

**DETERMINATION AND FINDING
FOR A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

AGENCY: District of Columbia Public Schools
Alice Deal Middle School
CAPTION: Student Engagement Project at Alice Deal Middle School
PROPOSED CONTRACTOR: Latin American Youth Center (LAYC)
CONTRACT NO. TBD

FINDINGS

AUTHORIZATION:

D.C. Code 2-354.04 and 27 DCMR, Section 1304 and 1702

MINIMUM NEED:

Alice Deal Middle School (Deal) is in need of an intensive youth engagement program to motivate and ensure student attendance, participation and, ultimately, academic success. The purpose of this program is to identify a cohort of students who will benefit from this program and provide them the support they need to connect with the Alice Deal Middle School community throughout the school year. While focusing on students from immigrant and/or disadvantaged backgrounds, the program is expected to be open to students of any background (within the program scope) who will benefit from participation. This project reflects one of Deal's key themes for the school year: "Students should learn in a safe and supportive environment". The program will require:

- Experienced on-site staff for a minimum of 20 hours/week
- Bilingual staff (English & Spanish)
- Familiarity with non-profit and local agency initiatives and programs
- Experience working with DCPS schools, particularly with students at the middle grades (6 – 8)

ESTIMATED COST:

The estimated cost is \$25,000.

FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:

Background and History:

Trends in attendance, academic, and extra-curricular participation indicate that there is a small but significant group of students who arrive in 6th grade but are unable or unwilling to connect with the community of Alice Deal Middle School. These students have not benefited from the multiple opportunities currently present at the school. For many of these students, attendance (late arrivals, skipping school, late to class) begins to become an area of concern. This often signals or precipitates a drop in academic performance. The result is that many of these students struggle to complete their 8th grade at Deal and are poorly prepared to be high school students in DCPS. It is our belief that, by identifying students via early indicators (i.e. early academic struggles, attendance challenges, behavioral concerns, and discussions) and then providing targeted support, that they will be more engaged with the school community and more equipped to be successful in school. The use of a vendor to supplement the school's student support program is critical, as we do not have a cohort-based approach that can provide the multiple layers of support needed in a timely and effective manner.

During the 2013-2014 school year, the LAYC provided supplementary support services to students at Alice Deal Middle School via funding from the NEP-LEP grant, an afterschool grant provided by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). Those supplementary services included various types of student support targeted including academic and socio-emotional support. Unfortunately, funding was not available to continue the supplementary support services during the 2014-2015 school year. During the 2014-2015 school year, staff at Alice Deal Middle School conducted an

internal assessment of student needs and found that students who would have received support from the LAYC via the NEP-LEP during the 2013-2014 were now underserved. Given that and the other issues described above, Alice Deal Middle School was able to secure funding in order to reestablish services supporting this group of at-risk students for the 2015-2016 school year.

The Proposed Vendor’s Unique Qualifications:

- Expertise and extensive experience implementing school programs to support the unique needs of students from diverse backgrounds, particularly immigrant and/or disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Experience working with the communities and families that are served by Alice Deal Middle School, key since much of the program will require community-based work.
- Experience in working within schools in DCPS as well as in middle schools.
 - The vendor is currently providing similar program during the school day and/or afterschool at Cardozo EC, Powell ES, Raymond EC, and Wilson SHS.

The Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) provides multi-lingual, culturally sensitive programs in the following areas:

- Educational Enhancement programs include standards-based culturally competent year-round tutoring and homework assistance, healthy recreation and fitness, computer literacy classes, and college preparation.
- Social Services programs strengthen the family unit as the primary foundation for youth development through counseling, prevention, child placement, and residential housing.
- Community Wellness supports the development of individual, organizational, and community capacity to promote health and wellness, build a culture of peace, and address issues of homelessness.
- Art + Media programs encourage youth to experience the power of their art as a means of self-expression and as a tool for exploring community issues. Creative abilities are developed through classes in fine arts, photography, video, radio, and media production, music, and creative writing.
- The Promotor Pathway is LAYC's intensive, long-term relationship-based strategy to meet the multiple needs of the region’s most vulnerable youth: disconnected young people. These youth are likely to be homeless or in foster care, have substance abuse or mental health issues, be involved with the criminal justice system or gangs, have dropped out of school, or be unemployed. The Promotor Pathway is undergoing a random assignment evaluation conducted by Public/Private Ventures and has received national recognition as part of the Social Innovation Fund through Venture Philanthropy Partners youthCONNECT initiative.

Adverse Impact:

As mentioned above, Alice Deal Middle School has a history of working with the LAYC and the LAYC has built up competency in the communities that are served by Alice Deal Middle School by offering services directly in those communities. Additionally, as mentioned above, the LAYC provides similar services at one of the elementary schools that feeds into Deal as well as at the high school that receives most Deal students (Wilson Senior High School). Given the school’s needs and history working with the LAYC, maintaining the originally established relationship between the LAYC and Alice Deal Middle School is in the best interest of DCPS. Putting a different vendor in place would create an unnecessary duplication of services, would disrupt the potential for smooth transitions to and from Deal feeder schools, and would possibly negate work already completed by the LAYC in the past.

CERTIFICATION BY ALICE DEAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

I hereby certify that the above findings are true, correct and complete.

Date

James Albright
Principal, Alice Deal Middle School

CERTIFICATION AND DETERMINATION

Based on the above certified findings in accordance cited authority, I hereby determine that it is not feasible or practical to invoke the competitive bidding process under Section 402 or 403 of the District of Columbia Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-371; DC Code 2-354 and 27 DCMR 1304 and 1702.

Date

Glorious Bazemore
Chief Procurement Officer