



# SOAR PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT (ARPA)

RS-24-133

August 6, 2024

# Background

2

- ❑ In FY23, the City of Killeen appropriated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the purpose of establishing the Killeen Youth Empowerment Program.
- ❑ The purpose of the program was to empower local at-risk youth, ages 14-21, through employment and leadership services.
  - ❑ Residency and valid identification requirements applied.

# Background

- Due to difficulties identifying qualified candidates for the program, staff sought an established partner willing and able to provide employment coaching and skills to youth attending Killeen Independent School District (KISD) middle and/or high schools, located within Killeen proper, with a city of Killeen residential address, as an alternative to administering the program within city operations.

# Background

- In March 2024, staff engaged Workforce Solutions of Central Texas-Killeen to discuss its youth employment programming options and an opportunity to provide services for KISD students, with a city of Killeen residential address, utilizing ARPA funds.
- In response, a funding proposal for the Student Occupational Awareness and Recognition (SOAR) Program was submitted to the City for consideration.

# Background

- On June 4, 2024, City of Killeen Finance staff requested and received a Motion of Direction from City Council to reappropriate certain ARPA funds, which included funding for Workforce Solutions of Central Texas-Killeen for the SOAR Program.

# SOAR Program

6

- The SOAR Program equips students with the necessary tools for career exploration, education, and engagement.
- The program provides comprehensive career guidance, including access to up-to-date labor market data, aiding students in making informed career decisions and preparing them for the workforce.

# SOAR Program & City of Killeen ARPA

7

- The City of Killeen ARPA funding will support the promotion of high-demand jobs and career pathways in the city, fostering enhanced collaboration between employers and students.
- Additionally, funds will facilitate the expansion of the SOAR virtual career exploration program, provide resources for related events and activities, and administrative expenses.

# Recommendation

- Staff recommends that City Council authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute an ARPA funded grant agreement with Workforce Solutions of Central Texas-Killeen for the SOAR Program in the amount of \$106,911.98.