



Board of Commissioners Resolution

B2020-230

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

Sponsor: Workforce Solutions

Meeting Date: 11/17/2020

Item Number: 2020-403

Title: Agreement with Goodwill-Easter Seals for Minnesota Family Investment Program - Families Achieving Success Today Program

Background:

The primary objectives of the Families Achieving Success Today (FAST) program are to work with the whole family in a highly engaged and more meaningful way to increase the percentage of participants in paid employment and education levels through career building, family income, economic stability and well-being. FAST enrollees are more likely to obtain and maintain employment, enroll in social service programs, increase their education levels, engage in workforce programming and actively seek employment than their peers enrolled in mainstream employment services.

In 2011, Ramsey County Workforce Solutions piloted the FAST project that integrated services for pre-60 month Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) families with multiple barriers based on the Individual Placement and Support model (IPS), a well-documented best practice in the mental health community.

As a result of the success of the project and learnings achieved, Ramsey County Workforce Solutions released a Request for Proposals (RFP) in 2016 for the MFIP Families Achieving Success Today (FAST) program and continued to work with the selected vendor to provide IPS services to families. As of the end of December 31, 2020, the five-year term agreement will come to an end.

On June 24, 2020, Ramsey County released an RFP to seek a vendor to provide services for the MFIP FAST Program. The FAST program co-locates a multidisciplinary team, including mental and physical health providers, cultural elders and cultural services, county case managers and more to deliver a spectrum of coordinated full-family services in a safe, supportive and culturally attuned space.

The FAST program is a significant interest to the research and evaluation community because it is the first of its kind in the country and has consistently delivered positive outcomes. In 2019, Ramsey County was approached by Mathematica Policy Research to enter into a randomized control study of FAST to evaluate whether FAST program participants are better off than the control. The study is called NextGen and Ramsey County is expected to receive considerable financial and technical assistance resources from NextGen in 2021. If Ramsey County is awarded NextGen, the funds will be added to the agreement with Goodwill-Easter Seals to adequately support the study.

Below is a competitive solicitation summary:

Title	MFIP FAST Program
RFP released date	June 24, 2020
RFP response date	August 6, 2020

Number of contractors notified	73 recipients received direct email notifications and the online DemandStar system sent out 282 notifications.
Number of RFP responses received	2
Evaluation Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning Specialist, Ramsey County Workforce Solutions 2. Employment Guidance Supervisor, Ramsey County Workforce Solutions 3. Program Supervisor, Dakota County Employment and Economic Assistance Department 4. Program Supervisor, Washington County Workforce Development Division
RFP Evaluation Criteria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contractor Qualifications 2. Key Personnel Qualifications 3. Project Understanding and Approach 4. Cost 5. Equity Analysis Qualification 6. Cultural Competence and Culturally Appropriate Services
Contractor recommended	Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota

The evaluation team evaluated the two proposals based on the criteria identified in the solicitation and is recommending Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota.

The term of the agreement will be for the initial period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023, with the option to renew up to one 2-year period for a 5 year period, in accordance with the rates established in the agreement.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the selection of and the agreement with Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota, 553 Fairview Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55106 to provide integrated services for Minnesota Family Investment Program Families Achieving Success Today program for the initial period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023, with the option to renew up to one 2-year period for a 5 year period, in accordance with the rates established in the agreement.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the agreement.
3. Authorize the County Manager to execute change orders and amendments to the agreement in accordance with the County's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of available funding.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Carter seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Ayes – 7: Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, Reinhardt, Carter. Motion passed.

By: _____
Janet M. Guthrie, Chief Clerk – County Board