

GULF COAST WORKFORCE BOARD PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

Agenda

Thursday, March 21st, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

By Hybrid Meeting

at 3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor meeting room B/C

or via Zoom at https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MoXJjLoITEK3w5xXgtWAvq

The presiding officer will be present at the meeting location listed above to convene this meeting.

1. Call to Order

Chair Dr. Bobbie Henderson

2. Committee Member Roll Call

Roll call of committee members.

3. Public Comment

Anyone wishing to make a public comment may do so by appearing in person or by joining online via the link listed above or by dialing 1-877-853 5247 or 1-888-788 0099 (Webinar ID 847 5164 4682; Passcode: 220175)

4. Early Education Professional Pathways

Discussion and possible action to award a contract to provide services under the Early Education Professional Pathways initiative.

5. Partners for Reentry Opportunities in Workforce Development (PROWD)

Discussion and possible action to award a contract to Alvin Community College to implement the PROWD grant.

6. Upcoming System Procurements

Review of procurement schedule.

7. Adjourn

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Workforce Board will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending meetings. Requests should be received 24 hours prior to the function by contacting Deborah Duke at 713.993.4522 or deborah.duke@wrksolutions.net.

Procurement Committee

Early Education Professional Pathways

Background

The Board provides various services to improve the quality of early childhood education throughout the region. To continuously address the needs of childcare providers, we identified the need for an early education teacher recruitment and preparation program as a pathway for entry level child care teachers to gain the training and experience needed to provide quality learning for young children.

This initiative includes the following key elements:

- a) recruit eligible individuals interested in early care and education.
- b) provide professional development resulting in Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.
- c) provide in-classroom paid skills development and mentoring.
- d) develop a career roadmap to upskill individuals to higher paying jobs in early education or other related fields.
- e) connect individuals with childcare programs for employment post training.

Current Situation

The Early Education Professional Pathways RFP (Request for Proposal) was issued late 2023 to select a qualified service provider to administer the child care teacher training and development program. Five candidates submitted proposals and the evaluation team conducted a thorough review and scoring process to identify the best proposer for completing this work on behalf of the board. The following entities submitted proposals:

Proposer	Rank
ChildrenFlow LLC	1
TNTP	2
Avilo Inc.	3
Meagan Copelin Global Management Consultants	4
WEB Strategic Enterprises	5

During the final selection process, interviews were conducted with the top two proposers with the highest scores.

ChildrenFlow LLC scored the highest of the top two proposers. ChildrenFlow provides teacher preparation professional development and in-class teacher

coaching in head start, child care and pre- kindergarten programs throughout the Gulf Coast region.

TNTP ranked second in the scoring. TNTP is a national organization with experience working on large-scale teacher training programs supporting school systems such as the Texas Education Agency and Houston Independent School System. TNTP also supports teacher training programs in New York and Nevada.

Recommendation

We request Board approval to negotiate a contract with ChildrenFlow for up to \$600,000 to provide services under the Early Education Professional Pathways initiative.

Procurement Committee

Partners for Reentry Opportunities in Workforce Development

Background

The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Labor (DOL) launched a grant initiative to provide targeted employment services to federally incarcerated individuals as they approach community reentry. The Partners for Reentry Opportunities in Workforce Development (PROWD) grant program seeks to better align job training and skills development services provided to program participants to the specific labor market needs of the communities where they will live. In so doing, the program will improve both the employment outcomes of returning citizens and public safety of all community members while increasing the capacity of justice and workforce system partnerships.

The funding supports the delivery of pre- and post-release services to participants in three stages:

- Stage one: Training and supportive reentry services offered to people before their federal prison release to a residential reentry center (RRC) or home confinement.
- Stage two: Training and job placement services and supportive reentry services provided to people after their transition to a reentry center or home confinement.
- Stage three: Additional supportive reentry and employment services, including on-the-job-training, provided to participants once they transition into the community after their full release.

Current Situation

In 2023 the Texas Workforce Commission reached out to Workforce Development Boards interested in joining this project, successfully securing \$4.6 million in partnership with eight Workforce Development Boards. Gulf Coast received an initial grant award of \$212,408 in February 2023 with an anticipated future allocation of \$200,000 later this year.

In our grant application we proposed partnering with Alvin Community College given their proven track record in this space. In 2021 Alvin Community College developed the New Beginnings Project to provide second-chance students classes leading to degree/certification in partnership with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The program matches regional employers with individuals

possessing industry-required skillsets and connects second-chance individuals with support systems in local communities. The New Beginnings program has enrolled over 394 individuals since its inception.

Through the PROWD grant we will serve individuals during their time with a reentry center or under home confinement and as they transition into the community after their full release. We plan to serve 105 people over a three-year period. Participants will follow 1 of 3 customized career pathways.

Pathway One: Participants who are Basic Skills Deficient will be offered the following services, as appropriate, before being referred to occupational skills training:

- Academic Adult Basic Education (ABE)
- High School Equivalency (HSE)
- English Language Learner instruction

These services will be provided to participants in Stages 2 or 3 who have not already completed ABE or HSE programs. The following services will also be provided:

- Labor Market Information
- Job readiness
- Soft skills training
- Financial literacy
- Referral to mental health services and substance dependency services, as needed.

Pathway Two: Participants who have high school or advanced education, will receive all the services that Pathway One participants receive (except for ABE services) before they are offered vocational skills training.

Pathway Three: Participants are expected to have a credential or certifications and will be offered the following:

- Labor Market Information
- Job readiness
- Soft skills
- Financial literacy
- Referral to mental health services and substance dependency services, if applicable
- Stacked certifications (additional earned certifications)

Recommendation

We request Board approval to negotiate a contract with the Alvin Community College for up to \$412,408 to implement the Partners for Reentry Opportunities in Workforce Development program.

Procurement Committee

Upcoming System Procurements

The table below provides information on the status of the various components of our system, including when they will need to be reprocured:

System Component	Service Provider(s)	Last Procurement	Next Scheduled Procurement Release (Calendar Year)
Public Information and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach Strategists • Savage Brands 	2022	2024 – First Quarter
Adult Education and Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region VI ESC and 14 Regional Consortium Partners 	2017	TWC procurement released in November 2023. GCWB application successfully submitted on 1/19/24.
Career Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BakerRipley • Equus • Interfaith of the Woodlands 	2021	2025 – First Quarter
Next Generation Youth Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries (ACAM) • Career Team • SER Jobs 	2021	2025 – First Quarter
Financial Aid Payment Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BakerRipley 	2022	2026 – First Quarter
Financial Aid Support Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equus 	2022	2026 – First Quarter
Quality Early Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UTHSC CLI 	2022	2026 – First Quarter
Employer Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SERCO of Texas 	2023	2027 – First Quarter