

March 14, 2012

**ITEM NO. 3**

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES,  
CENTRAL STATES SER, INC., SUMMER ADVANTAGE AND UHLICH CHILDREN'S  
ADVANTAGE NETWORK TO IMPLEMENT THE LEARN AND EARN SUMMER  
YOUTH PROGRAM**

To the Honorable Board of Commissioners:

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of Commissioners ("Board") authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to execute contracts with Catholic Charities, Central States SER ("SER"), Entrepreneurial Ventures in Education, Inc. d/b/a Summer Advantage ("Summer Advantage") and Uhlich Children's Advantage Network ("UCAN") for one year base terms in an aggregate amount not-to-exceed \$1,421,401, and with three (3) one-year options to implement the Learn and Earn summer youth program (the "Program") for CHA youth, ages 13 - 15. This amount is exclusive of the approximate \$420,000 in stipends (up to \$600 per student based on attendance) that will be paid to participants by CHA.

**FUNDING SUMMARY**

**General Fund**

**Vendors:**

**Catholic Charities**

721 North LaSalle  
Chicago, Illinois 60654  
2012 Contract Amount: \$386,920

**Central States SER**

3948 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 213  
Chicago, Illinois 60623  
2012 Contract Amount: \$400,000

**Summer Advantage**

1001 Marina Drive, Suite 410  
Quincy, Massachusetts 02171  
2012 Contract Amount: \$283,772

**Uhlich Children's Advantage Network**

3737 North Mozart Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60618  
2012 Contract Amount: \$350,709

**Specification No.:** 11-00853

**Contract Type:** Cost Reimbursement

**Contract Period:** One (1) Year

**Aggregate Contract Amount:** \$1,421,401

**Option Period:** Three (3) One-Year Options

**Dates Advertised:** 12/2 – 12/7/2011

**Pre-Proposal Conference:** 12/14/2011

**Date Proposals Due:** 1/11/2012

**Advertisement:**

Chicago Sun-Times, Extra,  
Chicago Defender, CHA Website  
BuySpeed

**Number of Pick-Ups:** 35

**Number of Proposals Received:** 5

**Number of Vendors Solicited:** 159

**MBE:** 6 **WBE:** 12 **DBE:** 5

**Notification to Assist Agencies:** 64

**Catholic Charities:**

Direct: \_\_\_\_ %MBE \_\_\_\_ %WBE \_\_\_\_ %DBE

Indirect: 20 %MBE \_\_\_\_ %WBE \_\_\_\_ %DBE

Waiver \_\_\_\_

**Section 3:** 24 (#) Hiring \_\_\_\_ (\$) Subcontracting \_\_\_\_ (\$) Other Economic Opportunities

**Central States SER:**

Direct: 10.1 %MBE \_\_\_\_ %WBE \_\_\_\_ %DBE

Indirect: \_\_\_\_ %MBE 0.5 %WBE \_\_\_\_ %DBE

Waiver \_\_\_\_

**Section 3:** 12 (#) Hiring \_\_\_\_ (\$) Subcontracting \_\_\_\_ (\$) Other Economic Opportunities

**Summer Advantage:**

Direct: \_\_\_\_ %MBE \_\_\_\_ %WBE \_\_\_\_ %DBE

Indirect: 15.9 %MBE 4.7 %WBE \_\_\_\_ %DBE

Waiver \_\_\_\_

**Section 3:** 11 (#) Hiring \_\_\_\_ (\$) Subcontracting \_\_\_\_ (\$) Other Economic Opportunities

**Uhlich Children's Advantage Network:**

Direct: 16 %MBE \_\_\_\_ %WBE \_\_\_\_ %DBE

Indirect: 30.7 %MBE \_\_\_\_ %WBE \_\_\_\_ %DBE

Waiver \_\_\_\_

**Section 3:** 12 (#) Hiring \_\_\_\_ (\$) Subcontracting \_\_\_\_ (\$) Other Economic Opportunities

**GENERAL BACKGROUND**

The purpose of Request for Proposal No. 11-00853 (the "RFP") was to solicit vendors to implement CHA's Learn and Earn program, a six-week academic enrichment and career exploration program for CHA youth, ages 13-15. The Program is aligned with CHA's corporate strategy, including creating healthy and strong communities and helping families maximize their potential.

**Program History**

The impetus for the Program arose in 2008 when several CHA Commissioners raised concerns that youth in this age group lacked opportunities during the summer because they are too old for Chicago Park District summer camps and too young for summer employment. The Program was piloted in 2008 for 140 CHA youth. In 2009, the Program was expanded to accommodate 310 participants. Learn and Earn was increased to the current 700 slots in 2010 and 2011 (721 youth enrolled in 2011). From 2008 to 2011, the Learn and Earn summer youth program was funded by CHA through intergovernmental agreements with the city of Chicago Department of Family Support Services ("DFSS") and managed jointly by DFSS and CHA Resident Services staff. However, with the change in administration at DFSS, CHA was asked to assume direct control for managing the Program.

### **Program Model & Benefit to Participants**

The Program provides an academic enrichment and career development opportunity for approximately 700 CHA youth in order to prevent learning loss during out-of-school time. Research of best practices demonstrates the importance of the Program. According to Alexander, Entwisle and Olsen,<sup>1</sup> achievement gaps occur for youth during the summer months and the impact of learning loss subsequently impedes the educational progress of children of low socioeconomic status. In 2012, CHA will utilize pre- and post-tests and participant surveys to measure and document the effectiveness of the Program. Program metrics will include, but are not limited to maintaining program attendance, academic achievement and lack of learning loss, program satisfaction, and commitment to school attendance during the following academic year.

The Program will be in session for six (6) hours per day, five (5) days a week, for a total of 30 hours per week. CHA will be leveraging its relationship with City Colleges of Chicago (CCC), who will be providing space for the Program at all 7 City College of Chicago campuses. CHA will also leverage its relationship with DFSS, who will be providing breakfast and lunch for program participants through the Summer Food Service Program.

The Program will be held at City College campuses in order to provide youth an environment conducive to learning that is different from a traditional high school setting. Attending and navigating classes at a college campus provides CHA youth with exposure to higher education and encourages thinking beyond high school. Youth will also receive a stipend of up to \$600 based on attendance for their participation. This is similar to other summer programs operated by CHA and other organizations that provide stipends (e.g. After School Matters, DFSS, etc.).

During the program, youth will participate in a morning academic enrichment session based on the approved curriculum that will focus on reading and math proficiency. In the afternoon session, youth will participate in career development activities, including industry and career awareness, exploration and preparation. Each participant will complete a work ready profile, career development plan and participate in mock interviews. The daily curriculum will be supplemented with supportive engagement activities including guest speakers and weekly field trips designed around contextualized learning. Field trips are used to expose youth to multiple industry sectors and occupations.

### **Contractor Background**

The Contractors selected to operate the Program will be responsible for staffing, managing and implementing the curriculum at each site. The four (4) selected Contractors have a unique combination of experience with the Program. Following a competitive procurement process, CHA is recommending:

- Catholic Charities will operate the Program at Malcolm X College and Kennedy King College for 200 CHA youth. In 2011, DFSS also selected Catholic Charities as a new Learn and Earn provider and they were satisfied with their performance.
- UCAN will operate the Program at Olive Harvey College for 180 CHA youth. UCAN has been a Learn and Earn provider since the program's inception in 2008. DFSS and CHA have been satisfied their performance.

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<sup>1</sup> Alexander, K. L., Entwisle, D. R. and Olson, L. S. (2007), Summer learning and its implications: Insights from the Beginning School Study. *New Directions for Youth Development*, 2007: 11–32.

- SER will operate the Program at Dawson Tech and Harold Washington College for 200 CHA youth. SER has also been a Learn and Earn provider since the program's inception and DFSS and CHA have been satisfied with their performance.
- Summer Advantage will operate the Program at Truman College and West Side Tech for 120 CHA youth. Summer Advantage has received national recognition for a similar summer enrichment program implemented across the country, including within several charter schools in Chicago. In 2011, DFSS selected Summer Advantage to implement the curriculum for all Program sites. CHA will also be utilizing Summer Advantage to implement the curriculum and conduct pre- and post-tests at all Program sites.

### **PROCUREMENT HISTORY**

The CHA released and advertised the RFP on December 2, 2011 to solicit consultants and/or firms to implement CHA's Learn and Earn summer youth program. The RFP was advertised in the Chicago Sun-Times, the Chicago Defender, Extra, the CHA website, and BuySpeed (e-procurement system). The CHA also directly solicited 159 firms, including 23 MBE/WBE/DBE firms. A pre-proposal meeting was held on December 14, 2011, with vendors representing six (6) firms in attendance. The CHA received five (5) proposals on January 11, 2012. An evaluation committee consisting of five (5) members evaluated the proposals.

After the Evaluation Committee completed its analysis of the proposals, a competitive range was set and approved by the Contracting Officer, and 4 firms were found to be within the competitive range, and were scheduled for oral presentations on February 1, 2, 3 and 7, 2012. During these meetings, negotiations were held and best and final offers were submitted by each firm. Based upon the evaluations of the written proposals, oral presentations and best and final offers, it was determined that Catholic Charities, SER, Summer Advantage and UCAN will provide the best overall service and value to CHA. The average cost per participant of the program will be approximately \$2,000. Based on experience, it is necessary to maintain a ratio of 1:10 (instructors to youth) in the Program, with 62% of the per participant cost being dedicated to wages for teachers and support staff.

Based upon the foregoing, it is in the best interest of CHA to authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or his designee, to enter into cost-reimbursement contracts for a 1-year term, with 3, 1-year options with: (1) Catholic Charities in an amount not-to-exceed \$386,920 for the initial term; (2) SER in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 for the initial term; (3) Summer Advantage in an amount not to exceed \$283,772 for the initial term; and (4) UCAN in an amount not to exceed \$350,709 for the initial term, to implement CHA's Learn and Earn summer youth program for CHA youth ages 13-15. These amounts are exclusive of the approximate \$420,000 in stipends (up to \$600 per student based on attendance) that will be paid to program participants by CHA.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-CHA-19**

**WHEREAS,** the Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Housing Authority has reviewed the Board Letter dated March 14, 2012, entitled "AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES, CENTRAL STATES SER, INC., SUMMER ADVANTAGE AND UHLICH CHIRLDREN'S ADVANTAGE NETWORK TO IMPLEMENT THE LEARN AND EARN SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM";

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**THAT,** the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to enter into cost reimbursement contracts for a one year term, with 3 1-year options, with: (1) Catholic Charities in an amount not-to-exceed \$386,920 for the initial term; (2) SER in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 for the initial term; (3) Summer Advantage in an amount not to exceed \$283,772 for the initial term; and (4) UCAN in an amount not to exceed \$350,709 for the initial term, to implement CHA's Learn and Earn summer youth program for CHA youth ages 13-15. These amounts are exclusive of the approximate \$420,000 in stipends (up to \$600 per student based on attendance) that will be paid to program participants by CHA.

