Legislation Text

File #: 23-3017, **Version:** 1

Department: Purchasing
Department Head/Elected Official: DeWight Dopslauf

Regular or Supplemental RCA: Supplemental RCA
Type of Request: Contract - Award

Project ID (if applicable): 220410
Vendor/Entity Legal Name (if applicable): Collaborative For Children; Kids' Meals, Inc.; Rupani Foundation

MWDBE Contracted Goal (if applicable): 0%
MWDBE Current Participation (if applicable): N/A
Justification for 0% MWDBE Participation Goal: 0% - Non-Divisible

Request Summary (Agenda Caption):
Request by the Office of the Purchasing Agent for approval of awards on the basis of best proposals meeting requirements and that the County Judge execute agreements with Collaborative For Children; Kids' Meals, Inc.; and Rupani Foundation for pilot or expand early childhood programs through the Early Childhood Impact Fund for Harris County for the period of May 16, 2023 - May 15, 2025, (220410), Justification for 0% MWDBE Participation Goal: 0% - Non-Divisible.

Background and Discussion:
In October 2020, Commissioners Court approved $10 million for the Early Childhood Impact Fund, designed to invest in programs and interventions with significant potential to
dramatically improve early childhood outcomes in Harris County. The goals of the fund include:

- Investing in the most promising, cost-effective, evidence-based solutions for improving early childhood outcomes in Harris County
- Building a stronger, more seamless network of early childhood service providers
- Prioritizing rigorous data collection and evaluation
- Creating pathways to long-term, scalable impact for further investment

The County released an RFP in early 2023 to solicit applications from service providers, organizations, and researchers to implement a two-year program. Three organizations were selected to receive funding. Rupani Foundation, Kids' Meals, Inc. and Collaborative for Children. The organizations were selected to implement the following programs:

- One vendor will provide essential early childhood services and culturally responsive group-based parenting programs in early learning, brain development, positive parenting, mental health, hygiene, and nutrition. By joining efforts with the Hackett Center for Mental Health and Children's Museum Houston to create the "Thriving Together" program.

- A second will expand their healthy meal delivery program to children and families in Harris County. The organization aims to end generational poverty by providing children with meals until they reach kindergarten thus negating low school engagement, substandard academic development, and poor emotional and physical health.
- A third will expand their Centers of Excellence Program across Harris County. The purpose of Centers of Excellence (COE) is to create a cost-effective formula for statewide school readiness initiative by providing a 3-tier model of support and training for children, families and child care staff.

Expected Impact: These contracts will allow Harris County to test and evaluate new approaches to supporting young children and their families from an education, child welfare, and public health lens. All together, these programs will impact over 53,729 people including children, parents and family members, and child care staff and directors. The programs will each be held accountable for program-specific outcomes.

Alternative Options: Do not award the RFP; fail to deliver associated outcomes.

Alignment with Goal(s):

_ Justice and Safety
X Economic Opportunity
_ Housing
X Public Health
_ Transportation
_ Flooding
_ Environment
_ Governance and Customer Service

Prior Court Action (if any)**:**

Date	Agenda Item #	Action Taken
1/10/2023	225	Approval of a project scheduled for advertisement and consent for Request for Proposal for pilot or expand early childhood programs through the Early Childhood Impact Fund for Harris County (ARPA Funded)

Location: N/A
Address (if applicable): N/A
Precinct(s): Countywide

Fiscal and Personnel Summary			
Service Name	Early Childhood Initiatives		
	FY 23	**FY 24**	**Next 3 FYs**
Incremental Expenditures (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Labor Expenditures	$	$	$

Non-Labor Expenditures	$	$	$
Total Incremental Expenditures	$	$	$
Funding Sources (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Existing Budget			
Choose an item.	$	$	$
Choose an item.	$	$	$
Choose an item.	$	$	$
Total Current Budget	$	$	$
Additional Budget Requested			
2651 - American Rescue Plan 2021	$	$	$
Choose an item.	$	$	$
Choose an item.	$	$	$
Total Additional Budget Requested	$	$	$
Total Funding Sources	$	$	$
Personnel (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs)			
Current Position Count for Service	-	-	-
Additional Positions Requested	-	-	-
Total Personnel	-	-	-

Anticipated Court Date: 5/16/2023

Anticipated Implementation Date (if different from Court date): 5/16/2023

Emergency/Disaster Recovery Note: COVID-19 related item

Contact(s) name, title, department: Matthew McGarrity, Senior Buyer, Purchasing; Jaclyn Ballesteros, Manager, Early Childhood Initiatives, Office of County Administration

Attachments (if applicable)**:** Letter, Agreement