



# WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

## G R E A T E R D A L L A S

### *President's Briefing—Item D Childcare/Childcare Quality*

In October, the Board approved plans for purchasing computers that will assist childcare providers with the newly installed attendance automation system and continuous improvement needs. A major factor in the delivery of quality childcare is efficient technology. Roughly, 25% or 186 Dallas County CCA providers have no computers or out of date computers. Approximately the same numbers lack basic office equipment, including a phone/fax/copier. Concurrently, the addition of the swipe card has caused some technological challenges to the Childcare providers.

Based on assessment of need and an evaluative application process, childcare facilities will receive office equipment including computer, recordkeeping software with tracking devices for payment, attendance, child health records and immunizations, etc., as well as child development programming equipment and resources to enhance their financial outlook and parent communication.

Computer for office

Business/record keeping software: Microsoft Office Professional; ProCare or EZCare 2

Printer/color printer

A budget of \$472,555 is available for continuous improvement activities, which would include: teacher training within childcare and safety, daycare center access to online training tools, greater ability to access a full range of reports for the Texas Workforce Commission Childcare Swipe Card System. Staff conducted procurement and received three quotes for the desktop computers from the government contract from the Department of Information Resources (DIR): **DELL Computers, Austin Ribbon & Computer Supplies, Inc. (ARC)** and **XNet Systems, Inc** with all bids received of \$907.79 per computer unit.

Since all computers will be DELL (with the same specs), we are recommending the bid award to the two minority owned DELL dealers: **Austin Ribbon & Computer Supplies, Inc. (ARC)** and **XNet Systems, Inc.** The Board will purchase an equal portion of computers from each dealer.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Board authorization to purchase up to 400 computers from Austin Ribbon & Computer Supplies, Inc and from XNet Systems Inc at a cost per of \$907.79. The remaining budget will be utilized for storage of the computers, high-speed internet, and online training tools. Staff will bring final recommendations to the Board in June for the additional items.