



County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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PHILIP L. BROWNING
Director

Board of Supervisors

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July 22, 2015

To: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
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Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Philip L. Browning
Director

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PROCURE BY NEGOTIATION A CONTRACT WITH UPLIFT OUR FUTURE, ORG. FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (ILP) SERVICES

In compliance with Board Policy 5.100, Sole Source Contracts, this is to notify the Board that the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) intends to negotiate a contract with Uplift Our Future, Org. (Uplift), a non-profit 501(c)(3) agency, to implement a pilot program that will provide Life Skills classes to DCFS Independent Living Program (ILP)-eligible Transition Age Youth (TAY), ages 16 to 21 years old. The pilot program will be implemented via an ILP University concept, whereby TAY are offered a selection of classes that incorporate the goals consistent with the requirements created to fulfill the Foster Care Independence Act (Chafee Act), ensuring that each foster youth attains post secondary education; employment; housing; has knowledge of preventive health measures; receives a high school diploma; and forms permanent relationship connections.

DCFS will negotiate a contract with Uplift for the provision of the needed services. The term of the pilot program will be 18 months, with an option to extend for up to six (6) additional months, if necessary, to complete a solicitation. DCFS will complete a Request for Proposals (RFP) solicitation process to identify vendors who are the most qualified to provide these essential services, and subsequently execute contracts with the vendor(s) with the winning proposals.

The aggregate cost for these services is \$300,000 for 18 months, and will be funded using 100% State Realignment funds.

On April 14, 2015, the Board delegated authority to the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services to amend the Statement of Work of the Individualized Transition Service Program (ITSP) contract, to remedy the vendors' inability to fully maximize the dollars allocated for the program. The goal was to ensure the survival of the contract until the completion of a solicitation for a new program. The current contractors have expressed

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The Honorable Board of Supervisors

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concerns with their inability to hire adequate staff to meet the demands. Currently the youth enrollments are unsteady, and absenteeism among current participants is very high. The current contracts are not serving the projected number of youth. To prepare for any interruption in services, Uplift would be an alternative program in place for Transition Age Youth until such time that a new solicitation could be completed.

The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 [Public Law 99-272 (1986)] and The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 [Public Law 106-169 (1999)] require that an Independent Living Program (ILP) for youth be implemented in the Child Welfare and Probation systems. DCFS has an emergent and obligatory need to provide Transition Age Youth with Independent Living Skills designed for their successful adulthood. Uplift can provide an array of services, and has demonstrated results in its ability to engage, increase, and maintain the participation of our DCFS youth, as evidenced by increased youth attendance, and course completion rates. The additional self-sufficiency training this sole source will provide will ensure the continuity of ILP services for TAY until the solicitation process is completed.

Through its unique Faith-Based partnership, Uplift has been providing classes since January 2015, using a model in which TAY attend at least five (5) classes covering eight (8) areas of self-sufficiency. This "hands-on" training approach has been well received by TAY youth and I believe will be an excellent manner in which to improve their life skills.

DCFS will proceed with the contract negotiation two weeks from the date of this notice, unless otherwise instructed by a Board office. If you have questions or need additional information, you may call me at (213) 351-5600, or your staff may contact Aldo Marin, Board Liaison, at (213) 351-5530.

PLB:CMM:EM

DM:FC:jt

c: Interim Chief Executive Officer
Interim County Counsel
Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors