



## Legislation Text

---

**File #:** 24-2202, **Version:** 1

---

**Department:** Purchasing

**Department Head/Elected Official:** DeWight Dopslauf

**Regular or Supplemental RCA:** Regular RCA

**Type of Request:** Contract - Amendment

**Project ID** (if applicable): 230257

**Vendor/Entity Legal Name** (if applicable): School Readiness Consulting, LLC

**MWDBE Contracted Goal** (if applicable): N/A

**MWDBE Current Participation** (if applicable): N/A

**Justification for 0% MWDBE Participation Goal:** 0% - Specialized, Technical, or Unique in Nature

### **Request Summary (Agenda Caption):**

Request that the County Judge execute an amendment to an agreement with School Readiness Consulting, LLC to add an exhibit for a statement of work to the master agreement for early learning quality networks evaluation for Harris County for the period of January 30, 2024 - December 31, 2026 with no increase in the total contract amount (230257), Justification for 0% MWDBE Participation Goal: 0% - Specialized, Technical, or Unique in Nature.

### **Background and Discussion:**

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ARPA) was signed into law. Harris County Commissioners Court set goals for ARPA funding including providing educational opportunities to mitigate pandemic impacts.

At this urgent time for child development, there is less childcare available to support young children than ever, as a result of COVID-19. Research from Children at Risk indicates that approximately 25% of all childcare facilities closed statewide during the height of the pandemic and 20% of all available childcare capacity was lost. Communities of color were the most impacted by COVID-19 related closures. These communities experienced twice the rate of childcare disruptions and centers within these communities were twice as likely to close. In addition to the number of closures of programs overall, programs seeking to reopen, including school-based programs, struggle to hire qualified staff to support young children because of the pandemic.

Harris County's response to this information is to pilot a new, community-driven network approach to supporting quality improvement in early learning settings (primarily focused on childcare settings). The Early Learning Quality Network strategy goal is to improve early learning and care by working alongside providers, families, and other community stakeholders to focus on quality improvement initiatives that build upon the unique strengths and opportunities of each focal community. This work will be closely supported by the Harris County Department of Economic Equity and Opportunity.

Harris County has contracted with School Readiness Consulting, LLC (SRC) to engage in a comprehensive evaluation of

the Early Learning Quality Network (ELQN) project. Through this collaboration, SRC will work with Harris County to assess the impact of the ELQN initiative on the overall quality of childcare within the participating local communities.

Harris County is seeking an amendment to the SRC agreement to include the Statement of Work in the contract.

**Expected Impact:**

Upon approval of this amendment, School Readiness Consulting, LLC will be authorized to fulfill the Statement of Work mandated by the county.

**Alternative Options:**

The court reserves the right to decline approval of this amendment along with the Statement of Work, potentially posing a risk of incomplete work not meeting the detailed requirements set by Harris County for this evaluation.

**Alignment with Goal(s):**

- ☐ Justice and Safety
- ☐ Economic Opportunity
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Flooding
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Governance and Customer Service

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

Date	Agenda Item #	Action Taken
07/18/23	14	Advertisement
01/30/24	27	Award

**Location:**

Address (if applicable):

Precinct(s): [Choose an item.](#)

Fiscal and Personnel Summary				
Service Name				
	Current Fiscal Year Cost			Annual Fiscal Cost
	Labor	Non-Labor	Total	Recurring Expenses
Funding Sources				
Existing Budget				
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$	\$

Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Current Budget	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Additional Budget Request</b> ( <i>Requires Fiscal Review Request Form</i> )				
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Additional Budget Request	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total Funding Request</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Personnel</b> (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs)				
Current Position Count for Service	-	-	-	-
Additional Positions Request	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Personnel</b>	-	-	-	-

**Anticipated Court Date:** 04/23/24

**Anticipated Implementation Date (if different from Court date):** N/A

**Emergency/Disaster Recovery Note:** Not an emergency, disaster, or COVID-19 related item

**Contact(s) name, title, department:** Danielle Brooks, Manager, EEO ; Jeremy Woodard, Sourcing Manager, Purchasing

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