



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

Agenda Item Number: 33

Agenda Date: September 29, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Accepting supplemental funding on existing grants relating to COVID-19

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of COVID-19/Flu supplemental funds in an amount up to \$459,042.00 through the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support COVID-19 and Flu vaccine awareness, access and activities tailored to racial and ethnic minority groups experiencing disparities.

This ordinance also approves the acceptance and use of program income for the COVID-19 Vaccinations Round 3 grant in the amount of \$4,843,465.49 from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to support the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations, appropriating funds and setting up a budget. The COVID-19 Vaccinations Round 3 grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ends June 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 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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On June 21, 2018, through Ordinance 2018-06-21-0486, City Council authorized Metro Health to submit an application for the first year of the five-year REACH (CFDA 93.304) project period and accept funds up to \$900,000.00. Metro Health was subsequently awarded \$792,000.00. On April 11, 2019, through Ordinance 2019-04-11-0303, City Council authorized the acceptance of funds upon award and the authorization to submit annual applications and accept funds for subsequent years from September 29, 2020 through September 28, 2023; this ordinance also approved a personnel complement of up to 10 positions. Metro Health was notified of the availability of additional funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and submitted a supplemental grant application on April 11, 2022. The current City Council action will authorize the acceptance of supplemental funding in an amount of \$459,042.00 in additional REACH-COVID-19/Flu funds for a period beginning September 30, 2022 through September 29, 2023.

The COVID-19/Flu supplemental funding will be used to identify and train trusted messengers in the community and collaboratively to meet the needs of providing information aimed at increasing vaccine confidence within low-income communities of color within the near east, south, and west sides of San Antonio through community engagement events and educational presentations.

On February 18, 2021 City Council approved the acceptance of funds in the amount of \$13,980,751.00 from the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to address the following activities: increase COVID-19 vaccination capacity across the jurisdiction, including among high-risk and underserved populations; ensure high-quality and safe administration of COVID-19 vaccines; ensure equitable distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines; increase vaccine confidence through education, outreach, and partnerships; develop and implement community engagement strategies to promote COVID-19 vaccination efforts; support high vaccination uptake in tribal nations; and use immunization information systems to support efficient COVID-19 vaccination.

Through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), a COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund was established to reimburse providers for COVID-19 vaccine administration to uninsured and underinsured individuals whose health plan does not include COVID-19 vaccination as a covered benefit. Providers conducting COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccine administration for individuals after February 4, 2020 were eligible to receive reimbursements for administrative fees associated with these COVID-19 services. Through this program, Metro Health was reimbursed \$4,843,465.49 for the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations. This funding was used to support continued COVID-19 vaccination efforts in the community, including the expansion on eligibility for vaccine and booster doses.

This ordinance will approve the acceptance and use of program income for the COVID-19 Vaccinations Round 3 Grant in the amount of \$4,843,465.49 from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations, appropriating

funds and setting up a budget.

ISSUE:

Metro Health staff have been instrumental in the local effort to address the COVID-19 pandemic and have been coordinating COVID-19 vaccine administration since December 2020. Metro Health received reimbursements from HRSA for administrative fees associated with COVID-19 vaccinations and requests City Council approves the acceptance and use of program income in the amount of \$4,843,465.49. The funding will continue to be used to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts in the community to include any updates and expansion on eligibility for vaccine and booster doses. Additionally, Metro Health requests City Council authorize the acceptance of supplemental COVID/Flu funding through the REACH grant in the amount of \$459,042.00 for a period beginning September 30, 2022 through September 29, 2023. The funding will support additional Healthy Neighborhoods Program resources and temporary staff to address vaccine hesitancy and innovative solutions within the community.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should City Council choose not to approve this ordinance, Metro Health will not be able to expand programs that support COVID-19/Flu efforts through the REACH grant, will forego utilization of the reimbursed funds from HRSA, and will need to identify other funding to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts associated with the COVID-19 Vaccinations Round 3 grant.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of COVID-19/Flu supplemental funds in an amount up to \$459,042.00 through the REACH grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for a period beginning September 30, 2022 through September 29, 2023.

This ordinance also approves the acceptance and use of program income for the COVID-19 Vaccinations Round 3 grant in the amount of \$4,843,465.49 from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund for the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations, appropriating funds and setting up a budget. The project period ends June 30, 2024.

There is no impact to the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends City Council approve the acceptance and use of program income, a supplemental grant application, and authorize the acceptance of COVID-19/Flu supplemental funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in support of COVID-19 and Flu vaccination efforts in the community.