



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 36

Agenda Date: September 29, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Ordinance approving the acceptance of funds upon award from Child Care Services Quality Initiative grant in the amount of \$2,070,520.00 for the FY 2023 Child Care Services (CCS) Program; approving total program budget of \$2,070,520.00; and authorizing 21 positions

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes budgetary, grant, and associated contract related actions for the City's FY 2023 Child Care Services Quality Initiative grant program including:

- a) acceptance, upon award of a grant from Workforce Solutions Alamo in the amount of \$2,070,520.00 for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023;
- b) authorizing a total program budget of \$2,070,520.00 and a personnel complement of 21 positions; and
- c) approval for the Director of the Department of Human Services to execute any and all documents related to acceptance of this grant, to include acceptance of additional grant funds, if awarded, and in-kind funds as available in the City's budget, in amounts up to 20%.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) administers the State's subsidized childcare program funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG). TWC contracts with Workforce Solution Alamo (WSA) to implement the program. Through a competitive process, WSA awards contracts to local agencies to provide program services. For over 30 years, DHS has managed the Child Care Subsidy program in Bexar and 12 rural counties comprising the Alamo Workforce Development Area. The program provides subsidized childcare to families meeting income and other qualification requirements.

TWC also contracts with WSA to implement the Child Care Services Quality Initiative, also known as Texas Rising Star (TRS). This quality initiative provides mentorship and assessments to qualify local childcare centers as TRS providers (high quality childcare centers). On January 22, 2021, the WSA Board awarded the City of San Antonio a Child Care Services Quality Initiative grant to operate the Texas Rising Star program in the Alamo Workforce Development Area with up to four one-year extensions.

The CCQ grant allows DHS to provide services to childcare providers throughout the 13-county WSA service area including Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, McMullen, Medina, and Wilson counties. Currently, DHS serves 130 TRS centers with the overall goal of increasing the number of Texas Rising Star (TRS) providers in our region by certifying 50% of all eligible CCS providers as Texas Rising Star by 2025. DHS is responsible for performing Child Care Quality Improvement Activities such as Mentoring Texas Rising Star (TRS) providers and providers working towards TRS, conducting TRS assessments, reassessments, technical assistance, renewals, and monitoring visits, ensuring proper implementation of Child with disabilities assessments for inclusion rates; and additional programs and special projects structured to increase the number of TRS providers and increase star level for existing TRS providers.

ISSUE:

This ordinance authorizes acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$2,070,520.00 for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023; and authorizes budget and personnel complement of 21 positions.

Awarded funding will provide operational costs including direct mentorship for over 150 Child Care Service, Texas Rising Star Providers. Additionally, this request adds two new Senior Management Analyst positions that will assist Child Care Center Owners with Business related items.

This request would add two permanent Senior Management Analyst positions that will assist Child Care Center Owners with business related items. The staffing increase request is a result of Texas Workforce Commission rule changes, effective October 3, 2022, implementing House Bill 2607 which requires all childcare providers in the CCS program to participate in the Texas Rising Star program. Providers that wish to serve CCS children may begin at the new Entry Level rating, which requires that providers not have a significant number of licensing deficiencies and have two years to ready their childcare center to achieve a Texas Rising Star Rating. If a provider does not

meet the qualifications for certification within 24 months, the provider will no longer be eligible to serve CCS families.

The goal of the two additional positions will be to assist 580 CCS providers with a target of 15 non-CCS Providers per quarter within the 13 counties to get TRS ready within the timeframe by helping to increase capacity and improve the quality of their child care centers by strengthening their business operations, developing business plans, increasing capacity in classroom space, automating systems within childcare centers, and providing opportunities for technical assistance in the areas of budgeting, management, staffing/human relations, skills for small businesses, materials, and trainings.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should authority to accept funding not be approved, WSA would award funding to another agency to operate the Child Care Services Quality Initiative for the Alamo Workforce Board Area. Such an action may delay the provision of services to the community and may negatively impact the implementation of quality standards in childcare centers in the community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$2,070,520.00 for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023; and authorizes budget and personnel complement of 21 positions.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance authorizing acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$2,070,520.00 for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023; budget and personnel complement of 21 positions. Continuation of the Child Care Services Quality Initiative will ensure uninterrupted services to the community.