

ACTION ITEMS

PROCUREMENT

Texas Rising Star Contracted Slots Pilot Program

On July 12, 2022, Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Texas Rising Star Contracted Slots Pilot Program procurement. The deadline for proposals was August 11, 2022. The RFP requested Texas Rising Star 3- and 4-Star child care providers who were interested in creating a new service delivery design by reserving slots for eligible children residing in the Board's workforce area participating in the child care subsidy program.

WFSDallas received four (4) responsive proposals to the RFP. Proposals were competitively reviewed and scored based on the criteria in the RFP. The following providers are recommended for negotiations:

Proposals	Amount Requested	Number of Slots
(1) Pace and Ross Learning Center	\$ 156,711.60	12
(2) Wise Academy	\$ 95,360.00	7
(3) Bryan's House	\$ 112,632.00	5
(4) Riding Rainbows Child Development Center, Inc.	\$ 60,000.00	48

RECOMMENDATION: Board authorization to negotiate contracts in the order presented above, until funds are fully obligated. Each provider's information will be verified with the Texas Rising Star and Child Care Regulation's systems, at time of contract. A pre-contract provider survey will be conducted, as required by Texas Workforce Commission.

Child Care Quality

On July 12, 2022, WFSDallas released procurement for Child Care Quality with a deadline of Thursday, August 11, 2022. Thirteen (13) proposals were received by the deadline from Brookes Publishing Co., Camp Fire First Texas, ChildCareGroup, Educational First Steps, First3Years, KAS Consulting Group, Kindermusik International Inc., Teaching Strategies LLC, Teachstone, Inc., Texas Association for the Education of Young Children, and Together4Children with two (2) proposals returned.

Proposals were scored independently by a team of reviewers. The organizations listed below are recommended for contract negotiations or added to the approved vendors' list in the following order:

Professional Development and Other Innovative Activities

Organization Name	Proposed Cost	Proposed Activity
ChildCareGroup	\$2,107,172	Management and Operation of the TRS system as well as comprehensive mentoring services
Educational First Steps (EFS)	\$121,068	EFS Academy – CDA and Pre-service Course

Vendors' List

The following will be added to a vendors' list available to child care providers with training available on an as need basis. Training topics align with the core competencies for early childhood professionals identified by the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (*e.g., child growth and development; observation & assessment; health, safety & nutrition; and developmentally appropriate curriculum*). The approved vendors include:

- Camp Fire First Texas,
- Educational First Steps,
- First3Years,
- KAS Consulting Group,
- Kindermusik International Inc.,
- Teaching Strategies,
- Teachstone, Inc., and
- Together4Children

RECOMMENDATION: Board authorization to negotiate and contract with ChildCareGroup, and Educational First Steps presented above. In addition, approval to add selected vendors to provide authorized services, at reasonable rates, scheduled and delivered through October 2023 shall not exceed \$150,000 per vendor.

Copiers

WFSDallas released a procurement for copiers deadline of August 11, 2022. Four proposals were received from: **Canon, Novatech, Toshiba and Xerox**. All bids were scored independently by a team of reviewers with Xerox receiving the highest score based on the information received. Xerox was interviewed to clarify their submission due to the obvious error in pricing of a three-year service agreement. After receiving a corrected statement from Xerox, staff re-evaluated bids based on overall competitive costs. Toshiba has the highest score with Xerox (2nd), Canon (3rd) and Novatech (4th).

RECOMMENDATION: Board authorization to negotiate and contract with Toshiba for copier and printer services (bid amount of \$319,341) for a 36-month lease. In the event Toshiba cannot reach an agreement or errors are discovered in the original bid, WFSDallas will work with the next highest scoring bidder.

Upskilling

In the absence of any response to a properly posted and conducted procurement, WFSDallas will extend invitations to employers representing growth industries with good opportunities to upskill their employees.