

Texas State Library and Archives Commission
Interoffice Memo

Date: April 20, 2015

To: Procurement File, PO 306-15-8560

From: Mark Smith, Director and Librarian

Subject: Proprietary Justification for Contract with Middle Country Public Library

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission will contract with Middle Country Public Library to provide the Family Place Libraries program for up to 36 Texas public libraries between May 2015 – August 2016.

The agency's Library Services and Technology Act Five-Year Plan 2013-2017 has as one of its five goals:

Texans will have access to library services to build a strong foundation for early learning, success in school, and lifelong learning.

In order to help accomplish this goal the Plan states the agency will:

Promote early childhood literacy and programs to promote reading in libraries through grants, model programs, and training.

Our staff identified a nationally-recognized library program, Family Place Libraries, as a possible model for implementation in Texas. To gauge interest, we conducted an informal survey of Texas public libraries and many libraries were interested in assistance with implementing this type of program at their library.

Procurement process:

Due to that level of interest, we developed and posted a request for information (RFI) to determine if any other nationally-recognized programs were available and interested in working with the agency to implement an existing, nationally-recognized model for early childhood learning library programs. We only received one response, and that was from Family Place Libraries.

Starting in 1996, the Family Place Libraries model was developed under a collaboration between Libraries for the Future (LFF) and Middle Country Public Library (MCPL) in New York. Working together, LFF and MCPL developed a framework for a replicable model to train libraries in new ways of looking at children's services. Currently, the Family Place Libraries network includes more than 400 sites in 27 states. They also have a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to establish Family Place Libraries in 28 libraries in 8 states, including the first Texas library in El Paso.

Given the type of program we stated we would seek to implement, and the results of the RFI, I believe we have sufficient justification for moving forward with a sole source.

We have determined it is in the best interest of the agency to move forward and contract with Middle Country Public Library for the Family Place Libraries program.



Mark Smith, Director and Librarian