

CONSENT AGENDA
ITEM NO. **62**

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Dennis J. Campa, Director, Department of Community Initiatives

SUBJECT: Contract with the Alamo Area Community Information System (AACIS) in connection with Community Technology Centers and acceptance of an unsolicited literacy grant award

DATE: December 15, 2005

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. This ordinance authorizes the execution of a contract in the amount of \$128,482 with United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, on behalf of the Alamo Area Community Information System (AACIS) for the continuation of program support at four Community Technology Centers (CTCs) and to establish a fifth CTC at the Colonel Victor J. Ferrari Community Family Resource and Learning Center (CFRLC) beginning January 1, 2006, and adopts an FY 2006 Program Budget.

B. This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of an unsolicited Sam's Club literacy grant award in the amount of \$1,750 to provide tutors to assist students at the CFRLCs beginning January 1, 2006 and adopts an FY 2006 Program Budget.

Staff recommends approval of these ordinances.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

AACIS is a collaboration of 20 partner groups whose primary purpose is to improve technology access and opportunity in our community. Members of AACIS include United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, Our Lady of the Lake University, the Alamo Community College District, the City of San Antonio's Department of Community Initiatives (DCI), Metropolitan Health District and Information Technology Services Department, Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG), and others.

Through grant and local funding initiatives, AACIS promotes valuable technology-based learning enrichment and technology access opportunities at Community Technology Centers (CTCs). CTC services include facilitating public access to computers and technology, providing distance-learning capabilities and the provision of computer literacy classes on topics including Basic Keyboarding, Introduction to PCs, Word Basics, Introduction to Excel, PowerPoint and Internet/email.

AACIS and the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, in conjunction with the City of San Antonio, established CTCs during the period 2001-2003 at the Margarita Huantes, Albert Benavides, Willie Velasquez and Columbia Heights CFRLCs. Each of the CTCs has upgraded computers, printers and broadband Internet access. The newly established Ferrari CTC will also have upgraded equipment and broadband Internet access. AACIS will continue to provide curriculum and instructors for the five CTCs. The Ferrari CFRLC will provide the classroom space and computers. The AACIS funding supports a Web Project Manager/Software Specialist, Administrative Assistant I, and four Intake Coordinators/Office Assistants who will provide administration and recruitment services to the program.

The Ferrari and Benavides CTCs will offer the Young Explorer PC Initiative for three to five-year-old children of the San Antonio community accompanied by one parent/caregiver. This unique program will utilize a computer-based curriculum to assist the child with language and cognitive development and to immerse child and caregiver alike in technology.

The CFRLC's goal is to offer educational opportunities and related services to enable individuals to enhance their ability to read, write, and converse in English, and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job and society. The CFRLCs offer free Adult Education classes in English-as-a-Second Language (ESL), General Educational Development (G.E.D.), Basic Education, Citizenship, EL Civics, and computer technology. Due to the low literacy levels of many CFRLC students, tutors are needed to provide further assistance. The unsolicited Sam's Club award will allow the CFRLCs to employ tutors at \$ 8.75 an hour, for a minimum of two hours per week. Tutors will teach reading and writing skills as well as work with students who have difficulties learning English. These services will promote the students' self-esteem and improve the levels of literacy in the community.

POLICY ANALYSIS

This action is a continuation of existing City policy to provide human development opportunities to raise the education and computer skill level of residents and to assist them to become better students, job candidates and citizens. The number of customers served in the four CTC programs during FY 2004-2005 was 3,691. Approximately 4,000 students will be served by the CTCs in FY 2006.

FISCAL IMPACT

This action authorizes acceptance of a grant from AACIS through United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County in the amount of \$128,482 as well as a literacy grant award from Sam's Club in the amount of \$1,750. Both actions require no additional General Fund commitment.

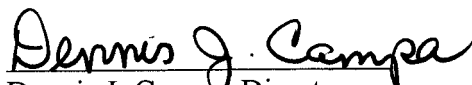
COORDINATION


Coordination has occurred with the City Attorney's Office, Finance Department, Office of Management and Budget, Information Technology Systems Department, Metropolitan Health District, and United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County (on behalf of the Alamo Area

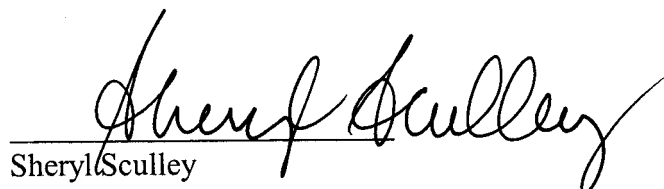
Community Information System).

SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS

Discretionary contract form is not required.


Dennis J. Campa, Director
Department of Community Initiatives


Frances A. Gonzalez
Assistant City Manager


Sheryl Sculley
City Manager