



Legislation Text

File #: 17-0392, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Resource Management

Vendor: Chicago Department of Transportation, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to enter into and execute

Good(s) or Service(s): Greencorps Chicago Conservation Corps Program

Contract Value: Not to exceed \$500,000.00 per year, or \$2,500,000.00 over the five (5) year term

Contract period: 1/1/2018 - 12/31/2022

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2018 \$500,000.00, FY 2019 \$500,000.00, FY 2020 \$500,000.00, FY 2021 \$500,000.00, FY 2022 \$500,000.00

Accounts: Intern Programs 51009.521525, Habitat Enhancement 51009.521452, Habitat Restoration 51009.521444, Grant and Mitigation Accounts: 51010.29982 and 51010.22522, Recreation (Landscape Improvements) 51025.560055, 51026.560055, 51009.560055, 51055.560055, 51056.560055, 51057.560055 and Grant Account 51010.560055

Contract Number(s): 17-31-117

Concurrences:

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: Contract 17-31-117 consists of a variety of Conservation Corps internship programs focused on ecological restoration throughout the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Preserves"). The Conservation Corps co-facilitates innovative job training and employment programs that provide participants with paid, hands-on experiences in conservation that train the next generation to restore and be responsible stewards of the land. The Preserves issued a Request for Proposals, and received a total of nine (9) proposals from three (3) vendors for this project.

The Preserves assembled a review panel consisting of various Preserve staff that considered Greencorps Chicago's proposal one of the most responsive including particular strengths in experience, match contribution, expertise, and performance capacity as it relates to the work requested in the proposal. The Greencorps Chicago program is a green industry job training program that provides re-entry opportunities and skills to underemployed adults in landscaping, horticulture, forestry, ecological restoration, and prescribed burning.

The Preserves believe it is critical to engage individuals from Cook County's diverse communities in conservation jobs at the Preserves. Conservation Corps programs have been very successful in engaging participants from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds, ages and ethnicities. Corps demographic data from 2007 to 2016 show that on average 54% of participants were African American, 23% Caucasian, 18% Latino, 3% biracial, and 2% Asian.

Total project costs are approximately \$432,000.00 annually, with \$300,000.00 in investment by the Preserves leveraging a minimum of \$132,000.00 in partner match. The overall annual contract authority was increased in anticipation of additional funding opportunities. This program advances the goals of the Next Century Conservation Plan.