

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 1, 2022

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Request for Competitive Seal Program (RFCSP) Issued for Re-Entry Workforce Development Pilot Programs– BIZ22-00018987 - CHANCE and Re-entry Career Pathways**

More than 150,000 individuals were incarcerated in Texas in 2016 and data shows that one in five of Texas inmates released are re-incarcerated within three years of release. Upon release, individuals face a myriad of barriers to successful reenter into society. These individuals often face limited employment opportunities, limited access to housing, and are often ineligible for public benefits and other types of assistance, making it difficult to find stability and self-sufficiency.

In the 87th Texas State Legislative Session in 2021, funding was once again appropriated through the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to enter into an agreement with the City of Dallas. This agreement would establish and operate a re-entry workforce development program for a two-year period to assist individuals released from TDCJ facilities who are returning to the Dallas area with job- training and workforce support in the total amount of \$500,000.

In addition, on September 22, 2021, City Council approved the FY 2021-22 General Fund Budget, which allocated \$500,000 for workforce development training and employment assistance for previously incarcerated individuals.

Combining the TDCJ funding of \$500,000 and the FY2021-22 General Fund allocation of \$500,000, the Small Business Center has a total of \$1,000,000 available to support re-entry workforce development programs.

In response to the need of the community for re-entry workforce development training and employment assistance, the Small Business Center has issued a Request for Competitive Sealed Proposal (RFCSP) for an organization or group of organizations to support two separate pilot programs: (1) CHANCE, and (2) Re-Entry Career Pathways to:

- Assessment — Program should assess each participant prior to enrollment to determine appropriate skills training and supports needed and develop a personalize approach for recipient to receive needed skills.
- Soft Skills training — Program should either directly offer or through partnership offer appropriate soft skills training, including but not limited to job readiness skills.
- Educational certification or job skills/vocational training — Provides employer desired/aligned skills-training in a field identified by the respondent. Skills training should be accessible to those without a HS diploma or program should identify

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partners who will ensure that participants can gain pre-requisites to be qualified for skills-training program. Programs that identify that training that are credentialed and/or career pathways.

- Employment placement support — Program will identify and place participants in initial employment position as well as additional positions as needed to ensure on-going employments.

A pre-proposal conference will be held April 19, 2022, at 2:00 pm, and the submission deadline is June 10, 2022. The RFSCP will be available on April 7, 2022 through the following link, and potential vendors must log in through Bonfire to download documents and respond to the RFSCP: <https://dallascityhall.bonfirehub.com/opportunities>

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact myself or Joyce Williams, Director of Small Business Center, at 214-970-5624 or Joyce.williams@dallascityhall.com.



Kimberly Bizer Tolbert
Deputy City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Billieae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
Robert Perez, Interim Assistant City Manager
Carl Simpson, Interim Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Genesis Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Directors and Assistant Directors