

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Renewal of Lease Agreement between the School Board of Broward County, Florida, and Hispanic Unity of Florida, Inc.

### **Additional Background Information:**

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, (SBBC) has partnered with Hispanic Unity of Florida, Inc., (HUF) for 22 years.

Originally founded in 1982 by community leaders to ease the acculturation process, HUF is Broward County's largest 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to the immigrant population. For more than 34 years, this agency has left an indelible mark on the more than 380,000 individuals and families served and continues to stand by its mission of: Empowering immigrants and others to become self-sufficient, productive and civically engaged.

With 12 programs and more than 30 services offered in four languages, this agency is able to serve Broward's diverse community. Two-thirds of HUF's clients hail from Latin nations and the Caribbean, complemented by American-born clients including African-Americans, Caucasians and others.

In 2015, HUF served 17,000 clients, from toddlers to adults, from more than 25 countries at eight permanent Broward County sites, 15 temporary tax preparation sites and 9 Citizenship class facilities. This agency focused on three major areas: Language & Education, Economic Mobility & Entrepreneurship, and Citizenship & Civic Engagement and also provided services in the areas of Health & Well Being, Equal Treatment & Opportunity and Advocacy.

In 2007-2008, HUF purchased the building of which the SBBC currently leases 2,417 square feet. HUF indicated it spent over \$500,000 to renovate the building. Included in this cost was \$33,158 it obtained as Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the City of Hollywood to help defray the cost of making the restrooms utilized by the School District compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The District contributed an additional \$19,000 towards this endeavor.

The District through Community School South offers day and evening English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes and assists in the recruitment of students to take advantage of the services provided by HUF. The District's day and evening classes are offered Monday through Thursday for two semesters and a summer term. The day program runs from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The evening program runs from 5 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. The District receives Full Time Equivalent (FTE) funding for up to 416 students per day. SBBC also provide family literacy services through the SBBC's, Family Literacy Program to all enrolled ESOL students and their families. The District currently services over 200 families.

The monthly rental cost is \$3,827.18. The yearly cost is \$45,926.16. Community School South also pays \$17,969.27 annually for part-time custodial support, \$1,379.06 annually for custodial supplies, \$2,428 annually for instructional materials and supplies, \$5,170.80 annually for electric costs, and \$3,156 annually for telephone and internet costs. The total revenue for the 2014-2015 year was \$176,923. Total student enrollment was 805 students for the 2014-2015 year. The partnership with HUF is imperative due to the fact that the students are comfortable utilizing the services, enrolling in local/neighborhood classes, and are familiar with the program services available in their neighborhood.

As earlier stated, HUF is a full service center which includes a 2-1-1 Community hotline, where SBBC through Community School South provides the educational component to adults and their children through ESOL and Family Literacy services. The partnership with HUF coupled with Community School South's ESOL and Family Literacy Services makes it a strong and efficient full service center, also, more than 17,000 families and students benefit from the services offered by HUF each year. Feedback received by the Program staff indicates to remove the educational component from the HUF site would cripple it as a full service center; and again, the full service model that is in place at HUF allows for them to have all of their educational, social and 2-1-1 needs in a one-stop facility.

The current Lease Agreement between the SBBC and HUF, was made effective June 1, 2015, and expires on May 31, 2016. As directed by the Board, all leases go through a comparability study including a review of comparable leases (see attached comparable site matrix), available administrative sites, and possible relocation of programs in nearby schools. In light of the Board's directive, District Staff researched several nearby administrative sites. The results returned that there were no administrative sites in the vicinity of HUF where students can be redirected. District Staff also consider nearby school facilities, only to find out there was no space available to house the program or would require the students attending the Community School South program to be fingerprinted, as children and adult students cannot be comingled. It should also be noted the students in this community have transportation barriers which makes it difficult for students to travel long distances. The lease is being brought for the Board's consideration at this time, for a year. The lease is consistent with the District's due diligence regarding facilities leased by the SBBC.