



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
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**Agenda Item Number:** 3

**Agenda Date:** May 10, 2023

**In Control:** Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting

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**DEPARTMENT:** Government Affairs

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Sally Basurto

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Briefing on 118th Federal Legislative Program Activities and Grant Opportunities.

**SUMMARY:**

Update on recent developments regarding priorities in the City's Federal Legislative Program, including the City's advocacy efforts to obtain a nonstop flight from San Antonio International Airport (SAT) to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA.) Briefing on funding opportunities under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, to include the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) and Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) programs.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

SAT to DCA

The current Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) reauthorization bill is set to expire September 30, 2023. The FAA Reauthorization is an opportunity for the City to expand options

for nonstop flights into Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) from beyond the existing perimeter rule, which limits flights to those originating from airports within a 1,250 mile distance. City staff has been working with the San Antonio Congressional delegation, as well as key members of the Congress from outside of our area. The IGR Committee will also be briefed on a coalition that was launched recently to pursue the Congressional changes needed to allow for additional beyond the perimeter flights.

#### Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) included \$550 million in funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. The EECBG was first enacted in 2007 and funded once previously in 2009 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. EECBG provides formula funding to state and local governments as well as competitive funding for entities not included in the formula distribution. Funds can be used to implement strategies and activities that cut carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, reduce energy use, and support the Justice 40 Initiative to ensure benefits flow to disadvantaged communities. San Antonio is anticipating receiving \$1.2 million from the EECBG program.

#### Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) created the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program to provide grants to state and local governments for the development and implementation of plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants while encouraging regional coordination and maximizing benefits for low income and disadvantaged communities. The law included \$5 billion in funding - \$250 million for non-competitive planning grants and \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants. Guidance for the non-competitive planning grants was released in March of this year, while the competitive program is expected to be released late 2023. The CPRG planning grants can be used to develop, update, or evaluate climate action plans. The San Antonio Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) will receive approximately \$1 million for planning. Participation in the CPRG planning grant is a requirement to pursue competitive funding.

#### **ISSUE:**

The City of San Antonio developed a Federal Legislative Program and a strategy to maximize federal funding awards to benefit the community. Government Affairs and other City Departments are providing regular updates to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee on BIL and IRA developments and other federal priority opportunities. GA and the Office of Sustainability will provide a briefing on recent developments on priority items within the legislative program.

#### **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.