



CITY OF HOUSTON - CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: 12/3/2019

ALL

Item Creation Date: 11/13/2019

E29260 (2of2) - Benzene Air Quality Management Project (ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND, INCORPORATED) - ORDINANCE

Agenda Item#: 108.

Background:

Professional Services for S83-E29260 - Approve an ordinance authorizing an agreement between the City of Houston and Environmental Defense Fund Incorporated (EDF) for the maximum contract amount of \$145,000.00 for the benzene air quality management project for the Houston Health Department.

Specific Explanation

The Director of the Houston Health Department and the Chief Procurement Officer recommend that City Council approve an ordinance awarding a one **(1) year agreement** between the City of Houston and **Environmental Defense Fund Incorporated** for the maximum contract amount not to exceed **\$145,000.00** for the benzene air quality management project for the Houston Health Department. The Chief Procurement Officer and/or the Director of the Houston Health Department may terminate this contract at any time upon 30-days written notice to the contractor.

The Houston Health Department needs a method to quickly store, display, and interpret pollution information collected during environmental emergencies for internal decision-making as well as providing alerts to the public. The Intercontinental Terminals Company, LLC (ITC) fire in Deer Park and the Valero floating roof tank leak, for example, represent air pollution events not quickly resolved. It is critical to determine outdoor air concentrations of benzene in communities when similar events occur to secure decision-making data for local health officials and provide reliable information to the public about possible alerts to shelter in place or evacuate a local area.

This project requires expertise in sophisticated statistical analysis of disparate hazardous air pollution data, guidance for the public exposed to the pollution and an innovative platform for communicating the information electronically. The expertise to accomplish all aspects of this project is not available within the City. The project will develop a tool to communicate guidance to the community during air pollution events.

Environmental Defense Fund Incorporated will work with the Houston Health Department and researchers in developing a data visualization platform to share real-time exposure data with City decision makers using the ITC fire as a case study in understanding how to assist the public in decision making related to their personal health. This will include nomograph outlining concentrations recorded during ITC fire and message testing to evaluate the most effective way to communicate air sampling data to the public.

MWBE Participation:

M/WBE Zero Percentage Goal documents approved by the Office of Business Opportunity.

Pay or Play Program:

The proposed contract requires compliance with the City's 'Pay or Play' ordinance regarding health benefits for employees of City contractors. In this case, Environmental Defense Fund Incorporated will provide health benefits to eligible employees in compliance with City policy.

Hire Houston First:

This procurement is exempt from the City's Hire Houston First Ordinance. Bids/proposals were not solicited because the Department is utilizing state private entity for implementation for this agreement for a tool to communicate air levels of pollution during a disaster event.

Fiscal Note:

No fiscal note is required on grant items.

11/22/2019

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Jerry Adams
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**Jerry Adams, Chief Procurement Officer
Finance/Strategic Procurement Division**

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Stephen Williams
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Department Approval Authority

11/22/2019

Estimated Spending Authority

----- Opening Summary

DEPARTMENT	FY2020	OUT YEARS	TOTAL
Houston Health Department	\$145,000.00	\$0.00	\$145,000.00

Amount of Funding:

\$145,000.00

Federal Government Grant Fund

Fund No.: 5000

Contact Information:

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ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
EDF - COF	Financial Information
EDF -Affidavit of Ownership	Backup Material
EDF - Fair Campaign Form A	Backup Material
EDF - Delinquent Tax Report	Backup Material
EDF - Professional Services Justification	Backup Material
EDF - Play or Pay	Backup Material
EDF - Fair Campaign Form B	Backup Material
EDF - MWBE Waiver	Backup Material
EDF - Contract	Backup Material