

Education

Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH HOME BUILDERS INSTITUTE, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$436,000, TO SERVE WAGES CLIENTS AND OTHER ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED CLIENTS, FROM JULY 1, 2000 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2001**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has been involved in the Housing Renovation Partnership Program through the South Dade Adult Education Center, in collaboration with Home Builders Institute (HBI), the Work and Gain Employment Self-Sufficiency (WAGES) Coalition, the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) agency, and the Miami-Dade Housing and Urban Development (Miami-Dade HUD) agency. These organizations have joined together to provide vocational training and job placement for Welfare/WAGES clients. In addition, HBI is providing vocational training through workforce development funds to adjudicated youths at ICare Bay Point Schools.

HBI, a nonprofit organization, provides total supervision and management of the building, maintenance, landscaping, and remodeling project at Scott Carver Homes as well as at any other approved site for training. HBI employs certified teachers to provide instruction to the students in the building maintenance program, consistent with the Florida Department of Education's vocational program standards, through a contractual agreement with M-DCPS. South Dade Adult Education Center provides basic skills instruction. In addition, WAGES provides support services, such as child care and transportation, for its clients. Miami-Dade HUD provides the laboratory setting for the building maintenance students, i.e., low-cost housing units to be repaired. This program is focused on recruiting low-income, unskilled individuals interested in becoming employable in the building maintenance and landscaping fields. Clients are referred to M-DCPS by WAGES, community-based organizations, or they may be residential adjudicated youths over 16 years of age referred by the Juvenile Justice Department to a detention facility, such as ICare Bay Point Schools and Youthtrack, Inc.

Since the inception of this contract in the 1988-89 school year, over 2,000 adults have been trained. The trainees enrolled have always been hard-to-serve clients, financed by government subsidies, e.g., WAGES, food stamp recipients, public housing tenants, homeless, incarcerated and/or new releases, minorities, economically disadvantaged, and overall, 70 percent have been females.

In 1998-99, the program served 95 students. Presently, 69 students are in training, with a 77 percent placement rate of completers to date. At this time, the majority of students are still in training and their placement will not be reflected until the school year ends. The program is in operation at Scott Carver Homes, Miami Job Corps, and ICare Bay Point Schools.

HBI will organize a skills-based construction training to prepare participating trainees to achieve the basic academic and construction skills to enter the construction trades and to obtain entry level construction employment in Miami-Dade County. The appropriation for this item will be included in the 2000-2001 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2000 under Fund 0100, Function 5338, Program 9889, Object 5390, Location 8001. Revised

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed this contractual agreement on June 1, 2000, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Requests for Proposals be granted as otherwise determined by the committee.

The President and Chief Executive Officer of Home Builders Institute is Mr. Frank Riggs. Mr. Riggs has served as Chairman of the House Sub-committee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families, which has jurisdiction over all federal education programs and policies, from preschool through high school, in the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Home Builders Institute (HBI), a nonprofit organization, in an amount not to exceed \$436,000, to serve WAGES clients and other economically disadvantaged clients, effective July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021.

The appropriation of this item will be included in the General Fund of the Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2000.

NJP:mat