

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 20, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Upcoming Agenda Item Oak Cliff Empowered, Inc. Contract Amendment**

At the August 25 City Council meeting, you will consider an agenda item to authorize an amendment to the service contract with Oak Cliff Empowered, Inc. to 1) increase the contract by \$93,623, from \$374,493 to \$468,116 to support a 7th cohort of workforce training participants by providing additional programming/staffing cost funding for the expansion of the program and 2) extend the term of the contract deadlines to through October 31, 2022.

On March 2, 2016, JPMorgan Chase consultants presented to the City Council an overview of the skills gap report, New Skills at Work. According to the report, many residents, especially in high poverty areas throughout the City, are unemployed and/or underemployed, have low skills and lack specific industry skills which prevents them from benefitting from the region's economic growth, and the region has a growing need for middle skilled workers that is not currently being met.

In response to the Chase report, the City's Office of Economic Development developed the Workforce Readiness, Placement and Retention Program to support cohort-based, industry certified, career-pathways training, wrap-around support services, and sustainable employment.

In 2019, after a Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals (RFCSP) process, Oak Cliff Empowered, Inc. was awarded a contract for \$374,493 to train, place and retain employment for a minimum of 53 individuals for Patient Care Technicians (PCT) in partnership with Methodist Hospital. Oak Cliff Empowered has enrolled 88 participants and is currently on its 6th cohort of training for this program. Oak Cliff Empowered, Inc. has seen additional demand to warrant a 7th cohort, and is now requesting additional funding to do so.

The initial contract has received a term extension to February 28, 2022 as allowed under CR 20-0734 due to delays caused by Covid-19. This proposed contract amendment will further extend the contract from February 2022 to October 2022 and provide additional programmatic/staffing funds to pursue a 7th cohort. The 7th cohort will enroll an additional 25 people in the training for PCT certification, with the expectation that at least 20 will finish the training and at least 15 will pass the PCT certification and be employed in a health care setting.

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Please feel free to contact Heather Lepeska, Interim Assistant Director in the Office of Economic Development, at 214.670.1222 if you have any questions or should you require additional information.

Sincerely,



Dr. Eric A. Johnson  
Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Billierae Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager  
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion  
Directors and Assistant Directors