



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:21-2592

Agenda Item Number: 5.

Agenda Date: 4/6/2021

In Control: Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Board of Directors

DEPARTMENT: Pre-K 4 SA

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Sarah Baray, Ph.D.

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Westat Amendment

SUMMARY:

This item requests Board action to approve an amendment to the Westat independent evaluation contract, extending the term of the contract through November 30, 2021.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since its initial program authorization, Pre-K 4 SA has demonstrated a commitment to a results-driven approach through its use of independent research evaluations. Pre-K 4 SA contracted with Dr. Mike Villarreal at the UTSA Urban Education Institute in 2018 to conduct a longitudinal impact study of the program. The results of this study found that Pre-K 4 SA Education Center Students had better 3rd grade math scores, better 3rd grade reading scores, better attendance, and less need for special education services.

Since the findings were released in January 2019, Dr. Villarreal has proposed an update to the original impact study to include the most recent students who applied and enrolled in Pre-K 4 SA during the fiscal years of 2015 to 2020. This new study will allow the researchers to strengthen the statistical power of their analysis, and allow them to observe the impact of the program as it has matured and strengthened.

In addition to the longitudinal study, Pre-K 4 SA also conducts yearly independent program evaluations. In 2013, Pre-K 4 SA issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an independent program evaluation. The Board of Directors awarded a contract to Edvance Research to conduct an independent evaluation of the program. The

contract was approved with an initial five-year term, and one three-year renewal option. Edvance Research went on to produce and release reports for years 1 and 2 of the program, which the organization presented to the Board of Directors in 2014 and 2015. In December 2015, Westat, a leading research organization, acquired Edvance Research. Westat has continued to assess Pre-K 4 SA to fulfill the original contract.

The Board exercised its three-year option to renew in 2018, and also increased the scope of work to include: a Cost-Benefit Analysis; Open Records Data Request for Longitudinal Analyses; Advisory Group; and WolfTrap Evaluation. Pre-K 4 SA and Westat have agreed to amend the scope and value of the Agreement on five (5) occasions. These amendments, in conjunction with the original contract value, have brought the total contract value to \$2,283,313.

The current contract is scheduled to expire on July 31, 2021. This amendment would extend the contract through November 30, 2021, providing the appropriate time for Westat to complete and present the yearly program evaluation.

ISSUE:

This item requests Board action to approve an amendment to the Westat independent evaluation contract, extending the term of the contract through November 30, 2021.

ALTERNATIVES:

If the Board does not approve the contract amendment, staff would need to develop an alternate process for evaluating key features of the program in its current form.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item approves an amendment to the Westat independent evaluation contract, extending the term of the contract through November 30, 2021. There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends for the Board to approve an amendment to the Westat independent evaluation contract, extending the term of the contract through November 30, 2021.