negotiation and execution of amendments to agreements relating to grant deliverables, authorize the execution of Memoranda of Agreement that enhance program services with no exchange of funds associated with these grant-funded projects, and authorize the personnel complement.