

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Recommendation of \$500,000 or Greater FY20-065 – Student Psychological and Mental Health Services

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#### **Introduction**

##### **Responsible: Procurement & Warehousing Services (PWS)**

This request is to approve the recommendation to award the Request for Proposal (RFP) FY20-065 – Student Psychological and Mental Health Services for three (3) years, four (4) months from March 4, 2020 through June 30, 2023, with an option for two (2) additional one (1) year renewal periods. This RFP will provide student psychological and mental health therapy services for district students.

The spending authority being requested is \$3,785,200.

#### **Goods/Services Description**

##### **Responsible: Exceptional Student Learning Support (ESLS)**

The State of Florida Senate Bill 7026 provides a Mental Health Assistance Allocation and was created to assist school districts in establishing or expanding school-based mental health care. Community resources, evidence-based mental health services, and treatment will be provided to Broward County Public School (BCPS) students in need of mental health assistance. BCPS is focused on the well-being of its students and the implementation of best practice processes and solutions. BCPS plans to address the emotional and behavioral issues that specifically arise in the classroom with a structured, intensive school-based program designed to address each student's mental health, emotional, and behavioral issues that create a barrier to effective learning.

The students participating in the therapy services may have serious mental health, behavioral, and emotional difficulties that have resulted in more than one of the following:

- Significant impairments in major life activities, which may have become increasingly disabling over time and require frequent, supportive and intensive interventions to avoid removal from their school and/or home;
- Compromised ability to self-regulate and thrive in a contained or resourced classroom without intensive interventions;
- Slow academic progress due to behavior problems and lack of therapeutic support with concurrent high rate disciplinary referrals for school-related incidents; and
- Difficulty with interpersonal relationships and require interventions at home and/or in the community.

The actual needs for psychology/mental health services will vary based on the number of students identified as needing services. Mental Health Services include a range of prevention programs oriented toward the prevention of more serious mental health issues. Psychologists typically work the same hours as the classroom teacher. They may meet with the teacher before the students arrive after the students leave or within the school day as appropriate. Psychologists will use the additional time for record-keeping, progress monitoring, Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings, five hundred and four (504) meetings, etc. School Psychologists work four (4) weeks beyond the teacher calendar and can provide assessment services on non-students' days by scheduling appointments with the family. There is no overtime nor does SBBC pay per-diem or travel expenses. The District has been seeking full-time personnel to fill vacancies and temporary personnel to serve as long-term subs for District personnel on leave. The assignments generally last for the full school year and extended school year opportunities may be offered. Orientation – Prior to the start of each

**Recommendation of \$500,000 or Greater**  
**FY20-065 – Student Psychological and Mental Health Services**  
**March 3, 2020 Board Agenda**  
**Page 2**

school year, the District will hold an orientation meeting. The orientation meeting must be attended by all psychologists selected by the District to provide services under this RFP.

School psychological services are defined as, but shall not be limited to:

- Screening,
- Diagnostic evaluations,
- Evaluations of suspected disabilities for ESE eligibility,
- Completion of Psychoeducational or Multidisciplinary Reports,
- Small group, in class or individual counseling with identified students
- Record keeping for student attendance in counseling sessions,
- Preparation of counseling plans,
- Completion of progress reports and counseling notes,
- Attendance and participation is required multidisciplinary team meetings,
- Attending eligibility and reevaluation plan meetings,
- Preparation of paperwork related to eligibility and discontinuation/dismissal meetings,
- Participation in school-based response to intervention activities,
- Medicaid billing,
- Attendance at approved District in-service meetings, as requested,
- Consulting with parents and, school/district staff, and
- School-related duties, as requested.

**Procurement Method**

**Responsible: PWS**

The procurement method chosen is through a competitive solicitation, which is required by Purchasing Policy 3320, Part II, Rule D, and Florida Administrative Code 6A-1.012(7).

This is the first time a solicitation has been released for these services.

The solicitation for this RFP was released to the public through Demandstar from August 13, 2019, and opened on September 17, 2019, where two hundred and twenty-eight (228) vendors were notified, and twenty-one (21) vendors downloaded the RFP documentation. Procurement & Warehousing Services received eight (8) proposals, and two (2) proposals did not meet the minimum eligibility requirements of the RFP.

Proposals received from the following proposers:

All Source Recruiting Group, Inc. d/b/a Ardor Health Solutions (Disqualified)  
CareerStaff Unlimited, LLC  
Community Rehab Associates, Inc.  
EBS Healthcare Staffing Services, Inc.  
Invo Healthcare Associates, LLC  
Orange Tree Staffing, LLC  
Speech Rehab Services, LLC – Prime WBE Certified  
Therapia Staffing, LLC (Disqualified)

Six (6) proposers are being recommended for award. No protests were received based on the recommendation of the RFP.

**Recommendation of \$500,000 or Greater**  
**FY20-065 – Student Psychological and Mental Health Services**  
**March 3, 2020 Board Agenda**  
**Page 3**

The Affirmative Procurement Initiative recommended by the Supplier Diversity and Outreach Program for this Bid was the SBE Subcontracting Goal Program of five (5) percent.

**Financial Impact**

**Responsible: PWS and ESLS**

The total spending authority requested is \$3,785,200. The funding source will come from the Exceptional Student Support Operating Budget for an annual impact up to \$1,335,560. The financial impact represents an estimated contract value; however, the amount authorized will not exceed the bid award amount.

ESLS Department provided spending on psychological services performed based upon the following months in order to determine the average spending per month:

| <b>Month/Year</b> | <b>Spending Amount</b> |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| June 2019         | \$ 8,977               |
| July 2019         | \$ 10,597              |
| August 2019       | \$ 9,450               |
| September 2019    | \$ 8,370               |
| October 2019      | \$ 9,922               |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>\$ 47,317</b>       |

|                                                                   |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Average Spend for (5) Months for one psychologist                 | \$ 9,463            |
| One (1) year Spend twelve (12) months plus ten (10) Psychologists | \$ 1,135,560        |
| Forty (40) months (contract) (\$9,463 x 40 months)                | \$ 378,520          |
| Ten (10) Psychologists positions to be filled                     | <b>\$ 3,785,200</b> |