



Legislation Text

File #: 21-0607, Version: 1

Dept/ Agency: Office of the Mayor

Action: Ratifying Authorizing Amending

Type of Service: Contract

Purpose: To provide for the operation of Newark Community Solutions and the Newark Youth Court within the Newark Municipal Court.

Entity Name: National Center for Civic Innovation, Inc.

Entity Address: 31 Green Street, Room 310, Newark, New Jersey 07102

Contract Amount: Not to exceed \$979,790.00

Funding Source: 2021 Budget/Office of the Mayor, Newark Municipal Court

Contract Period: January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

Contract Basis: Bid State Vendor Prof. Ser. EUS
 Fair & Open No Reportable Contributions RFP RFQ
 Private Sale Grant Sub-recipient n/a

Additional Information:

Approval in collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Courts.

WHEREAS, the National Center for Civic Innovation is a New Jersey based non-profit (the “National Center”) and affiliate of the Center for Court Innovation, which is dedicated to the reform and improvement of criminal justice system throughout the United States (the “Center for Court Innovation”); and

WHEREAS, from January 2007 through 2008 with the support of the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, the City of Newark worked with the non-profit Fund for the City of New York, Inc.’s incubator project, the Center for Court Innovation (the “Center for Court Innovation”) and the Fund for the City of New York, Inc., (the “Fund”) and New Jersey Institute for Social Justice to complete a feasibility study of adapting the community justice model to the City of Newark’s Municipal Court system; and

WHEREAS, as part of the feasibility study for the City of Newark, the Center for Court Innovation with the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice and the Center for Collaborative Change undertook a thorough needs assessment that included more than twenty (20) community meetings, attended by more than four-hundred (400) community residents, focus groups of residents, community leaders and ex-offenders, as well as surveys and interviews with leading law enforcement officials; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this feasibility study, the Center for Court Innovation worked with the City of Newark and its Municipal Court to develop a blueprint for implementing a community justice initiative based at the Newark Municipal Court House (a copy of the Final Approved Blueprint is hereby attached); and

WHEREAS, the City of Newark and the Center for Court Innovation successfully received

authorization in 2010 by the New Jersey Administrative Office of Courts to open Newark Community Solutions, as the project is now known (a copy of New Jersey State Chief Justice Rabner's letter approval is attached); and

WHEREAS, from April 2010 through August 2011, with the approval of the United States Department of Justice and funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Local Program, the City of Newark provided funding to the Center for Court Innovation, under the aegis of its affiliate, the Fund, for the development, implementation and operation of the City's Newark Community Solutions (originally known as the "Newark Community Court") and the Newark Youth Court projects, whose aim is to offer alternatives to incarceration for youth and other offenders accused of low-level crimes; and

WHEREAS, from 2011 through December 31, 2013, with the approval of the Municipal Council, the City of Newark provided funding to the Fund to continue to provide funding to the Center for Court Innovation for the City's Newark Community Solutions and Newark Youth Court projects; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor of the City of Newark and the Municipal Council to provide funding to the National Center to continue to provide the funding to the center for Court innovation for the operation of Newark Community Solutions and Newark Youth Court projects; and

WHEREAS, from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, with the approval of the Municipal Council, the City can provide funding to the National Center for the Center for Court innovation, under the aegis of its affiliate, National Center, to continue operations of the City's Newark Community Solutions and Newark Youth Court projects; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Newark and the Chief Judge of the Newark Municipal Court desire to continue the services provided by Newark Community Solutions; and

WHEREAS, the National Center is a duly incorporated not-for-profit corporation that has been authorized by the New Jersey Department of State to conduct business/activities in the State of New Jersey and therefore is exempt from compliance with the State Pay-to-Play Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5, Ordinance on Pay-to-Play and is registered as a charity and files annual reports with the New Jersey Department of Law and Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the National Center's affiliate, the Center for Court Innovation, (created by the Fund in 1996 as an incubator project) has extensive experience, expertise, both specialized and qualitative, training, and a proven reputation in developing, implementing and operating community courts and youth courts in Newark, as well as other jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Court Innovation, created the nation's first community court project, the Midtown Community Court, and has since designed and supported the development of numerous other community court projects in the U.S. and internationally, including among many others, the Red Hook Community Justice Center, Bronx Community Solutions, the Harlem Community Justice Center, Vancouver Community Court (British Columbia, Canada), Hartford (Connecticut) Community Court, and San Francisco (California) Community Justice Center; and

WHEREAS, due to unique nature of the work performed, as well as the qualifications and

past performance, the City seeks to engage the services of the National Center with the Center for Court Innovation for the purpose of operation of Newark Community Solutions and the Newark Youth Court from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, in an amount not to exceed Nine Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Dollars and Zero Cents (\$979,790.00).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

1. The Mayor of the City of Newark and/or his designees, the Business Administrator and the Chief Judge of the Newark Municipal Court are hereby authorized to enter into and execute a contract with National Center for Civic Innovation, Inc., 31 Green Street, Room 310, Newark, New Jersey 07102, for the purpose of the operation of Newark Community Solutions and Newark Youth Court, for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, in an amount not to exceed Nine Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Dollars and Zero cents (\$979,790.00).
2. The contract is ratified from January 1, 2021 to the date of adoption by the Municipal Council.
3. Attached hereto are Certification of Funds by the Director of the Department of Finance, City of Newark which states that funds in the total amount of Nine Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Dollars and Zero Cents (\$979,790.00) are available in the line appropriation of the official budget which shall be charged is as follows: Business Unit: NW011; Department 200; Div/Proj.: 2001; Activity: A; Account # 97520; Budget Ref.: B2021. The Certifications shall be filed, along with the original Resolution and the executed Contract in the Office of the City Clerk.
4. A copy of the fully executed contract shall be filed in the Office of the City Clerk by the Business Administrator.
5. A notice of this action shall be published in the newspaper authorized by law to publish a legal advertisement and as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

STATEMENT

This Resolution ratifies and authorizes the Mayor of the city of Newark and/or his designees, the Business Administrator and the Chief Judge of Newark Municipal Court to enter into and execute a contract with National Center for Civic Innovation, Inc., 31 Green Street, Room 310, Newark, New Jersey 07102, for the purpose of operation of Newark Community Solutions and the Newark Youth Court from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$979,790.00.