

**DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS
FOR A
SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

AGENCY: District of Columbia Public Schools, Office of Instructional Practice
CAPTION: Summer Intensive Program (Mary Jane Patterson Fellowship)
PROPOSED CONTRACTOR: NYC Leadership Academy
CONTRACT NO.: N/A

FINDINGS

1. AUTHORIZATION:

D.C. Official Code § 2-354.04, 27 DCMR, Sections 1304 and 1701

2. MINIMUM NEED:

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) Office of Instructional Practice has an immediate need for a Contractor to provide a summer simulation curriculum, facilitation, and design support services for DC Public Schools aspiring leader program (The Mary Jane Patterson Fellowship). The contractor shall provide the following three areas of service critical to the goals and objectives of DCPS:

1. Construction of school leadership simulations, including data, fictional teacher profiles, and school-based challenges that reflect the DCPS context.
2. Weekly and daily curriculum design, including themes, assignments, and activities that Fellows will complete as part of the summer simulation.
3. Capacity building support, so that DCPS can develop the necessary facilitation skills and simulation development skills to assure success this summer and long-term sustainability.

3. ESTIMATED REASONABLE PRICE:

The estimated fair and reasonable price is \$64,005.00 from date of award to September 30, 2016

4. FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:

I. Background and history of this vendor with DCPS

The New York City Leadership Academy (NYCLA) is a nationally recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that prepares and supports passionate, high-quality educators to lead schools that accelerate student learning and that increases the capacity of systems across the country to develop and support such educational leaders. The

have graduated over 500 school leaders from their flagship program and they have worked with more than 40 clients in 26 states, including five of the six schools systems (Charlottes Mecklenburg, Denver, Gwinnett County, New York City, and Prince George's County) responsible for developing school leadership pipelines through the Wallace Foundation principal pipeline initiative. The Wallace Foundation effort to develop school leaders has served as a model for DCPS and the Mary Jane Patterson Fellowship.

DCPS has a history of working with NYCLA through a variety of channels. Most notably, DCPS sent a team of leaders to observe the NYCLA program in the early days of constructing the Mary Jane Patterson Fellowship. Many of the structures and guiding principles that the Mary Jane Patterson Fellowship uses were developed based on this partnership. More recently, the Mary Jane Patterson Fellowship partnered with NYCLA in the fall of 2015 to develop the purpose and goals for the summer simulation that we are now working to operationalize.

II. Vendor's Unique Qualifications

Nationally, few organizations can claim to equal NYCLA's reach in terms of principal preparation efforts. NYCLA has extensive experience in developing leadership workshops for aspiring principals. Over the past decade, NYCLA has pioneered unique strategies to prepare high quality professionals for the principalship. They have developed curricula and worked to support school systems throughout the country to implement leadership development programs.

NYCLA has also done the very specific work DCPS currently endeavor to complete, and they have experience building school system capacity to sustain the work. No other vendor has done this. Specifically, they have the experience and the credentials necessary to develop an intensive summer learning program designed to simulate the intensity of the principalship. Further, they have extensive experience supporting school systems hoping to develop the curriculum, facilitation skills, and school design necessary to sustain an intensive summer simulation.

In short, no other vendor has both the history of working in urban school districts (among them DCPS), the experience in developing school simulations for aspiring principals, and the capacity building expertise, as does NYCLA. Further, they are the only vendor that has a robust summer curriculum that DCPS can modify and use for our work.

III. Adverse impact of not choosing this vendor or completing this project

If NYCLA is not retained as a vendor, DCPS will not be on track to meet its leadership development goals for 2017-2018. Each year, a cohort of Mary Jane Patterson Fellows fills a critical hiring need for schools in DCPS. In the 2015-2016 school year

Mary Jane Patterson Fellows are serving as school leaders in 20 schools. Having the Fellowship reflect best practices of leadership development is a critical component of assuring that these school leaders are positioned for success in their new leadership roles.

This work is necessary because leadership development is a critical function of the Office of Instructional Practice at DCPS. The Chancellor has maintained that the principalship is the most challenging job in the district, and having an effective principal in every school is an essential component of assuring that all of our schools are preparing students for college, career, and life.

Our review of the Patterson Fellowship curriculum and outcomes led to the decision to bolster the work DCPS is doing in the summer with our Fellows. The New York City Leadership Academy is the only entity in the country that can assure that our work in this endeavor yields meaningful progress in the lives of our Fellows and – ultimately – their schools.

A market survey was conducted and the three vendors surveyed were NYCLA, PELS Simulations and Discovery Learning. As a result of the market survey it was determined NYCLA was the only vendor that can provide the services which meet the requirements of DCPS.

5. CERTIFICATION BY PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

I hereby certify that the above findings are true, correct and complete.

Date

Office of Instructional Practice

DETERMINATION

Based on the above certified findings and 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; D.C. Official Code § 2-354.04) and 27 DCMR 1304 and 1701. Accordingly, I determine that the District is justified in using the sole source method of procurement.

Date

Contracting Officer