



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 14-2193, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Circuit Court of Cook County, Office of the Chief Judge

Vendor: Chicago Bar Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Chief Procurement Officer to enter into and execute

Good(s) or Service(s): Professional Services

Contract Value: \$477,402.50

Contract period: 9/1/2014 - 8/31/2017 with two (2) one (1) year renewal options

Potential Fiscal Year Budget Impact FY 2014 - \$38,505.38, FY 2015 - \$155,288.87, FY 2016 - \$160,390.75, FY 2017 - \$123,217.50

Accounts: 300-260

Contract Number(s): 1353-13117

Concurrences:

The vendor has met the Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises Ordinance.

The Chief Procurement Officer concurs

Summary: Since 2008, the Chicago Bar Foundation has managed operations for the Circuit Court's Legal Advice Desk for Eviction Court Defendants under Contract No. 11-41-19, which is scheduled to expire on 9/1/2014. Request for Proposal (RFP) procedures were followed in accordance with Cook County's Procurement Code. In 2013, the Chief Procurement Officer issued a RFP for these services for the Office of the Chief Judge. The CBF was the sole responder to the RFP. The CBF is recommended for the contract based on its qualifications and extensive experience providing help desk services not only for the Circuit Court of Cook County, but for the federal court and the City of Chicago as well.

The Legal Advice Desk for Eviction Court Defendants is located on the 6th floor of the Richard J. Daley Center. The role of the CBF is to oversee and coordinate volunteer lawyers who, in conjunction with court staff, work to ensure litigants find available legal assistance. The CBF works with following two local legal aid organizations to link *pro-se* litigants to attorneys who provide pro bono legal assistance: Coordinated Advice & Referral Programs for Legal Services and Chicago Legal Clinic, Inc. Assistance may include in-court representation in appropriate matters.

Benefits of this contract are that thousands of *pro-se* litigants with eviction cases pending in the First Municipal District (Chicago) are receiving free legal assistance to better prepare them for their court appearances. This contributes to the fair, impartial and efficient administration of justice.