

August 15, 2012

ITEM NO. A1

**RECOMMENDATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH BUILD, INC.,
CENTRAL STATES SER, ILLINOIS ACTION FOR CHILDREN, LINK UNLIMITED,
NEAR WEST SIDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND
REFLECTIONS FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE CHA YOUTH WITH YEAR ROUND
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, ACADEMIC AND FITNESS AND WELLNESS
OPPORTUNITIES**

To the Honorable Board of Commissioners:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to execute contracts with Build, Inc. (“Build”), Central States SER (“SER”), Illinois Action for Children (“IAFC”), Link Unlimited (“Link”), Near West Side Community Development Corporation (“NWS”), Reflections Foundation (“Reflections”) in an aggregate not-to-exceed amount of \$993,181 for a 1-year base term with 3 additional 1-year option periods to provide more than 650 CHA youth with year-round workforce development, academic and fitness and wellness opportunities.

The purpose of these contracts is to address a gap in youth services and provide year round safe, meaningful and age appropriate activities for CHA youth. The proposed programs support CHA’s corporate goals of investing in CHA youth by providing services and supports and empowering them for success in the global economy.

BACKGROUND

With over 40,000 CHA residents and HCV participants between the ages of 6 and 17, CHA’s Resident Services Division is charged with engaging youth in out-of-school time and summer activities to support their development. CHA’s new corporate strategy has an intentional focus on building healthy and strong communities. As such, the recommended youth opportunities utilize community based programs and leveraging existing resources to provide safe, meaningful and age appropriate activities for CHA youth.

In past years, CHA has offered a full menu of programs for youth during the summer months, however year round programming has been limited. The recommended programming will address the gap and provide year round youth engagement activities, with measureable outcomes, in the areas of:

- **Workforce Development** programs that will help CHA youth gain exposure to the workforce and begin to develop the skills necessary for work.
 - 90% of participants will show improvement in at least three (3) areas measured by the Employability and Life Skills Assessment.
 - 70% of youth will obtain employment and 85% of those will be retained for a minimum of 30 days.
- **Academic** programs that support CHA youth to pursue higher education.
 - Participants in academic programs will demonstrate a 90% grade matriculation;
 - 80% will improve at least one (1) letter grade in a core subject area.

- For Link 100% of participants will enroll in college preparatory courses and 80% will achieve honor roll quarterly.
- **Fitness and Wellness** programs that encourage a healthy lifestyle.
 - 75% of youth will improve their overall health as measured by specific indicators such as the President's Challenge Fitness Test or a reduction in Body Mass Index (BMI).

In addition to common metrics such as a 90% program retention rate and less than 3% of participants being removed for behavioral issues; each program will have additional unique targets and metrics that will measure specific program successes.

FUNDING

General Fund

PROCUREMENT HISTORY

Recommended Vendors:	Base Contract Amount	M/B/DBE Participation	Section 3	Leverage
BUILD, Inc. 1223 N. Milwaukee Chicago, IL 60642	\$85,679	Waiver	<i>No new hires</i> 1.5% to Fund	\$180,486
Central States SER 3848 W. 26 th St. – Suite 213 Chicago, IL 60623	\$120,000	1.5% Direct 33.6% Indirect	1 Hire	\$41,349
Illinois Action for Children 4753 N. Broadway – Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60640	\$359,730	20% Indirect	14 Hires	\$70,703
Link Unlimited 2221 South State Street Chicago, IL 60616	\$157,500	10.8% Indirect Partial Waiver	1 Hire	\$273,299
Near West Side Community Development Corporation 246 S. Hoyne Chicago, IL 60612	\$168,272	5.9% Indirect Partial Waiver	2 Hires	\$89,926
Reflections Foundation 10816 S. Parnell Chicago, IL 60628	\$102,000	6.7% Direct Partial Waiver	2 Hires	\$10,500
Total	\$993,181		20 Hires	\$666,263

Specification No.	12-00911	Date Advertised	4/4-10/2012
Contract Type	Professional Services	Pre-Proposal Conference	4/11/2012
Base Contract Period	One Year	Date Proposals Due	5/9/2012
Option Contract Period	Three One-Year Options	Advertisement Publications	Chicago Sun Times, Chicago Defender, Extra
		# of Vendors Solicited	54
# of Pick-ups	49	# of Proposals Received	15

EVALUATION PROCESS

After the Evaluation Committee completed its analysis of the proposals, a competitive range was set and approved by the Contracting Officer. Ten (10) firms were found to be within the competitive range and were scheduled for oral presentations on June 8, 11, 12, 13 and 14, 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 Build, SER, IAFC, Link, NWS and Reflections will provide the best overall service and value to CHA.

SCOPE OF WORK

The recommended contractors each offer a unique year-round experience for CHA youth. Following a competitive procurement, CHA is recommending:

Build, Inc. engages youth, ages 13-17, in academic, wellness and career development activities to help participants realize their educational and career potential and contribute to the stability and well-being of their communities. Through this agreement, 50 youth will be enrolled in Build's most intensive programming that includes, but is not limited to: 1) academic support through homework assistance, test prep, college preparation assistance, 2) fitness and wellness activities through wellness and medical checks, nutrition classes and mental health services, and 3) workforce development activities including goal setting, college tours, and job readiness skills. Youth will be engaged for a minimum of 10 hours per week. Youth will be recruited by FamilyWorks focusing on youth in the Austin community where Build's central facility is located.

Central States SER will provide a workforce development program focusing on career development and exploration for 50 CHA youth, ages 16-17. Youth will engage in career exploration in growing and high demand industries, including, but not limited to, health services, information technology, sales, hospitality and transportation, distribution and logistics (TDL) and entrepreneurial training. Additionally, participants will receive job readiness training (e.g. interview skills, time management, customer service, resume writing, etc). At the conclusion of the program, youth will be placed in appropriate employment opportunities, based on age, school, career interests, etc. and receive ongoing retention support. SER will provide training to three (3) cohorts, one (1) each in the fall, spring and summer terms. Youth will be recruited by FamilyWorks with a specific emphasis on youth in scattered sites and HCV. Youth will receive a stipend of \$400 based on attendance.

Illinois Action for Children will implement a year-round fitness and wellness program for 350 CHA youth, ages 6-13, at 10 sites; Altgeld Gardens, Horner/Westhaven, Dearborn Homes, Trumbull Park, ABLA-Brooks and Roosevelt Square, Cabrini (including mixed income), Wentworth Gardens, West End, Oakwood Shores and Lowden Homes. Based upon the SPROUT! program model, which utilizes the ReCharge fitness and wellness curriculum designed to work with the President's Challenge, and focuses on four core concepts: Energy In (nutrition), Energy Out (physical activity), Teamwork and Goal-Setting. Youth participants will engage in three (3) hours of programming every Saturday during the academic year. During the summer months, SPROUT! utilizes the Summer Food Service facilities and will engage youth five (5) hours a day Monday thru Friday for six (6) weeks.

Link Unlimited's Educational Access and Academic Enrichment program is a city-wide comprehensive, in-depth academic enrichment program that supports youth in attending highly competitive private high schools and supplemental educational enrichment programs designed to expand their education and personal development. In addition to tuition support, each Link scholar receives year round one-on-one mentoring with a successful leader from Chicago's business community, regular tutoring assistance from professional tutors and a 6-week intensive summer school program. Through this agreement, during the 2012-13 school year, 25 existing CHA scholars currently receiving scholarships from Link will receive support for tutoring, study skills, books, materials and other support. In the 2013-14 academic year, CHA will fund 10 new scholarships of \$5,000 each to increase Link's capacity. Link will provide an additional 10 scholarships for a total of 20 new scholars in the fall of 2013.

Near West Side's Youth Zone provides youth, ages 6-17, a comprehensive menu of out-of-school activities that provides age appropriate workforce development, academic support and fitness and wellness skills. Youth Zone offers a wide menu of programming that allows youth to create a customized experience based on interest and need. All available programming from the Fit4Life, Tech Trailblazers, Project ME (music and entertainment) and various sports and STEM programs are built on the same core pillars of academic and career achievement, health and character development. All programming integrates parent participation, including parenting workshops and the ability to participate in certain program opportunities. Through this agreement, NWS will increase the capacity of their Youth Zone program by 50 CHA youth from the near west side and the surrounding community.

Reflections Foundation's Polished Pebbles Girls Mentoring program is a workforce development for girls, ages 11-14. The goal of the Polished Pebbles program is to provide girls with the necessary skills to effectively communicate and instill confidence in participants to face the challenges of daily life by utilizing appropriate forms of communication to gain respect without retaliation. Through partnerships with local schools, businesses and a pool of more than 100 volunteer mentors, Reflections introduces participants to various career options from technology to medicine to design, while simultaneously developing productive and successful relationships with peers and mentors. Reflections will implement cohorts of 30 CHA youth each at Dearborn in partnership with the Illinois Institute of Technology, Lowden in partnership with Chicago State University and a new program for scattered site and HCV residents on the north side in partnership with Macy's.

CONCLUSION

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 one (1) year base term, with three (3) one-year options with (1) Build, Inc., in an amount not-to-exceed \$85,679 for the base term; (2) Central States SER in an amount not-to-exceed \$120,000 for the base term; (3) Illinois Action for Children in an amount not-to-exceed \$359,730 for the base term; (4) Link Unlimited in an amount not-to-exceed \$157,500 for the base term; (5) Near West Side Community Development Corporation in an amount not-to-exceed \$168,272 for the base term; and (6) Reflections Foundation in an amount not-to-exceed \$102,000 for the base term to provide more than 650 CHA youth with year-round workforce development, academic and fitness and wellness opportunities.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-CHA-60

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Housing Authority as reviewed the Board Letter dated August 15, 2012, entitled "RECOMMENDATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH BUILD, INC., CENTRAL STATES SER, ILLINOIS ACTION FOR CHILDREN, LINK UNLIMITED, NEAR WEST SIDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND REFLECTIONS FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE CHA YOUTH WITH YEAR ROUND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, ACADEMIC AND FITNESS AND WELLNESS OPPORTUNITIES";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY

THAT, the Board of Commissioners authorized the Chief Executive Officer, or his designee to enter into cost-reimbursement contracts for a one (1) year base term, with three (3) one-year options with (1) Build, Inc., in an amount not-to-exceed \$85,679 for the base term; (2) Central States SER in an amount not-to-exceed \$120,000 for the base term; (3) Illinois Action for Children in an amount not-to-exceed \$359,730 for the base term; (4) Link Unlimited in an amount not-to-exceed \$157,500 for the base term; (5) Near West Side Community Development Corporation in an amount not-to-exceed \$168,272 for the base term; and (6) Reflections Foundation in an amount not-to-exceed \$102,000 for the base term to provide more than 650 CHA youth with year-round workforce development, academic and fitness and wellness opportunities.

