



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 8

Agenda Date: January 24, 2023

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

DEPARTMENT: Workforce Development Office

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Michael Ramsey

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Ready to Work Training and Employment Program

SUMMARY:

This item is a Board briefing to include a programmatic update on the Ready to Work training and employment program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In November 2020, San Antonio residents overwhelmingly voted to approve the SA: Ready to Work (Ready to Work) program, which is designed to promote economic recovery by increasing access to education, training, and wraparound services for San Antonio residents and by aligning training with talent requirements of local businesses.

Ready to Work is funded by a 1/8-cent sales and use tax collected through December 2025. The

program offers unemployed, under-employed, and historically under-represented residents the following benefits:

- Tuition for industry-recognized certifications, associate's and bachelor's degrees aligned with targeted occupations in high-demand, well-paid careers;
- Wraparound support services and emergency assistance to ensure training completion; and
- Job placement and retention services.

Ready to Work is open to San Antonio residents who are at least 18 years old; permitted to work in the US; willing to take assessments; committed to completing the program; and whose household annual income is less than 250% of the federal poverty guidelines (currently \$36,450 for an individual, or \$75,000 for a household of four). Ready to Work engages local employers to assist the City in targeting industries, occupations, and particular skill sets.

Ready to Work launched in mid-2022 and enrollment is open through 2025. The program will continue to assist enrolled participants through 2028.

As of January 18, 2023, 9,885 people have applied to Ready to Work. Of these:

- 2,289 are ongoing eligibility and needs assessments;
- 2,074 are confirmed eligible to date;
 - 1,069 have enrolled in approved training;
 - 132 have successfully completed training;
 - 33 have been placed in a quality job;
 - Median hourly wage of \$20.00;
 - Average increase of \$10.80/hour;
- 95 are pursuing high-school equivalency;
- 1,720 have been deemed ineligible and referred to community resources; and
- 3,705 dropped from the program due to inactivity (prior to determining eligibility).

ISSUE:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.