



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 10

Agenda Date: March 9, 2023

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Acceptance of reimbursement funding from the National Board of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) and Shelter and Services Program (SSP) for local costs incurred to assist migrants traveling through San Antonio.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the request and acceptance of reimbursement funding in amount up to \$6,543,876 for local costs incurred to assist migrants traveling through San Antonio in coordination with U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The reimbursement requests are anticipated to be submitted to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the EFSP and SSP grants for the period of April 1 to September 30, 2023.

This ordinance also authorizes the City Manager to execute all necessary documents including grant contracts and contract amendments and authorize line-item budget revisions and modify performance measures so long as the terms of the amendment stay within the general parameters of the intent of the grant. Further, the City Manager is authorized to accept additional grant funding, if awarded, in an amount up to 20% of the total amount authorized. This item also requests authorization to utilize funds from the FEMA contingency funds identified through savings in the Recovery and Resiliency program, if needed, as the City awaits approval of funds from FEMA.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) was signed into law, providing \$110 million to the EFSP to help defray the costs that state and local service agencies (non-profit, faith-based, and governmental) incur in providing shelter, food, and support services to families and individuals encountered by DHS. Providers may apply for 100% reimbursement of eligible local costs.

On June 23, 2022, City Council authorized the City Manager to seek and accept reimbursement from the EFSP for costs in an amount up to \$12,723,902.00 for the period between January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022. During that period, the City spent \$10,779,323 and applied for reimbursement. To date, the City has been reimbursed \$1,553,040. The reimbursement covered those expenses incurred between January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022. The remaining \$9,226,283 is pending reimbursement for the period between July 1, 2022 to December 30, 2022 and represents expenses related to the operation of the Migrant Resource Center (MRC).

On December 15, 2022, City Council authorized the City Manager to seek and accept reimbursement for costs in the amount up to \$3,038,252 for the period between January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023. The City of San Antonio received a FEMA EFSP advance for January and February 2023 in the amount of \$2,054,417 with actual costs for this period totaling \$1,854,293. Of the \$2,054,417 there is \$200,124 remaining in the advanced funds from FEMA to cover March expenses. At this time March expenses are anticipated to be approximately \$830,000. If approved, the City would fund up to \$629,876 of the FEMA contingency amount and seek reimbursement from FEMA.

On February 28, 2022, The Department of Homeland Security announced awards of \$350 Million for Humanitarian Assistance Through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program to help local communities around the country better manage the costs of noncitizen arrivals in their communities. The Bipartisan Year-End Omnibus signed by President Biden on December 29, 2022, authorized the creation of a new DHS grant program, the Shelter and Services Program (SSP), to support these communities.

The Omnibus directed Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to transfer \$800 million in funding to FEMA to establish the SSP and authorized the use of a portion of that funding for the existing EFSP-H until the SSP is established. Through the February 28 Notice, the Department of Homeland Security is directing \$350 million to EFSP-H to fund costs incurred by localities and non-governmental organizations that assist screened and vetted noncitizens provisionally released from DHS custody pending the outcome of their immigration court proceedings.

ISSUE:

Since January 2021, the City's Department of Human Services and nonprofit partners, have served more than 385,000 migrants transiting through San Antonio in route to their final destination. Due to federal border policy changes, the number of migrant arrivals in January 2023 decreased by 71% from December 2022. Arrivals further decreased in February 2023 with a total of 5,483 arrivals for the month. Based on these reductions, the City of San Antonio has and will continue

to adjust staffing and support for migrant operations.

Funding for our local efforts have been supported through federal reimbursements and advances for January 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023. However, staff does not have authority to seek reimbursement for any efforts beyond March 31, 2023 and is seeking City Council approval to request reimbursement and accept funds from FEMA for local costs incurred to assist migrants traveling through San Antonio in coordination with DHS. Based on historical and projected expenses, it is anticipated that the City will incur migrant operations costs in an amount of up to \$6,543,876 for the period April 1, 2023, to September 30, 2023.

The City will seek reimbursement of expenses incurred between April 2023 and September 2023 through the EFSP and a newly created grant program - the Shelter and Services Program (SSP) to continue to receive 100% reimbursement for expenses incurred.

Funding for both programs was included in the Year-End Omnibus signed by President Biden on December 29, 2022. The City of San Antonio is participating in federally hosted webinars on March 3, 2023, and March 6, 2023, which are anticipated to provide additional details related to these funding opportunities. The City Manager will inform City Council of any updates as additional information becomes available.

ALTERNATIVES:

There are currently no other grants available to cover the expenses associated with this program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the request and acceptance of reimbursement funding in an amount up to \$6,543,876 for local costs incurred to assist migrants traveling through San Antonio in coordination with DHS. The reimbursement requests are anticipated to be submitted to the FEMA through the EFSP and SSP grants for the period of April 1, 2023, to September 30, 2023.

This item also authorizes the use of FEMA contingency funding from savings in the Recovery and Resiliency program, until the City receives certification from FEMA that expenses will be reimbursed for the period of April 2023 to September 2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.