

DETERMINATION AND FINDING FOR A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT

AGENCY: District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) – Office of Teaching and Learning

CAPTION: Competitive Employment Placement

PROPOSED CONTRACTOR: Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities (MFPD) - Bridges
From School to Work, also known as Bridges

PROGRAM OFFICE: Office of Teaching and Learning, Division of Specialized Instruction

FINDINGS

1. Authorization:

D.C. Code 2-354.04.5 and 27 DCMR, Section 1304 and 1702

2. Minimum need:

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), Office of Specialized Instruction (OSI), has an immediate need to obtain support placing students with disabilities, who are pursuing a diploma, in competitive employment careers aligned to the Post-secondary goal for employment on their Individualized Education Program (IEP), and their Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) during the 2016/17 academic year.

3. Estimated cost:

The estimated cost is \$65,000.00

4. Facts which justify a sole source procurement:

The District of Columbia Public Schools, Division of Specialized Instruction (DSI) recommends securing MFPD as a vendor to place students in careers aligned to their IEP and IPE for the following reasons:

Overall History of job placement – Bridges, currently has active relationships with dozens of DC area organizations, businesses, and government agencies. These relationships leave Bridges uniquely poised to support DCPS students, with disabilities in careers aligned to their IEP and IPE which is contingent on the existence of strong local partnerships for students with disabilities. Also, because Bridges does not have to expend significant resources building out new relationships, they are able to keep their costs at a reasonable rate.

History of strong performance with DCPS – Bridges has partnered with DCPS to place students in jobs for years, and each of these years Bridges has met its targets. The partnership began with Bridges receiving a grant from the Department of Labor to implement the job training and placement program in DCPS. When the grant ended DCPS was just beginning to form a Transition Team in 2011, to meet the workforce development needs for students with disabilities.

Through the Blackman-Jones Procurement Process, DCPS was able to create a Contract with Bridges to provide workforce development training and job placement during the 2011 – 2012 through the 2013 – 2014 school years. During the 2014 – 2015 and 2015 – 2016 school years the Division used its newly hired Workforce Development Coordinators to perform tasks previously completed by Bridges. However, Bridges willingly created a MOU to cover the cost of supporting DCPS with job placement activities during the transition to a more robust Workforce Development model.

DCPS is asking Bridges to implement a portion of the Workforce Development model which places students with disabilities, exiting with a Standard High School Diploma, in jobs related to their career interests. This contract will serve as a continuation of our partnership to provide supports and services to students that meet our revised needs.

Unique qualifications and experience – Established in 1989 by the Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities, Bridges from School to Work engages employers, schools, community resources, youth and their families to help businesses meet their workforce needs while offering young people with disabilities the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed through employment.

Each year, Bridges helps more than a thousand young people—most of whom are transitioning out of high school special education—prepare for the workplace and find a job with an employer in need of qualified, entry-level applicants. Creating and supporting mutually beneficial competitive employment relationships, the program creates opportunities for employment for youth while driving bottom-line results for business.

In summary, Bridges’ successful history, their numerous area partnerships, and their unique experience make them a viable partner for this work.

CERTIFICATION BY THE DCPS PROGRAM OFFICE:

I hereby certify that the above findings are correct and that the anticipated cost to DCPS is fair and reasonable.

Date

Division of Specialized Instruction

CERTIFICATION AND DETERMINATION

Based on the above certified findings in accordance with the cited authority, I hereby determine that it is not feasible or practical to invoke the competitive bidding process under Section 402 or 403 of the District of Columbia Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-371; DC Code 2-354 and 27 DCMR 1304 and 1702.

Date

Deputy Chief Procurement Officer