

AGENDA



Thursday, February 12, 2009

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 20**

Subject: Approve ratification of a 12-month professional services contract with SKILLPOINT ALLIANCE, Austin, TX for the continuation of the Community Technology and Training Center Program for the Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Department in an amount not to exceed \$287,833.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$287,833 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Sustainability Fund of the Finance and Administrative Services Department.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Malinda Horitski, Buyer II, 974-2651

MBE/WBE: This contract was awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9D of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). This is Professional Services contract; therefore it is exempted under Chapter 252.022 of the Texas Local Government Code and no goals were established for this solicitation.

Prior Council Action: September 3, 1998 - Approved a 12-month contract, with two 12-month extension options; September 21, 2001 - Approved additional year and increased total contract amount; October 24, 2002 - Approved three additional years and increased total contract amount; December 15, 2005 - Approved three additional years and increased total contract amount.

In August, 1998, City Council approved the original contract with the Capital Area Training Foundation (CATF), now Skillpoint Alliance, to operate a computer lab at Austin Independent School District, otherwise known as the Community Technology Training Centers (CTTC). Currently, community residents can receive the services at labs located at Travis High School and Reagan High School. Through previous actions, the City Council approved continuation of the CTTC program with Skillpoint Alliance through fiscal year 2007-2008 for the Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office (EGRSO).

This contract will provide continuity of services from September 30, 2008 through September 29, 2009. The vendor has continued to provide the services for the past five months (September 30, 2008 – February 28, 2009).

The CTTC program offers short and long-term classes designed to bring individuals into the digital age through technology training. The CTTC program provides computers and technology training in two geographical areas of Austin (Travis and Reagan High Schools) where computers and technology training are greatly needed. The extra computers provided to these schools through this program allow more high school students to learn technology skills. During the evening hours, these same classes are offered to adults. New technology skills increase their employability and expand the workforce skills in Austin that are important to a vibrant economy.

Under the program, Skillpoint Alliance has leveraged over \$3,250,000 of in-kind contributions of classroom space, hardware, software and custodial services from AISD and has received private sector cash support from the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, Dell Connected Communities, Department of

Education, IBM, Southwestern Bell, WorkSource, 21st Century Grant (TEA), Travis County, and the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce. In addition, annually they have received in-kind contributions from various private companies including Microsoft Corporation, 3M, Advanced Consumer Services, Inc., AMD, Collective Technologies, Inflow Data Center, Moore Computing, Shield Networks, Titus Electric, Austin Business Furniture, and The Entrepreneur's Association.

Skillpoint Alliance has worked closely with the City of Austin in creating, developing and enhancing the CTTC program. This close collaboration has helped Skillpoint Alliance become a nationally recognized best practices model of technology training (the Ford Foundation gave it the national best practices recognition) and has resulted in a reduction of the annual cost in an estimated amount of \$29,250 from the previous year. The City's expectation is that this contract will allow Skillpoint Alliance to continue to find ways to make the program even more effective and efficient. It will also allow Skillpoint Alliance to continue the kind of successful technology training for the Austin community that has made it a nationally recognized best practices model of technology training.

EGRSO was not aware that their contract with Skillpoint ended with the start of this fiscal year and there were no further option periods available. Skillpoint has been a valuable resource for the City for many years performing these services. EGRSO desire is to continue the contract for this year while reviewing approaches for next fiscal year.