

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	27220	Agenda Number	19.
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Meeting Date:	9/26/2013	Department:	Economic Development Department
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with Skillpoint Alliance to continue the Community Technology and Training Center Program, for a one-year term beginning October 1, 2013, in an amount not to exceed \$287,833, with two twelve-month renewal options, for a total estimated contract amount not to exceed \$863,499.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$287,833 is in Economic Development Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Operating Budget. Funding for the extension options is contingent upon available funding and future budgets.

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing
Language:Prior Council
Action:

September 27, 2012 - Council approved a 12 month contract.
August 27, 2009 - Council approved a 12-month contract with two 12-month extension options.
February 20, 2009 - Council approved a 12-month contract with no extension options.

For More
Information:

Kevin Johns, Director / EDD, 974-7802; Ben Ramirez, Acting Global & Expansion Manager / EDD, 512-974-6418

Boards and
Commission
Action:

Related Items:

MBE / WBE:

This contract is exempt from the MBE /WBE Ordinance. This exemption is in compliance with Chapter 2-9C of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this contract.

Additional Backup Information

This contract will provide continuity of professional workforce development services from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014. The Contractor will provide specialized and unique adult workforce education services that are integrated into the City of Austin's targeted industry efforts for business recruitment, retention, and expansion. The City of Austin's targeted industry sectors are general manufacturing, advanced manufacturing, software, creative media, back office/professional operations, clean energy, health care, life sciences, and semiconductor. The Contractor will ensure that its services are reaching the segments of Austin's population that experience barriers to

employment. The Contractor will assist the City of Austin in bridging the gap between the skills needed for available local jobs and the skills of the local residents seeking employment. These services will be offered through three programs: Empower Computer Literacy Program; Gateway Program; and Workforce Development Assistance for Recruited Companies.

The Empower Computer Literacy Program (ECLP) offers short and long-term classes designed to bring individuals into the digital age through technology training. ELCP provides computers and technology training in three geographical areas of Austin (Travis High School, HACA – Georgian Manor, and the Skillpoint Office Computer Lab) where computers and technology training are 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 participants' employability and expand the workforce skills in Austin that are important to a vibrant economy.

The Gateway Program provides valuable training and education to those in need, preparing them for entry-level employment in four to eight weeks. The training programs differ every year in response to the fluctuations in the local job market. The program only offers training in fields that are in-demand in Central Texas, and more than 80 percent of graduates find employment utilizing the skills they have obtained within 30 days after graduation from this program.

Workforce Development Assistance for Recruited Companies provides training to adults and youth to develop the soft-skills necessary to succeed in the workplace. The curriculum incorporates a variety of resources relevant to the Austin community and the workforce in Central Texas. Interactive workshops include: critical thinking and problem solving; professional communication; customer service; organization and time management; interview preparation and practice; resume and cover letter writing; and financial literacy and career planning.