



**For Immediate Release**

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**Pre-K 4 SA's Leader Selected to Inaugural Cohort  
of Early Childhood Municipal Fellows**

*Leaders chosen to re-imagine local learning systems, drive better outcomes*

**SAN ANTONIO** — The City of San Antonio is proud to announce Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray has been selected to join the National League of Cities (NLC)'s Early Childhood Municipal Fellowship, a leadership development and peer learning program aimed at accelerating local leaders' ability to serve as champions for young children and families.

Baray was chosen for her community-wide commitment to prioritizing early learning, the well-being of children, and her history of work in these areas. City leadership applauds her local and national leadership to improve high-quality early learning.

"It speaks volumes that Sarah has been recognized in her ability to play an integral role in the inaugural cohort, and help others learn to work more collaboratively and efficiently to re-imagine local learning systems and facilitate better outcomes for communities," City Manager Erik Walsh said. "Sarah's experience in early childhood education and her leadership in our community will not only continue to improve the landscape in San Antonio but help other cities across the nation address longstanding inequities embedded in local government institutions that have been exacerbated by COVID-19 and highlighted by recent political uprisings."

Over the next 18 months, Baray, along with nine other fellows chosen from across the country to participate in the program, will delve into key fundamentals that are the bedrock of impactful municipal policy for early childhood success: embedding equity in how business is done; policy and practice evaluation; the examination of local leadership and governance structures, collaboration across departments, the alignment of city, county and state objectives and the financing and resourcing of programs and services.

"The National League of Cities is the voice of America's cities, towns and villages, representing more than 200 million people. By building a network of local leaders and investing in their development, we will work to ensure that the success of every young child is at the center of local government decision-making," said Tonja Rucker, Director of Early Childhood Success at the National League of Cities. "Local governments are centers of innovation and the work of our fellows, supported by our YEF experts, will move our country forward in creating communities where every child succeeds, and all families thrive."

The Early Childhood Municipal Fellowship is generously supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Bezos Family Foundation, and Pritzker Children's Initiative and builds on continuing work within the YEF Institute and across NLC to strengthen local early learning systems prenatally through age eight.

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**About Pre-K 4 SA:**

Pre-K 4 SA is a comprehensive early childhood initiative aimed at changing the education and workforce trajectory of San Antonio in one generation. Pre-K 4 SA offers full-day pre-kindergarten for 4-year-olds living in the City of San Antonio. Pre-K 4 SA is free for qualifying students and also accepts tuition-paying students. The school day begins at 7:45 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Extended hours are available at no additional charge from 7:15 to 8 a.m., and from 3 to 6 p.m. for working families. Breakfast, lunch and two snacks are included and free transportation is available to all students. Pre-K 4 SA has four Education Centers located throughout the city: North Education Center, 3635 Medical Dr.; South Education Center, 7031 S. New Braunfels Ave.; East Education Center, 5230 Eisenhower Rd.; and West Education Center, 1235 Enrique M. Barrera Memorial Parkway. The Gardendale Early Learning Program powered by Pre-K 4 SA is the first replication site and was made possible through a partnership with Edgewood Independent School District. This program creates greater capacity for high-quality early education with both pre-k and kindergarten classrooms. The Pre-K 4 SA Professional Learning program provides pre-kindergarten through third grade educators in San Antonio with complementary continuing education to support best practice instruction to help every child in San Antonio excel. The Pre-K 4 SA Competitive Grants program provides more than \$4 million in funding annually to increase quality and access in early childhood programs throughout San Antonio. Visit [www.prek4sa.com](http://www.prek4sa.com) for more information.

**About National League of Cities:**

The [National League of Cities](#) (NLC) is the voice of America's cities, towns and villages, representing more than 200 million people. NLC works to strengthen local leadership, influence federal policy and drive innovative solutions. Stay connected with NLC on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).