

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 12, 2021

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Jim Sullivan, Director, Department of Child Support Services

Subject: A request from the Director of Child Support Services for authorization to enter into a Service Agreement with Ross Innovative Employment Solutions Corp, to facilitate the Children First Program in the amount of \$256,000 for the term of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, with the County's option to extend the Service Agreement for four, one-year extensions in 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026.

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Director of Child Support Services is requesting authorization to enter into a Service Agreement with Ross Innovative Employment Solutions Corp, to facilitate the Children First Program in the amount of \$256,000 for the term of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 with the County's option to extend in 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026.

POLICY

Milwaukee County through the State of Wisconsin has Children First funding to assist participants in achieving self-sufficiency under Wis. Stat. §§767.55 and 49.36. Milwaukee General Ordinance Chapter 56 requires review by County Board Standing Committee and County Board approval for Purchase of Service Contracts. This Service Agreement to assist non-custodial parents to obtain employment through the Children First Program functions as a Purchase of Service Contract.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	767.55 and 49.36
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	Chapter 56

BACKGROUND

The Children First Program provides case management services, job search assistance, work experience, training opportunities and program documentation for all court-ordered program participants. Milwaukee County Child Support Services, through the State of Wisconsin, has been allocated Children First funding to assist participants in achieving self-sufficiency under Wis. Stat. §§767.55 and 49.36.

Child Support Services issued a request for qualifications (RFQ) on May 3, 2021, seeking qualified agencies to develop and administer our Children First Program. Ross

Innovative Employment Solutions Corp, submitted a responsive and responsible proposal in accordance with the RFQ on June 18, 2021 and were notified of the award on October 15, 2021.

Ross Innovative Employment Solutions Corp (Ross) has over 25 years of experience providing workforce development, employment related services and support to diverse populations. Ross has operated a wide variety of workforce development programs (including Welfare-to-Work, Prisoner Re-entry and a variety of state workforce initiatives) in rural, suburban and urban areas. Ross currently operates workforce programs in Arizona, Michigan, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Ross has provided the W-2 program in Milwaukee since 2014, providing employment preparation services, case management and cash assistance to eligible families.

Ross will be compensated for the work performed as follows provided they comply with all the performance and reporting requirements listed in Attachment 1 (Exhibit B) of the Service Agreement. Ross will be entitled to payment of \$200 for registration of a Participant in the Children First program and any attempt to contact the Participant to provide Children First services. If the Participant cannot be contacted and services are not provided, no additional billing may be made. Upon satisfactory completion of the first 10 hours of Children First services to a Participant, CSS will pay Ross an additional \$400. Upon full Children First program completion by a Participant, CSS will pay Ross an additional \$200 for that Participant. Total billing per Participant for full completion of the Children First program shall not exceed \$800. Payment is contingent upon timely submission of compliance reports as set forth in Attachment 1 (Exhibit B) of the Service Agreement.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The goal of the Children First Program is to improve the ability of its participants to pay court ordered support. Participants successfully complete the program when they make timely payments in full for three consecutive months or they participate in specific dedicated programming for sixteen weeks. Ross will provide work experience, job training, job search assistance, job placement, job orientation and retention activities consistent with the provisions of Wis. Stats. §§ 49.36 and 767.55, in order to promote the self-sufficiency and responsible parenting of the Participants referred to the program.

Participants may be involved in activities up to 32 hours per week. Services provided by Ross include case management, assisting the Participant in finding and maintaining employment, skills training, and parenting improvement services to promote self-sufficiency and responsible parenting.

FISCAL EFFECT

There is no budgetary impact associated with this contract as the Department has budgeted \$256,000 for this contract in 2022 and the costs of the contract are fully funded by the State.

TERMS

The Term of this Agreement shall be from January 1, 2022 and shall continue in full force and effect until December 31, 2022. Upon expiration of the initial Terms of this Agreement, at the County's option it may enter into up to four (4) one (1) year Extension Terms by providing written notice no fewer than thirty (30) days prior to the initial Term's expiration.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Jim Sullivan, Director, Child Support Services
Sandra Stevens, Program & Grant Manager, Child Support Services

PREPARED BY:

Child Support Services

APPROVED BY:



Jim Sullivan, Director, Child Support Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Fiscal Note, Resolution, Contract and Exhibits

cc: David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk
Steve Cady, Director of Research and Policy, Office of the Comptroller
Daniel Laurila, Operating Budget Manager, Department Admin Services Fiscal Affairs