

**35821**  
**ADOPTED – BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508**  
**APRIL 2, 2026**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES DISTRICT NO. 508**  
**COUNTY OF COOK AND STATE OF ILLINOIS**

**CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IMPLEMENTATION**  
**AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH IN THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**  
**THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**  
**(AMENDMENT TO BOARD REPORT# 35603)**

**THE CHANCELLOR RECOMMENDS:**

that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chair, upon final approval of the General Counsel as to the legal form of such agreement, to authorize the execution of an agreement to amend the dates of the agreement with American Institutes for Research in the Behavioral Sciences (AIR) to provide technical assistance, implementation support, and strategic guidance for the continued rollout of the Centers of Excellence (COE) model across the City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) for the period that commenced no sooner than August 7, 2025, with the original ending date of April 30, 2026 to be changed to a scheduled ending date of September 30, 2026 or until grant closeout, whichever is greater, at a total cost not to exceed \$297,500.

**VENDOR:** American Institutes for Research in the Behavioral Sciences  
1400 Crystal Drive, 10th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22202-3289

**USER:** Office of Academic Affairs

**ORIGINAL TERM:** In accordance with board report 35603, this agreement’s term commenced upon August 7, 2025, and will continue through April 30, 2026.

**AMENDED TERM:** The term of this amended agreement commenced upon August 7, 2025, and will continue through September 30, 2026, or until grant closeout, whichever is greater.

**SCOPE OF SERVICES:**

The American Institutes for Research (AIR) will provide comprehensive implementation support for the Centers of Excellence (COE) model across City Colleges of Chicago (CCC). This includes delivering two virtual workshops to introduce the COE Playbook and model to faculty and staff, ensuring consistent understanding and application of the framework. AIR will also conduct baseline assessments for each of the ten COEs, using both qualitative and quantitative data to identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improvement.

Building on these assessments, AIR will collaborate with CCC to develop a technical assistance and performance management plan that provides a sustainable roadmap for COE implementation beyond the grant period. Additional services include updating the COE Playbook to reflect governance structures for district-led centers and enhancing employer engagement strategies through journey mapping and redesign of Employer Advisory Councils. These activities are designed to build internal capacity, align operations with labor market needs, and ensure long-term success of the COE model.

**BENEFIT TO CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO:**

This engagement with AIR will significantly advance CCC’s strategic goal of creating equitable student outcomes and strengthening workforce alignment. By supporting the consistent and sustainable implementation of the COE model, this work will enhance institutional capacity to deliver high-quality, industry-aligned programs across all colleges. The baseline assessments and technical assistance plan will equip CCC leadership with actionable insights and tools to drive continuous improvement.

Moreover, the updated Playbook and employer engagement strategies will foster stronger partnerships with industry, ensuring that students are better prepared for in-demand careers. With the potential to impact up to 55,000 students over the next three years, this initiative represents a critical investment in CCC’s mission to serve as a leading engine of socioeconomic mobility and racial equity in Chicago.

**VENDOR SELECTION CRITERIA:**

In accordance with sole source policy procedures, this service is exempt from the District’s competitive bidding process.

**MBE/WBE COMPLIANCE:**

The Office of Procurement Services has reviewed the proposed compliance plan and recommends a full waiver of the Board Approved MBE/WBE Contract Participation Plan due to the nature of the agreement (grant-funded COE implementation support) and the absence of subcontracting opportunities.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

Inspector General – It shall be the duty of each party to the agreement to cooperate with the Inspector General for City Colleges of Chicago in any investigation conducted pursuant to the Inspector General’s authority under Article II, Section 2.7.4(b) of the Board Bylaws.

Ethics – It shall be the duty of each party to the agreement to comply with the applicable provisions of the Board’s Ethics Policy adopted January 7, 1993, and as amended by the Board.

Contingent Liability – Pursuant to Section 7-14 of the Illinois Public Community College Act, all agreements authorized herein shall contain a clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year.

**FINANCIAL**

**Total:** \$297,500

**Charge to:** The Office of Academic Affairs

**Source of Funds:** Restricted Fund

**Budget Line:** 530000-21000-0000118-20000-809562500 (CCT Bridges)

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Juan Salgado  
Chancellor**

**April 2, 2026 – The Office of Academic Affairs**