



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 11

Agenda Date: June 1, 2023

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Approving an agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston for a Food Insecurity Assessment.

SUMMARY:

An ordinance approving an agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston for services related to a food insecurity assessment, as part of Metro Health's SA Forward Plan and to support the goals of the Food Insecurity and Nutrition priority area, in an amount up to \$72,100.67 for Deliverable 1 and 2 funded by the General Fund, for a term ending September 30, 2023.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) released its SA Forward Plan in FY 2022, which presents the strategic direction for Metro Health to protect and improve the health of the community so that all people thrive in healthy, safe communities. The SA Forward Plan was developed to address the community's most pressing health issues. Over the next five years, Metro Health will focus efforts on six priority areas, one of which is Food Insecurity and Nutrition.

Food insecurity is defined as a lack of consistent access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food

which meets dietary needs and food preferences for an active, healthy life. It is also a household-level economic, social, and environmental condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food that meets cultural or personal needs. Food insecurity may begin with worrying about where the next meal will come from and can lead to missed meals and poor health outcomes.

Addressing food insecurity goes beyond increasing physical access to food; it also requires improving food availability and quality, ensuring economic access to food, and understanding patterns of nutrition and consumption of food. It is also critical to recognize the burden of chronic disease often experienced by individuals facing food insecurity. The initiatives in the Food Insecurity and Nutrition priority area of the SA Forward Plan addresses the complex interplay between individuals, groups, community, and societal factors that have led to food insecurity and disproportionate chronic disease rates. Metro Health will serve as the backbone organization to convene a diverse Food Insecurity Workgroup that will carry the work forward under the Food Insecurity and Nutrition priority area and oversee the development of the San Antonio Food Insecurity Assessment.

The agreement with the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston will include two deliverables. Deliverable 1 will assess the nature and severity of food insecurity in San Antonio and deliverable 2 will assess the laws and policies contributing to food insecurity at the federal, state, and local level. These assessments will provide a better understanding of the links between food insecurity, chronic disease, social determinants of health and health equity in San Antonio. Additionally, this agreement will provide the foundational work directly supporting the final assessment for development of the San Antonio Food Insecurity Assessment, which entails a review of existing resources and community assets supporting food resiliency. Metro Health will release a second competitive solicitation for the third deliverable of the San Antonio Food Insecurity Assessment in late spring of FY 2023 with a goal of selecting a contractor to begin work in early FY 2024.

The Finance Department, on behalf of Metro Health, released a Request for Proposals (RFP) on January 13, 2023, to select one or more qualified respondents, both individuals and organizations, interested in executing a Food Insecurity Assessment.

The RFP was advertised in the HartBeat Newspaper, TVSA channel, the City's Bidding & Contracting Opportunities website, the San Antonio e-Procurement System (SAEPS) and an email notification was released to a list of potential Respondents. Responses were due on February 13, 2023, and a total of one (1) firm responded to the RFP and was deemed eligible for review. On March 7, 2023, the one proposal was reviewed by the evaluation committee which included representatives from Metro Health. The proposal was evaluated on Experience, Background, and Qualifications; Proposed Plan; Price; the Small Business Economic Development Advocacy Program; the Local Preference Program; and the Veteran-Owned Small Business Preference Program. After committee review and evaluation, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston was recommended for award by the evaluation committee based on consensus scoring.

ISSUE:

Metro Health requests City Council approval of an agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to conduct a food insecurity assessment to support goals of Metro Health's SA Forward priority area, Food Insecurity and Nutrition.

The Small Business Economic Development Advocacy (SBEDA) Program was applied to this project however the no points were awarded to contract.

The Local Preference Program (LPP) was applied to this solicitation; however, the evaluation of the one response was based on consensus scoring. No LPP points were applied.

The Veteran-Owned Small Business Preference Program (VOSBPP) was applied to this solicitation; however, the evaluation of the one response was based on consensus scoring. No VOSBPP points were applied.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should this agreement not be approved, Metro Health will be unable to conduct a complete assessment of food insecurity locally, which is vital for the success of Metro Health's SA Forward initiative to address food insecurity and poor nutrition and to better understand the nature and severity of food insecurity in San Antonio.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance approves the execution of an agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to conduct a food insecurity assessment in an amount up to \$72,100.67 for a term ending September 30, 2023. Funding for the agreement is available and budgeted in Metro Health's FY 2023 General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of an agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to conduct a food insecurity assessment as part of Metro Health's SA Forward Plan.

This contract was procured by means of Request for Proposal and a Contracts Disclosure Form is required.