

Milagros R. Fornell, Associate Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH FOUR COMMUNITY AGENCIES: ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS OF SOUTH FLORIDA, INC., EASTER SEALS SOUTH FLORIDA, INC., UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI DEBBIE INSTITUTE, UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY ASSOCIATION OF MIAMI, INC., AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES (CMS) EARLY STEPS, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, MAILMAN CENTER AND MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, TO OPERATE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, BIRTH THROUGH AGE TWO, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,537,306 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013, CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF THE 2012-2013 DISTRICT BUDGET

**COMMITTEE:** INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:** EDUCATION

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent of Schools to enter into contractual agreements with four community agencies and the Department of Health-Children's Medical Services (CMS) Early Steps, University of Miami, Mailman Center and Miami Children's Hospital to provide extensive therapeutic and medical services to a unique population of children with disabilities which includes: Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, emotional/behavioral disability, intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, and visual and hearing impairments. The program delivery models, designed to meet the diverse needs of this population, includes center-based services, home-based services, or a combination of the two.

Each agency will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the programs, facilities, staff assistance with the identification and placement of children, staff development training, and administrative support. In support of these services, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide assistance with the identification and placement of eligible children and monitoring to ensure compliance with applicable laws and policies. The agreement with each agency will be developed in partnership with M-DCPS and the Department of Health-Children's Medical Services (CMS) Early Steps.

During the 2011-2012 school year, facility reviews, site visits, and monitoring children's records and program delivery models by District staff found the programs to be effective in providing early intervention services and to be in compliance with the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements.

Funding for each agency is based on program delivery models as outlined below:

- Association for Retarded Citizens of South Florida, Inc., (ARC) will serve a maximum of 137 children, in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,801;
- Easter Seals South Florida, Inc., (ESSF) will serve a maximum of 90 children, in an amount not to exceed \$518,618;
- University of Miami Debbie Institute will serve a maximum of 80 children, in an amount not to exceed \$592,649; and
- United Cerebral Palsy Association of Miami, Inc., (UCP) will serve a maximum of 26 children, in an amount not to exceed \$225,238.

Funding for these services will come from 75% of the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) generated from the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) based on the level of services needed for each child listed in their Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP). The remaining 25% of the FTE will cover ancillary services/costs.

In addition to the funding from M-DCPS, the Department of Health-CMS Early Steps will contribute Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C funding via rate agreements with each agency, based upon the needs of children served. Part C funding may be used for a range of services including, but not limited to, nursing, therapy, home visits, social work service, family training, assistive technology, and staff assistance with the identification and placement of eligible children. There is no exchange of funds with the Department of Health-CMS Early Steps.

Contingent upon approval of the 2012-2013 District Budget, the appropriation for this item will be included under Fund 100000, Funds Center 1901300, Commitment Item 531000, Functional Area 68400000-521700.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to:

1. enter into contractual agreements with four community agencies: Association for Retarded Citizens of South Florida, Inc., Easter Seals South Florida, Inc., University of Miami Debbie Institute, United Cerebral Palsy Association of Miami, Inc., and the Department of Health-Children's Medical Services (CMS) Early Steps, University of Miami, Mailman Center and Miami Children's Hospital, to operate programs for children with disabilities, birth through age two, in an amount not to exceed \$2,537,306, effective July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013, contingent upon approval of the 2012-2013 District Budget, as follows:
  - Association for Retarded Citizens of South Florida, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,801;
  - Easter Seals South Florida, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$518,618;
  - University of Miami Debbie Institute, in an amount not to exceed \$592,649; and
  - United Cerebral Palsy Association of Miami, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$225,238; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Policy 6320, based upon selection procedures that are provided by State Statute, State Board Rule or other School Board Policies.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2012-2013 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2012, contingent upon approval of the 2012-2013 District Budget.

MRF:mb