



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 10

Agenda Date: August 4, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Workforce Development Office

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Michael Ramsey

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Acceptance of Department of Labor Apprenticeship Building America Grant

SUMMARY:

This ordinance ratifies submission of a grant application to the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (DOL-ETA) to support the “San Antonio Ready to Work – Apprenticeship Building America” program. This ordinance also authorizes acceptance of the grant, appropriates funding in an amount of \$2,983,433 for the grant term of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026, and approves a program budget.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City of San Antonio (City) is proposing to launch a support program for pre-apprenticeships (Pre-Apps) and registered apprenticeships (RAPs) called “San Antonio Ready to Work – Apprenticeship Building America” (RTW-ABA). RTW-ABA will address the needs of local employers in San Antonio’s “Targeted Industries” including Construction/Trades, Education, Human Resources, IT/Cybersecurity, Manufacturing, and the Public Sector. RTW-ABA also will develop public-private partnerships with Pre-Apps that lead to RAP enrollment, train residents in Pre-Apps aligned to high-demand, well-paid occupations in target industries, and address barriers for underserved populations by providing customized wraparound services.

In February 2022, DOL-ETA announced the availability of grant funds authorized by the National Apprenticeship Act for the Apprenticeship Building America grant program. WDO applied for \$2,983,433 in ABA grant funding to establish the RTW-ABA grant program. On June 30, 2022, DOL-ETA notified the City of its award effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026.

ISSUE:

WDO will use the RTW-ABA grant funding to expand training opportunities to work-based learning in target industries. Jobs in these sectors are hands-on and knowledge-based; therefore, any training should encourage lifelong learning, adaptability, and technological innovation to keep skills sharp. The addition of work-based learning provides additional options for San Antonio residents to access high-demand occupations.

San Antonio currently has 61 RAPs, five of which are mainly in the skilled trades, with small numbers in banking and human resources. Past apprenticeship efforts have not gained momentum, partially due to lack of information, and partially because they are not aligned to well-paid occupations. By leveraging the RTW program, RTW-ABA will shine a positive light on Pre-Apps and RAPs, offering a paid pathway to San Antonio residents seeking to take their careers to the next level. The RTW-ABA grant will support enrollment of up to 680 participants in Pre-Apps, and up to 425 participants in RAPs. The grant also aims to create 4 new RAPs, expand 8 existing RAPs, create 16 new Pre-Apps, and expand 8 existing Pre-Apps.

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ALTERNATIVES:

If City Council chooses not to accept ABA grant funding awarded, the City will lose funding that could support Ready to Work program work-based learning opportunities. Should the City wish to provide such opportunities for its residents, additional City funds would need to be identified.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance ratifies the submission of the grant application to the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (DOL-ETA) for the Apprenticeship Building America Grant. This ordinance also authorizes the acceptance of the grant and appropriates funds in the amount of \$2,983,433, and approves a program budget. This grant provides funding for a period from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends ratification of the ABA grant application and acceptance of the award.