



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-1575, Agenda Item #: 43.

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 workforce development services related to the American Rescue Plan Act, for a term of two years in an amount not to exceed \$6,600,000.

(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 residents experiencing unemployment or underemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WFS works with individuals to determine training interests, enroll them in safe, short-term job training courses, on-the-job training, and apprenticeship opportunities, and provides job search and placement assistance, including subsidized employment. The WFS workforce development program also provides an array of supportive services including childcare, transportation assistance, digital access, and educational assistance stipends. Training courses align with the Targeted Occupation List identified for Central Texas by WFS and the Texas Workforce Commission. Examples of short-term training courses previously provided include Software Developer, Commercial Driver's License, Multi-Craft Core Curriculum, Certified Production Technician, Phlebotomy, HVAC, Administrative/Office, and Medical Assistant. The target population for these services include City of Austin residents who are unemployed, underemployed, or who are earning less than 85% of State Median Income.

The City has an extensive history of working with WFS in contracting workforce development and social

service delivery. 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 RE:WorkNOW 1.0.

This action will implement \$6.6 million of the \$15.0 million Workforce: General funds on the spending plan framework available from the U.S. Department of Treasury, American Rescue Plan.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.