



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-1576, Agenda Item #: 44.

3/24/2022

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with Worksource Greater Austin Area Workforce Board d/b/a Workforce Solutions Capital Area Workforce Board to provide early childhood and family support services funded through the federal American Rescue Plan Act, for a term of three years in an amount not to exceed \$3,264,881.

(Note: This procurement was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9C, Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the services required for this procurement, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Client Department(s)

Economic Development Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available from the U.S. Department of Treasury, American Rescue Plan.

Purchasing Language:

Professional Service.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to Al Drayton, at 512-974-1709 or Alfonso.Drayton@austintexas.gov <<mailto:Alfonso.Drayton@austintexas.gov>>.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract will support Workforce Solutions Capital Area (WFS) in its work to support low-income City of Austin residents experiencing unemployment or underemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The contract was developed in partnership with Austin Public Health and contains programs related to the provision of early childhood education, care, and support for families seeking workforce development services.

A program of work has been developed to help ensure timely delivery of childcare assistance to families who are seeking workforce development training and services. Childcare supply and demand shifted during the pandemic. Infusions of federal funds have created new programs and mandates for the contractor to meet. Funds have been allocated to provide WFS with the staffing support necessary to meet demand and efficiently connect low-income families with childcare providers and childcare service openings in the City, with the goal of reducing the number of families and children on the childcare subsidy waitlist. This contract also provides funds for Premium Pay wage stipends for essential childcare workers, to help stem the loss of high-quality, licensed childcare workers and combat worker retention challenges in the low-wage childcare services industry. Wage stipends will be focused on childcare workers who work in high quality childcare programs that

serve children receiving childcare scholarships (i.e., subsidies) and who have been working in-person in a childcare program during the pandemic.

In addition to capacity and system support, this contract also provides funds for the expansion of Austin Public Health's Continuity of Care program, which ensures continuity in the provision of childcare services for low-income families in Austin whose childcare may have otherwise been terminated due to federal Childcare Development Fund (CCDF) funding rules. The program prioritizes funding for infants and toddlers on the childcare subsidy waitlist, with additional priority populations including those in training programs and those ineligible for CDBG-CV funding due to residing outside of City of Austin full-purpose boundaries.

The City has an extensive history of working with WFS in contracting workforce development and social service delivery, including the key wraparound support of childcare. WFS has been a partner in the Workforce Education Readiness Continuum (WERC) for many years and holds an existing contract with Austin Public Health for those services. As our local workforce board, WFS has the established partnerships and capacity needed to deliver the workforce training and support services required by our local job seekers and has previously demonstrated success in delivering those services under ReWork Now 1.0.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.