



**Interoffice Memorandum**

August 11, 2020

**TO:** Mayor Jerry L. Demings  
and the Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Carrie Mathes, CFCM, CPPO, C.P.M., Manager, Procurement  
Division

**CONTACT:** Linda Brooks, Manager, Community Corrections Division  
407-836-3089

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Contract Y20-1072, Basic Construction Education  
Program for Inmates

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approval of Contract Y20-1072, Basic Construction Education Program for Inmates, with Valencia College in the total contract award amount of \$216,000 for a one-year term. Further request authorization for the Procurement Division to renew the contract for two additional one-year terms.

**PURPOSE:**

This contract will provide a basic construction education program for inmates who are eight to ten weeks from release. Program services include classroom instruction and hands-on training.

**FUNDING:**

Funding is available in account number 1660-081-3820-3197.

**APPROVALS:**

The Corrections Department concurs with this recommendation.

**REMARKS:**

The Basic Construction Education Program will provide a basic construction or masonry re-entry program for inmates housed at Orange County Corrections. Both the construction and masonry fields present career opportunities that are diverse and potentially higher wages than the average inmate without skilled training. Inmates receiving general education and vocational training are significantly less likely to return to jail/prison after release. They are also more likely to find employment than peers who do not receive such opportunities. Each session shall consist of 200 hours (34 hours per week for six weeks) of classroom and hands-on instruction in the area of basic construction or masonry.

Approval of Contract Y20-1072, Basic Construction Education Program for Inmates

There will be a maximum of 20 inmates per construction class and a maximum of 15 inmates per masonry class. Because of the unique partnership with Valencia, upon completion, a graduate receives five certificates to include a national certification. Instructional staff, books, tools, equipment, safety gear and consumable materials to include book, handouts and construction materials are provided by Valencia College.

Valencia College is the only accredited educational institution offering a construction program in a correctional setting. There are multiple challenges for a construction program within a correctional facility: appropriate content, timeframe flexibility, curriculum management. Currently, the construction and masonry programs have not only had a 100% graduation rate, but has also been contributing to reducing recidivism in the Orange County community. During the last three years, the Orange County Corrections Construction Program graduated 257 men and women. A total of 187 graduates are currently full-time employed and receive health and retirement benefits.

Mid Florida Tech offers a Building Construction Technology program which consists of 1050 classroom hours. This number far exceeds the average length of stay of any sentenced Orange County Corrections inmates and the cost is \$4,684 per student. In comparison, Valencia offers a construction class at \$2,800 per student and a masonry class at \$3,200 per student. The contract amount is considered reasonable based on the evaluation and analysis by County technical staff.