



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
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**Agenda Item Number:** 8

**Agenda Date:** September 13, 2022

**In Control:** San Antonio Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Meeting

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**DEPARTMENT:** Pre-K 4 SA

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Dr. Sarah Baray

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

TWC Shared Services Grant Award

**SUMMARY:**

This item includes a Briefing and Board action to ratify submission of a grant application to the Texas Workforce Commission to support the expansion of the Shared Services Alliance and the number of child development centers served. This authorizes the acceptance of the grant, appropriates funding in the amount of \$1,498,544 for the grant term of June 20, 2022 through May 31, 2024, and approves a program budget.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In 2019, Children at Risk awarded Pre-K 4 SA and United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County a one-year technical assistance grant to launch a shared services alliance in Bexar County. Known as the San Antonio Shared Services Alliance (SA-SSA), the alliance includes 17 member

organizations committed to the shared goal of reducing costs while increasing quality of services for children and families and wages for educators. The alliance currently provides both pedagogical and business coaching, support for automation, CDA credentialing, staff retention incentives, and a substitute pool.

Despite the challenges of COVID, member organizations have remained committed partners and measurably increased the quality of instruction for the 738 children they serve. At inception, just over 50% of members were active in the Texas Rising Star (TRS) quality rating system. Today, all SA-SSA alliance members have a TRS rating, with 13 members holding a 3- or 4-star rating.

In early 2022, Pre-K 4 SA was notified about an opportunity to apply for an RFA released by the Texas Workforce Commission for new and existing Shared Services Alliances. Pre-K 4 SA submitted a proposal requesting \$1,498,544 to build on the success of the existing San Antonio Shared Services Alliance by expanding to serve 80 additional alliance members over the term of the grant, increase the scope of the services offered through the alliance, and create a viable fee structure to sustain the alliance for the future. This proposal has the potential to help Bexar County achieve its goal of having over 50% of subsidy providers rated as 3- or 4-star by 2025.

The plans to expand the Shared Services Alliance were shared with the Board during the FY 2023 Budget Process. Five positions were added to the personnel complement to support implementation.

In June 2022, Pre-K 4 SA was notified that the RFA proposal had been approved and awarded the grant. This item requests Board action to ratify the grant submission and acceptance of those funds in support of the planned Shared Services Alliance expansion effort.

#### **ISSUE:**

This item ratifies the submission of a grant application to the Texas Workforce Commission to support the expansion of the Shared Services Alliance and the number of child development centers served. This item also authorizes the acceptance of the grant and appropriates funding in the amount of \$1,498,544 and approves a program budget. This grant provides funding for a period from June 20, 2022, through May 31, 2024.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This item ratifies the submission of a grant application to the Texas Workforce Commission to support the expansion of the Shared Services Alliance and the number of child development centers served. This item also authorizes the acceptance of the grant and appropriates funding in the amount of \$1,498,544 and approves a program budget. This grant provides funding for a period from June 20, 2022, through May 31, 2024.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

Should the Board choose not to ratify the grant submission and acceptance of funds in the amount of \$1,498,544.00 from Texas Workforce Commission, the grant funds would have to be returned

to TWC and the planned Shared Services Alliance expansion would be paid for out of the Pre-K 4 SA Operating Budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Pre-K 4 SA staff recommends the Board approve to ratify submission of a grant application to the Texas Workforce Commission to support the expansion of the Shared Services Alliance and the number of child development centers served.