



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
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**Agenda Item Number:** 6

**Agenda Date:** Invalid date

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

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**DEPARTMENT:** Pre-K 4 SA

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Dr. Sarah Baray

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Department of State Health Services Grant Award

**SUMMARY:**

This item requests Board action to ratify submission of the grant application to the Department of State Health Services to support the OLE! San Antonio coalition, authorize acceptance and appropriation of grant funds in the amount of \$38,500.00 for the grant term through September 30, 2023, and approve acceptance of any future grant funds, if awarded, from the grantor.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE!) Texas is a statewide initiative that promotes healthy, nature-based outdoor spaces at early childcare and education (ECE) programs. Over thirty percent of Texas children between the ages of 2 and 4 are overweight or obese. Promoting physical activity in Early Childhood Education (ECE) centers is a critical step in reducing rates of obesity. It also

encourages healthy behaviors that support children during early development and later in life.

To help reduce the overweight and obesity burden, the OLE! Texas initiative:

- Promotes nature-based design elements shown to reduce sedentary behavior as well as support motor skill and psycho-social development.
- Enables early childhood educators to move their lessons outside by using natural design elements such as vegetable gardens, fruit trees, looping pathways, grasses, and other activity stations to support child development, food awareness, and nature play.
- Provides education to ECE staff, design professionals, and community stakeholders about the best practices for designing a quality outdoor learning environment.

In 2022, Pre-K 4 SA was named the hub for the OLE! San Antonio coalition. On behalf of the coalition, Pre-K 4 SA applied for and was awarded a grant in the amount of \$38,500.00 from the Department of State Health Services to plan and implement outdoor learning environments (aka “OLE! Texas”) to improve and increase early childcare activities in the San Antonio area. The OLE! San Antonio coalition will help expand the number of outdoor learning environments at childcare centers and raise awareness of the positive benefits that nature has on young children. Additionally, these funds will be used to help create an awareness of OLE! San Antonio through social media, providing information and sharing ideas about nature-based outdoor spaces with the San Antonio ECE community.

The initial term of the agreement is June 30, 2022, through September 30, 2023. Contingent upon funding availability, the contract with the Department of State Health Services may be extended for future years. Acceptance of those associated funds shall also be authorized by this action.

#### **ISSUE:**

Pre-K 4 SA applied for and was awarded a grant from the Department of State Health Services to support the OLE! San Antonio coalition in June 2022. This item ratifies submission of the grant application, authorizes acceptance and appropriation of grant funds in the amount of \$38,500.00 for the grant term through September 30, 2023, and approves acceptance of any future grant funds, if awarded, from the grantor.

Ratification and acceptance of the grant funding are necessary in order to properly account for the funds in accordance with audit guidelines.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This item authorizes acceptance and appropriation of grant funds in the amount of \$38,500.00 from the Department of State Health Services for the grant term through September 30, 2023. It also approves acceptance of any future grant funds, if awarded, from the grantor.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

Should the Board choose not to ratify the grant submission and acceptance of funds in the amount of \$38,500.00 from the Department of State Health Services, the grant funds would have to be returned to the Department of State Health Services and would be paid for out of the Pre-K 4 SA

Operating Budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Pre-K 4 SA Staff recommends the Board ratify submission of the grant application to the Department of State Health Services to support the OLE! San Antonio coalition, authorize acceptance and appropriation of grant funds in the amount of \$38,500.00 for the grant term through September 30, 2023, and approve acceptance of any future grant funds, if awarded, from the grantor.