



ARPA SLFRF Spending Framework Education & Workforce Investments for Youth

Background

On March 11, 2021, Congress signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which included resources to support local government's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of San Antonio was awarded \$326.9 million in State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). As part of the FY 2022 Budget process, the City Council approved \$97.5 million to support the City budget and address community needs. On November 18, 2021, the City Council approved an additional \$30.0 million for residential utility assistance. The remaining \$199.4 million remained unallocated and was intended to be awarded following a community engagement process that began in the fall of 2021.

On January 26, 2022, following a community engagement process, staff presented a recommended spending framework reflecting community and City Council input. The final spending framework of \$199.4 million was approved by the City Council on February 3, 2022. The approved spending framework included \$87.8 million recommended for programmatic funding with \$10 million allocated to support youth with increased availability to comprehensive and trauma-informed services so youth improve their educational and career outcomes. This will assist in addressing of the increased number in youth disengaged from school and the workforce, which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) will manage the \$10 million investment for youth through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Recommended investments will mitigate COVID – 19 impacts on youth including intensive supports to improve access to education, skills training, and workforce pathways. The funds will address:

- (1) lack of trauma – informed education and career opportunities for youth transitioning out of or at risk for gang involvement;
- (2) lack of higher education, workforce, and supportive services for youth aging out of the foster care system;
- (3) increases in homeless youth and “opportunity youth” who are disconnected from education and workforce opportunities; and
- (4) decreases in access to STEM, STEAM, and youth enrichment activities that support school readiness and education success.

This document outlines the implementation plan for these investments. In addition, \$100,000 will be set aside for the San Antonio Youth Commission to review applications and recommend awards to support their ongoing work on behalf of San Antonio youth.

Eligibility

Eligible Organizations

- Nonprofit organizations (501 (c) 3)
- Faith-Based organizations
- Public entities (including non-COSA government agencies)

Additional Information on Eligibility

- Must have been in existence and operating programs serving the population identified in the submitted proposal in San Antonio for a minimum of two years

- Must demonstrate agency and/or participants served have been disproportionately impacted by COVID–19

Program Funding and Anticipated Awards: \$10 Million

DHS is proposing to award youth services investments to support enhanced education and workforce pathways through a combined competitive process that includes investments for: Youth (\$10 million), Non-profit Social Services (\$2.5 Million out of \$4 Million), and Seniors (\$5 Million).

All funds will be first approved by their respective City Council committees and then taken to the City Council for consideration and approval.

Stakeholder Engagement

DHS held four stakeholder feedback sessions in May 2022 attended by 42 youth-serving organizations and key partners. In addition to these meetings, DHS met with over 30 youth from seven youth organizations and focus groups with 22 youth who had aged out of the foster care system.

The purpose of these sessions was to share community and City Council input, gather suggestions on proposed funding priorities and goals, and finalize performance indicators.

Participating Stakeholders:

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| • Alamo Colleges District | • Family Services Association | • SA Youth for Christ |
| • Bexar County | • Former Foster Youth | • SAMSAT |
| • Bexar County Fostering for Educational Success | • Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas | • San Antonio Chamber of Commerce |
| • Boys and Girls Club | • GIRLS INC. | • San Antonio Education Partnership |
| • Boy Scouts of America, Alamo Area Council | • Good Samaritan | • San Antonio Clubhouse |
| • CASA | • Goodwill Industries | • San Antonio Youth Commission |
| • Catholic Charities | • Guadalupe Community Center | • SARAH Youth Action Board |
| • Children's Shelter | • HBBSA | • SAY SI |
| • ChildSAFE | • Healy Murphy Center | • The University of Texas at San Antonio |
| • City Life San Antonio | • Joven | • THRIVE |
| • Communities in Schools-San Antonio | • Leaven Kids | • Thru Project |
| • CRIT Teleton | • NEISD Kid's Involvement Network | • United Way |
| • Texas Department of Family and Protective Services | • Northside ISD | • UP Partnership |
| • DoinWell | • Pride Center San Antonio | • Workforce Solutions Alamo |
| • DoSeum | • Ready to Work (COSA) | • YWCA |
| • ESC-20 | • SA Sports | • Youth from Faith-Based Organizations |
| • Empower House | • SA Youth | |

In addition to community stakeholder meetings and conversations, DHS is working with UP Partnership - Excel Beyond the Bell, which is a collaborative of out-of-school organizations to increase coordination of local investments and shared community goals for youth related to education success and career pathways.

This alignment and coordination will continue beyond release of the competitive process and funding awards to foster innovative and best practices, collaborative services, and reduce duplication. This coordination will also ensure development of uniform guidance on how to better support students with disabilities, homeless youth, youth aging out of foster care.

Funding Priority Investments

COVID-19 Impact	Programs/Strategies	Equitable Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Proposed Amount
Decrease in Youth Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set aside \$100,000 for the San Antonio Youth Commission to evaluate and develop funding recommendations to address youth needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amplify youth voice through participation in civic process. Ensure funded programs meet the needs of youth impacted by COVID-19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Youth participating in civic processes % Impacted youth connected to resources and support 	\$100 K
Lack of education and career opportunities for youth transitioning out of or at risk for gang involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support mentorship and internship programs coupled with specialized case management support. Fund second chance employment programs to connect youth transitioning out of or at risk of gang involvement. Create coaching and mentoring supports for youth entering skills training or the workforce for the first time. Increase diverse education pathways, including secondary education, for disengaged youth. 	Develop targeted prevention programs that offer positive pathways for education & employment opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Youth engaged through outreach activities % Engaged youth enrolling in prevention programs % Gang or justice involved youth connecting to education and employment. % youth maintaining employment 6 months after program completion 	\$750 K

COVID-19 Impact	Programs/Strategies	Equitable Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Proposed Amount
Lack of higher education, workforce training, and supportive services for youth who are aging out of the foster care system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create access to individualized education and workforce counseling and planning for youth aging out of the foster care system. Expand support and wrap around services for foster youth who are working towards their education and workforce goals. Provide paid internship and apprenticeship opportunities to support workforce readiness and specialized skill development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve access to basic services including housing, education supports, and coaching to support attainment of education and career goals. Increase foster youth participation in City and City funded programs. Increase college enrollment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Foster youth engaged through outreach activities % Foster youth enrolling and receiving benefits and resources. % Engaged foster youth enrolling in college or employment # of foster youth participating in city-funded internship and apprenticeship programs 	\$2.00 M
Increase in number of Opportunity Youth & Homeless Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand existing OY programs that focus on education and workforce readiness. Provide supports to address barriers to education and workforce attainment. Provide incentives for participation and retention in education and internship/apprenticeship. Provide paid internship and apprenticeship opportunities to support workforce readiness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of opportunity youth connected to education and employment opportunities. Decrease youth experiencing homelessness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Youth connected to education and employment opportunities # youth completing high school equivalency # of opportunity youth participating in paid internship and apprenticeships % Decrease in youth experiencing homelessness 	\$2.65 M
Decrease in access to STEM, STEAM, and other enrichment activities for youth to support school readiness and long-term success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase access to high-quality After School and Summer Programs that incorporate STEM, STEAM, and education/career exploration activities Provide transportation support to programs to support student attendance who have a transportation barrier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand and enhance high quality out-of-school opportunities focused on academic loss, developmental relationships, and enrichment activities. Decrease staff to student ratios. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Youth engaged in outreach # Youth enrolled in after school and summer programs % Participating youth with 90% attendance % of youth receiving “digital badges” for career exploration and post-secondary planning 	\$4.50 M
			Total	\$10 M

Request for Proposal Timeline

DATE	ACTION ITEM
August 18, 2022	City Council A-Session – Approval of Implementation Plan
September 2, 2022	Request for Proposal Opens
September 12 - 16, 2022	Pre-Submittal Conference and Training and Technical Assistance Workshops
October 3, 2022	Request for Proposal Closes
October 4 - 20, 2022	Evaluation & Scoring
November 2022	City Council A Session – Approval of Awards
December 2022	Contracts Begin

No Contact Period

In accordance with §2-61 of the City Code, interested applicants are prohibited from communication regarding the Combined Services RFP with City Officials and Employees during specific portions of the competitive process. The Department of Human Services, in line with prior competitive RFPs issued is recommending an abbreviated no contact period for City Officials as reflected below.

- **City Officials:** September 21, 2022 until the date the City Manager posts proposed awards for City Council consideration.
- **City Employees:** August 19, 2022 until the date proposed awards are approved by the City Council.

Scoring Criteria

- **Experience Background and Qualifications: 30 Points**
 - Agency experience
 - Financial management
 - History providing youth services for targeted youth population
- **Proposed Plan: 50 Points**
 - Demonstrate disproportionate COVID – 19 impacts to youth and/or organization
 - Alignment with proposed program strategies, outcomes, and performance indicators
 - Identify how support to youth assists them long-term
 - Youth engagement in development of plan
 - Collaboration with other agencies and innovative practices to support youth
- **Budget and Budget Narrative: 20 Points**
 - Prior receipt of federal COVID-19 funding assistance
 - Leveraged agency resources
 - Capacity building investments
 - Long-term sustainability