



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: January 19, 2023

In Control: Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District on the CDC Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems Grant.

SUMMARY:

Metro Health will provide a briefing on the plans for use of the newly awarded CDC *Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems* Grant (Public Health Infrastructure Grant).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On June 16, 2022, the notice of funding opportunity was released by the CDC for the Public Health Infrastructure Grant. This multi-component grant will help ensure that U.S. public health systems are ready to respond to public health emergencies like COVID-19 and to meet the evolving and complex needs of the communities and populations they serve. The grant is supported by the

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

On November 30, 2022, Metro Health was awarded funding under two of the three grant components, *Workforce* and *Foundational Capabilities*. The award amount of \$25,534,666 spans over a five-year grant project period. Of this, \$20,545,201 is a one-time disbursement and the remaining \$4,989,465 in funding is subject to federal budget appropriations and will be divided evenly among each budget period, distributed annually over the five-year grant project.

Funding Breakdown

Component	Time Frame	Amount
<i>Workforce</i>	12/01/2022 – 11/30/2027 (5 years)	\$20,545,201
<i>Foundational Capabilities</i>	12/01/2022 – 11/30/2027 (5 years)	\$ 4,989,465 (\$997,893 per year)
	TOTAL	\$25,534,666

The intent of the Workforce component is to create a new Workforce Development Section at Metro Health and reinforce and expand the public health workforce. The grant activities will make improvements in the areas of hiring new staff, retaining existing staff, supporting and training new and existing staff, and strengthening relevant workforce planning systems, processes, and policies. Metro Health was awarded a one-time disbursement of \$20,545,201 in funding to support the addition of 12 new positions and the retention of 34 existing positions to strengthen grant implementation and supplement the funding for Metro Health’s SA Forward Plan over the next five years.

The intent of the Foundational Capabilities Component is to strengthen recipients’ overall systems, processes, and policies to ensure a strong core infrastructure needed to protect health and provide fair opportunities for all. Metro Health will receive \$997,893 annually for a total amount up to \$4,989,465 over the five-year grant period. Under this initiative Metro Health aims to strengthen organizational administrative competencies such as conducting quarterly reviews of the impact of CDC grants, SA Forward, and Metro Health 2.0 (the department’s new internal strategic plan) and retain national public health accreditation.

Additionally, Metro Health aims to enhance external communications by increasing public awareness of foundational public health services through community and external partners. Through this effort, community partnership will be reinforced and will assist in achieving a strong core infrastructure for public health.

More so, Metro Health will strive to improve equity by addressing leadership, governance, and strategic planning. Through this grant, Metro Health will provide training resources for internal and external staff to build competencies in coalition building and resource coordination, thereby ensuring an appropriate, rapid response to future emergencies.

Lastly, with this funding Metro Health will implement plans to transition from COVID-19 emergency response to other emergency response and preparedness projects. Metro Health also plans to work with the Bexar County Health Collaborative to complete a Community Health

Improvement Plan to strengthen public health and future preparedness efforts.

Metro Health's proposed five-year CDC-funded project was designed to achieve a three-part goal:

1. Build a stable foundational infrastructure and a strong, diverse workforce capable of delivering accessible, affordable, high-quality public health services.
2. Ensure that our population – regardless of location, demographic, social status, or any other factor – has access to quality public health care and prevention.
3. Build a collaborative system of care that integrates public health, behavioral health, and health care.

ISSUE:

Metro Health would like the opportunity to brief the Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee on the activities planned to use the funding provided by the new Public Health Infrastructure Grant.

FISCAL IMPACT:

For briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

For briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

For briefing purposes only.