



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 23-1208, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Office of the Chief Judge

Vendor: The Chicago Bar Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Chief Procurement Officer to renew and increase contract

Good(s) or Service(s): Legal Advice and Guardianship Assistance Help Desks

Original Contract Period: 5/1/2020 - 4/30/2023, with two (2), one (1) year renewal options

Proposed Amendment Type: Renewal and Increase

Proposed Contract Period: Renewal period 5/1/2023 - 4/30/2024

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$790,345.50

Original Approval (Board or Procurement): Board, 3/26/2020, \$790,345.50

Increase Requested: \$279,555.00

Previous Board Increase(s): N/A

Previous Chief Procurement Officer Increase(s): N/A

Previous Board Renewals: N/A

Previous Chief Procurement Officer Renewals: N/A

Previous Board Extension(s): N/A

Previous Chief Procurement Officer Extension(s): N/A

Potential Fiscal Impact: FY 2023 \$163,073.75, FY 2024 \$116,481.25

Accounts: 11100.1310.33790.520830.00000.00000

Contract Number(s): 1944-17845

Concurrences:

The contract-specific goal set on this contract was zero.

The Chief Procurement Officer concurs.

Summary: This proposed contract renewal is the first of two (2), one-year renewal options. The Chicago Bar Foundation (CBF) provides no-cost legal advice and assistance to *pro-se* litigants involved in eviction matters in the First Municipal District (Chicago) or for those who seek guardianship of minors in the Court's Probate Division. Services include staffing and volunteer coordination for The Legal Advice Desk for Eviction Court Defendants and for the Guardianship Assistance Help Desk for Minors.

The role of the CBF is to oversee and coordinate volunteer lawyers who, in conjunction with court staff, work to ensure litigants receive legal assistance. The CBF works with two local legal aid organizations, Coordinated Advice & Referral Programs for Legal Services and Chicago Legal Clinic, Inc., to link *pro-se* litigants to attorneys who provide *pro bono* legal assistance. Assistance may include in-court representation in appropriate matters. Thousands of *pro-se* litigants with pending eviction cases receive free legal assistance from the help desk to better prepare them for their court appearances, contributing to the fair, impartial and efficient administration of justice.

The CBF also manages off-site legal services and coordinates volunteer attorneys for the Court's Guardianship Assistance Help Desk for Minors. Every year, the desk provides free legal assistance to thousands of *pro-se* litigants who are seeking to obtain guardianship of minors in the Court's Probate Division. The CBF partners with Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS) to coordinate more than 200 volunteer lawyers, who work in conjunction with court staff to provide legal assistance. The CBF also conducts trainings for all volunteers.

This contract was awarded through publicly advertised Request for Proposals (RFP) process in accordance with the Cook County Procurement Code. The Chicago Bar Foundation was selected based on established evaluation criteria.