

## DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS FOR SOLE SOURCE

**AGENCY:** District of Columbia Public Schools  
**CAPTION:** Curriculum Development  
**PROPOSED CONTRACTOR:** Kindred, Inc.  
**REQUISITION NO.:** RK120444

### FINDINGS

1. **Authorization:**

D.C. Code 2-354 and 27 DCMR, Section 1304 and 1702

2. **Minimum Need:**

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) has a need to develop and implement a customized curriculum for parent-to-action sessions that blend the parent café curriculum with race and equity dialogue to build coalition of parent who support their own and each other's children's development.

3. **Estimated Fair and Reasonable Cost:**

The estimated reasonable price is \$25,000.00 from date of award through July 31, 2019.

4. **Facts That Justify a Sole Source Requirement:**

**I. Background and History of The Vendor with DCPS**

The federal Head Start grant requires that DCPS develop and implement family engagement programming that meets the needs of its population. According to our most recent community assessment the changing demographic of DC's communities require that we develop and implement new strategies that build positive and trusting relationships among families of diverse backgrounds that lead to increased engagement in schools and communities.

Kindred has worked successfully over the past three years with nine elementary schools in Washington DC to engage more than 200 families in small group dialogues where parents build skills and mindsets to support the development of their own and each other's children. In 2017 and 2018, two external research institutions, the Urban Institute and Community Science, respectively, performed evaluations of Kindred's program and found very strong association between Kindred's activities and shifts in parent empathy, access to resources, connection with one another and ability to support their child's educational pathway. These studies further found that Kindred's model enabled parents to set up structures to sustain support for one another. These outcomes are in direct alignment with the goals of the Office of Early Childhood Education (ECE).

**II. Vendors Unique Qualification**

Kindred is uniquely qualified for the work described in the statement of work due to the organization's knowledge and experience implementing race and equity work in school communities. Due to the non-traditional demographics of this Head Start Model, it is essential to retain a consultant that has nuanced understanding of family engagement strategies and race and equity

dynamics in Washington, DC and DCPS. Kindred has been successfully worked with schools in the district for over two years to build relationships among parents and school leaders that drive equity in school communities. DCPS ECE will save time, money and effort by utilizing Kindred's services for this project, as the agency possesses a comprehensive understanding of family engagement, the changing demographic of DC and has worked extensively with the population we serve and other DCPS families. Awarding a sole source procurement to Kindred will provide increased family engagement in addition to developing a more diverse community of parent advocates and school leaders.

Kindred was founded in 2016 and organizes and cultivates collaborative parent leadership in elementary schools in Washington, DC through dialogue and collective action. Kindred specializes in building empathy, parent agency and deepened understanding of the value of diversity among parents of different backgrounds who bring varied experiences with formal education to the school community.

5. **Certification by DCPS Program:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of Early Childhood Education

**CERTIFICATION AND DETERMINATION**

Based on the above certified findings in accordance 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candace Butler, Contracting Officer