



From: The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program

To: City Colleges of Chicago Office of M/WBE Contract Compliance

Re: Request for waiver from the City Colleges of Chicago MBE/WBE Contract Participation Plan

Date: August 25, 2022

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program is requesting a waiver from the City Colleges of Chicago MBE/WBE Contract Participation Plan for a contract to provide leadership development training focused on excellence and equity in student success to leaders at the City Colleges of Chicago from Fall 2022-Fall 2023. Topics of the trainings will include post-completion student success, senior team alignment, alignment of workforce offerings to strong student outcomes, and strategic finance.

The College Excellence Program (CEP) aims to advance higher education practices and leadership that significantly improve student learning, completion, and employment after college—especially for the growing population of students of color and low-income students on American campuses. CEP focuses on building capacity for transformational change at the institutional level through leadership development and practice reform, as well as across the field through practice-focused research, convening, and knowledge dissemination. CEP is a nonprofit organization and the creator and owner of the research-based curricular materials that will be delivered under the aforementioned contract with City Colleges of Chicago.

CEP has 33 full-time employees, 66% of whom are women and 39% of whom are people of color. The senior leadership team is comprised of seven individuals, including five women, three of whom are people of color. Additionally, CEP's staff includes five senior fellows (retired college leaders who advise on strategy and deliver content), three of whom are women and three of whom are people of color. CEP has developed priorities for recruitment and hiring to continue to prioritize diversity on our team and equity in our recruitment and hiring processes.

CEP is housed within the Aspen Institute, an nonprofit organization with 594 employees as of Q2 2022. 71% of Aspen Institute staff are women, and 35% are people of color.

We respectfully request this waiver because the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program is (a) the sole provider of these services with (b) limited subcontracting opportunities.

Sincerely,

Joshua S. Wyner
Vice President
Executive Director, College Excellence Program