ALL KIDS ACADEMY HEAD START, INC.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, SHADE STRUCTURES, SAFETY SURFACING & SITE IMPROVEMENTS

AKA HEADSTART, INC. GRCDC PLAYGROUND

698 W. Madison Avenue, El Cajon, CA 92020

RFP No.: [INSERT]

Milestone	Date / Time
Issue Date	November 16, 2026
Mandatory Job Walk	December 1-2, 2026
Written Questions Due	December 8, 2026
Proposal Due	December 21, 2026
Anticipated Award	January 7, 2027
Contract Execution	After required approvals

Procurement Contact: Amanda Kelley, Facilities/Purchasing Manager | rfp@akaheadstart.org

1. Purpose and Solicitation Overview

All Kids Academy Head Start, Inc. ("AKA") is soliciting proposals from qualified contractors to furnish, engineer, deliver, install, inspect, and warrant a complete playground improvement package for the GRCDC Child Care Center.

The procurement is intended to provide playground equipment, shade structures, safety surfacing, foundations, and related site improvements supporting the operation of a Head Start childcare facility. The resulting contract shall be a turnkey installation and shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local requirements.

2. Procurement and Regulatory Framework

This solicitation is being conducted by All Kids Academy Head Start, Inc. ("AKA") in accordance with applicable federal requirements, Head Start Program requirements, and AKA procurement standards.

Contractors shall be selected through a competitive procurement process intended to provide open and fair competition and obtain the best overall value for the organization. Proposals will be evaluated based upon responsiveness to the solicitation requirements, qualifications, relevant experience, technical approach, product quality, project schedule, and overall value to AKA.

This procurement shall be administered in accordance with:

- 2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards
- Applicable Head Start facilities requirements

- Applicable federal labor standards requirements
- Applicable state and local laws, regulations, and permitting requirements
- AKA policies governing procurement and contract administration

All proposers shall provide evidence of:

- Applicable contractor licensing
- General liability insurance
- Workers' compensation insurance
- Manufacturer certifications where required
- Qualifications necessary to perform the work described in this solicitation

AKA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive minor irregularities, request clarification of proposal information, negotiate scope or pricing, and award a contract determined to be in the best interest of the organization.

AKA encourages participation by qualified small businesses, local businesses, minority-owned businesses, and women-owned businesses consistent with applicable procurement requirements.

3. Head Start Funding and Approval Conditions

If federal Head Start funds are utilized in whole or in part, all required approvals shall be obtained prior to contract execution.

Contractors shall cooperate fully with any documentation, review, reporting, inspection, or audit requirements associated with federal funding and Head Start facilities regulations.

4. Project Background

The project consists of the furnishing, engineering, delivery, installation, inspection, and warranty of playground equipment, shade structures, and safety surfacing associated with the GRCDC Child Care Center located at 698 W. Madison Avenue, El Cajon, California.

The approved plans identify:

- Head Start Outdoor Activity Area – approximately 3,030 square feet
- Early Head Start Outdoor Activity Area – approximately 4,317 square feet

The project shall support the playground areas identified within the approved permit plans and associated site improvements.

Contractors are responsible for reviewing all referenced exhibits, plans, specifications, and attachments and incorporating all labor, supervision, materials, equipment, freight, engineering, permits, testing, warranties, and closeout requirements necessary to provide a complete and operational installation.

5. Project-Specific Scope of Work

The Contractor shall provide all labor, supervision, engineering, equipment, foundations, permits, testing, freight, installation, inspections, startup, training, warranty services, and closeout documentation required for a complete operational playground system.

The Contractor shall furnish a complete turnkey installation. Any labor, supervision, materials, equipment, foundations, engineering, hardware, connectors, permits, freight, testing, inspections, warranties, appurtenances, or incidental work reasonably necessary to provide a complete and operational playground system, whether specifically identified herein or not, shall be considered included in the Base Bid and Contract Price.

The Contractor shall be responsible for verifying field conditions and coordinating all work necessary to achieve a complete installation.

5.1 Head Start Playground Equipment

The Contractor shall provide playground equipment specifically designed for children ages two (2) through five (5) years.

Required Equipment

- Composite play structures
- Slides
- Climbers – Age Appropriate for (2) through (3)
- Bridges and connectors
- Transfer stations
- Sensory play features
- Ground-level play activities
- Inclusive play opportunities
- Nature-inspired play features
- Dramatic play opportunities
- ADA-accessible play opportunities

Minimum Requirements

- Accommodate approximately 16 children
- IPEMA certified
- ASTM F1487 compliant
- ADA compliant
- Meet applicable California childcare licensing requirements

Approved Manufacturers

- Landscape Structures
- GameTime

- Playworld
- Miracle Recreation
- Kompan
- Approved Equal

The Owner anticipates a total project budget not to exceed $250,000 and expects proposers to maximize play value while maintaining cost efficiency.

The Owner reserves the right to reject playground designs that do not provide sufficient play value, accessibility, variety of activities, durability, age-appropriate developmental opportunities, or overall educational benefit for children ages two (2) through five (5) years.

Proposed playground designs shall demonstrate an appropriate balance of active play, sensory play, imaginative play, social interaction, inclusive play opportunities, and developmental learning experiences.

5.2 Early Head Start Outdoor Activity Area

No playground equipment shall be installed within the Early Head Start Outdoor Activity Area under this procurement.

Work shall be limited to:

- Safety surfacing
- Shade structures
- Associated foundations
- Incidental site improvements necessary to support the installation

5.3 Shade Structures

Contractor shall furnish and install commercial-grade hip shade structures.

Minimum Requirements

- Hip shade configuration
- Commercial-grade shade fabric
- Powder-coated steel support posts
- Concrete foundations
- Corrosion-resistant hardware
- California stamped engineering calculations
- Minimum 90% UV protection

Required Coverage

- Primary play structures
- Major activity areas
- Gathering spaces

- Staff supervision areas

Shade sails shall not be accepted as the Base Bid configuration.

5.4 Safety Surfacing

Base Bid

Artificial Turf Safety Surfacing

Artificial turf shall include an impact attenuation pad system designed to satisfy ASTM F1292 requirements based upon the critical fall height associated with the proposed playground equipment.

Landscape-grade turf products without certified safety impact attenuation shall not be considered responsive.

Alternate No. 1

Poured-In-Place Rubber Surfacing

Alternate No. 2

Engineered Wood Fiber Surfacing

Surfacing Requirements

- ASTM F1292 compliant
- ASTM F1951 compliant
- ADA accessible
- Drainage included
- Shock attenuation suitable for equipment fall heights

5.5 Foundations and Site Preparation

Contractor shall provide:

- Excavation
- Utility coordination
- Concrete footings
- Backfill
- Restoration
- Surface preparation
- Drainage coordination

Coordination with existing underground utilities, verification of utility clearances, and protection of existing improvements shall be included in the Base Bid.

5.6 Design Submittals

Contractor shall submit:

- Full-color playground renderings
- Site layout drawings
- Shade structure layouts
- Use-zone diagrams
- Fall-zone calculations
- ADA route plans
- Product data sheets
- Manufacturer cut sheets
- IPEMA certifications
- Warranty information
- Foundation details

Submittals shall be sufficiently detailed to allow evaluation of play value, shade coverage, ADA accessibility, equipment use zones, fall zones, surfacing requirements, and overall project compliance.

Proposals lacking sufficient information to evaluate compliance may be deemed non-responsive.

5.7 Installation and Site Operations

The Contractor shall maintain a safe project site at all times and coordinate installation activities with AKA staff and other project contractors.

Installation activities shall be performed in accordance with all applicable safety regulations and project requirements.

5.8 Testing and Closeout

Contractor shall provide:

- Final inspections
- CPSI review documentation
- Record drawings
- Operations and maintenance manuals
- Manufacturer warranties
- Manufacturer maintenance schedules
- Product registration documentation
- Final punch-list completion
- Staff training

6. Schedule and Pre-Bid Activities

Schedule, job walk requirements, bidder questions, and addenda procedures shall follow the requirements established in this solicitation.

7. Contractor Qualifications

Contractors shall:

- Hold an active California Contractor License
- Possess a minimum of five (5) years of playground installation experience
- Have successfully completed at least three (3) comparable playground installation projects within the last five (5) years
- Demonstrate experience with childcare centers, schools, parks, recreation facilities, or Head Start programs
- Demonstrate the ability to provide installation, warranty, and post-installation support services

AKA reserves the right to contact references and verify project performance, schedule compliance, workmanship quality, and warranty responsiveness.

Preference may be given to contractors employing a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) or utilizing CPSI review services.

8. Subcontracting

The prime contractor shall remain fully responsible for the performance of all subcontractors and suppliers.

All applicable contractual obligations shall be flowed down to subcontractors.

9. Bonds and Insurance

Each proposer shall maintain insurance coverage consistent with Exhibit D-7.

At a minimum:

- Commercial General Liability Insurance
- Automobile Liability Insurance
- Workers' Compensation Insurance
- Employer's Liability Insurance

Evidence of insurance shall be provided prior to execution of any contract.

Insurance certificates shall identify All Kids Academy Head Start, Inc. as an Additional Insured where applicable.

AKA reserves the right to require performance and payment bonding based upon the final contract amount, project risk profile, funding requirements, manufacturer requirements, or other project considerations.

10. Davis-Bacon / Prevailing Wage

Exhibit D-4, Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wage and Certified Payroll Requirements, is incorporated into this RFP and shall govern all applicable labor activities performed under the resulting contract.

Contractors shall include all costs associated with Davis-Bacon compliance, certified payroll reporting, labor classifications, fringe benefits, apprenticeship requirements, and administration of labor standards within their proposal pricing.

The successful Contractor shall comply with all applicable federal labor requirements and any associated wage determination attached to the final contract.

11. Pricing and Contract Type

The contract resulting from this solicitation shall be a lump-sum fixed-price agreement.

Proposal pricing shall include all labor, supervision, materials, equipment, engineering, permits, delivery, freight, installation, inspections, testing, startup, training, warranty services, closeout documentation, and all other work required to provide a complete operational playground installation.

Contractors shall include all known costs necessary to complete the Work as described in this solicitation and referenced exhibits.

12. Change Management

No changes to the Contract Price or Contract Time shall be authorized without written approval from AKA.

Any requested modification to the scope, schedule, materials, or contract amount shall be submitted in writing and supported by sufficient documentation for evaluation.

The Contractor shall not proceed with additional work outside the approved contract scope without written authorization from AKA.

13. Payment, Verification and Closeout

Payment procedures, verification requirements, certified payroll reporting requirements, closeout documentation, and final acceptance requirements shall be administered in accordance with the resulting contract documents.

Prior to final payment, the Contractor shall provide:

- Final inspection documentation
- Warranty information
- Operations and maintenance manuals
- Record drawings
- Required labor compliance records
- Any additional closeout documentation required by the Contract

AKA reserves the right to withhold payment as permitted by the Contract where required documentation has not been provided.

14. HHS Access and Final Inspection

- Provide reasonable access to authorized HHS representatives and cooperate with AKA, design professionals, inspectors and auditors. Support the required final licensed architect/engineer facility inspection.

15. Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals shall include, at a minimum:

- Completed Proposal Form
- Contractor License Information
- Insurance Information
- Bonding Information (if applicable)
- Playground Concept Plan
- Full-Color Playground Rendering
- Playground Equipment Layout
- Shade Structure Layout
- Safety Surfacing Information
- Manufacturer Information
- CPSI Qualifications
- Three Relevant Project References
- Proposed Project Team and Key Contacts
- Proposed Project Schedule
- Warranty Information
- Davis-Bacon Acknowledgment

Contractors shall identify all proposed major manufacturers for:

- Playground equipment
- Shade structures
- Surfacing systems

Proposers shall identify any proposed subcontractors and provide evidence of applicable licensing and insurance for entities performing work under the contract.

Proposed schedules shall identify:

- Design
- Submittals
- Procurement
- Installation
- Inspection
- Closeout milestones

Proposals must remain valid for a minimum period of ninety (90) calendar days following the proposal submission deadline.

16. Questions, Submission and Addenda

- Submit written questions to rfp@akaheadstart.org by the cover deadline. Oral interpretations are not binding. Submit proposal using the method and deadline identified on the cover.

17. Procurement Integrity and Federal Provisions

- Disclose conflicts and comply with AKA procurement-integrity controls. The final contract will include applicable 2 CFR 200.327 / Appendix II clauses and other Head Start, labor, records/access and award terms.

18. Evaluation and Award

- AKA will document responsiveness, responsibility, evaluation and price basis. Before publication, AKA shall confirm the final procurement method.

Evaluation Factor	Weight
RFP responsiveness/compliance	10%
Relevant Playground Experience	20%
Playground Design Quality	25%
Safety/Implementation Plan	15%
Schedule/Capacity	10%
Cost Proposal	15%
Small/ Local Business Participation	5%
TOTAL	100%

AKA reserves the right to award based upon best value and is not required to make award solely on the basis of lowest price.

Consideration may be given to:

- Technical approach
- Playground design quality
- Relevant experience
- Project schedule

- References
- Warranty provisions
- Safety record
- Implementation approach
- Overall value offered to the organization

Selection may be based on best value and overall proposal quality rather than lowest cost alone.

AKA reserves the right to negotiate scope, pricing, alternates, value-engineering opportunities, and contract terms prior to award.

19. RFP Drawing Exhibits and Contract Documents

Proposers shall review all sheets, notes, details and schedules in the following exhibits and include the required work in the lump-sum proposal.

Attachment D - RFP Exhibits Index

Exhibit	Document	Issue Method
D-1	Architectural Permit Plans (06.22.26 HEADSTART DAYCARE TI PERMIT Recheck PLANS.pdf)	Separate PDF
D-2	Grading & Drainage Improvements (GRADING & DRAINAGE PLAN.pdf)	Separate PDF
D-3	Playground Design Criteria	Included Herein
D-4	Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wage & Certified Payroll Requirements	Included Herein
D-5	Playground Bid Form	Included Herein
D-6	Bidder Acknowledgement	Included Herein
D-7	Insurance Requirements	Included Herein
D-8	AKA CHILD CARE CENTER MUP DWGS	Separate PDF

EXHIBIT D-3
PLAYGROUND DESIGN CRITERIA

AKA HeadStart, Inc. GRCDC Playground - 698 W. Madison Avenue, El Cajon, CA 92020

1. Project Intent

The purpose of this Exhibit is to establish the minimum design, performance, accessibility, safety, and quality requirements for the playground improvements associated with the GRCDC Child Care Center.

The Owner seeks a complete turnkey playground solution that maximizes play value, accessibility, safety, durability, and shade coverage while maintaining overall project cost efficiency.

2. Head Start Playground Equipment

The Head Start Outdoor Activity Area shall receive playground equipment designed specifically for children ages two (2) through five (5) years.

Required Play Experiences

- Climbing
- Sliding
- Balancing
- Sensory play
- Cooperative play
- Dramatic play
- Ground-level play
- Inclusive play opportunities

Required Components

- Composite play structure
- Climbers
- Slides
- Bridges and connectors
- Transfer stations
- Sensory panels
- Nature-inspired play elements
- Accessible play components

Equipment Standards

Equipment shall:

- Accommodate approximately 40-60 children
- Be commercial grade
- Be designed for institutional childcare use
- Be IPEMA certified
- Comply with ASTM F1487
- Comply with ADA Accessibility Guidelines

- Meet California childcare licensing requirements

Approved Manufacturers

- Landscape Structures
- GameTime
- Playworld
- Miracle Recreation
- Kompan
- Approved Equal

3. Early Head Start Outdoor Activity Area

No playground equipment shall be installed within the Early Head Start Outdoor Activity Area under this procurement.

Work shall be limited to:

- Artificial turf surfacing
- Hip shade structures
- Associated site improvements

4. Shade Structures

The Base Bid shall utilize commercial-grade hip shade structures.

Minimum Requirements

- Hip shade configuration
- Commercial-grade shade fabric
- Powder-coated steel support posts
- Engineered concrete foundations
- Corrosion-resistant hardware
- Minimum 90% UV protection
- California stamped engineering calculations

Required Coverage

Contractors shall provide shade coverage over:

- Primary play structures
- Active play areas
- Staff supervision areas
- Gathering areas

Shade sails shall not be considered responsive as the Base Bid design.

5. Surfacing Requirements

Base Bid

Artificial Turf Safety Surfacing

Requirements:

- ASTM F1292 compliant
- ASTM F1951 compliant
- ADA accessible
- Impact attenuation pad system
- Integrated drainage system
- Manufacturer warranty

Alternate No. 1

Poured-In-Place Rubber Surfacing

Alternate No. 2

Engineered Wood Fiber Surfacing

6. Design Deliverables

Proposers shall submit:

- Full-color playground rendering
- Playground layout plan
- Shade structure layout
- Use-zone plan
- Fall-zone calculations
- ADA route plan
- Foundation details
- Product cut sheets
- IPEMA certifications
- Warranty information

7. Budget Objective

The Owner anticipates a total project budget not to exceed $250,000.

Contractors shall maximize play value, accessibility, durability, and shade coverage while maintaining cost efficiency.

EXHIBIT D-4
DAVIS-BACON PREVAILING WAGE & CERTIFIED PAYROLL REQUIREMENTS

AKA HeadStart, Inc. GRCDC Playground - 698 W. Madison Avenue, El Cajon, CA 92020

1. Wage Determination Control

This Exhibit establishes Davis-Bacon labor-compliance requirements for the project. The applicable U.S. Department of Labor wage determination must be physically included with the solicitation and resulting covered contract. AKA shall attach the active San Diego County determination and the modification applicable under federal timing rules before award. Bidders shall not rely solely on the selected-rate summary below.

Control Item	Requirement
Jurisdiction	San Diego County, California
Construction	Playground equipment installation, shade structures, safety surfacing, associated foundations, site improvements, and related playground construction activities
Federal WD reference	CA20260001 - verify ACTIVE revision/modification on SAM.gov immediately before solicitation issue and again prior to award
Official source	SAM.gov Wage Determinations / U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division
Contract treatment	Attach the full applicable wage determination and all controlling general decisions/notes; flow requirements to every covered subcontract

2. Selected Trade Rate Reference

The following working reference summarizes trades likely to appear on the Madison Avenue project. Before publication, AKA must replace or validate every listed figure against the official active wage determination attached to the RFP. The contractual minimum is the classification-specific basic rate plus required fringe benefits in the controlling wage determination, not this summary.

Classification / Working Reference	Basic	Fringe	Total
Cement Mason/Concrete Finisher - Group 3	$30.07	$21.12	$51.19
Laborer - Building Group 2	$46.30	$25.09	$71.39
Laborer - Heavy/Highway Group 1	$46.66	$25.09	$71.75
Laborer - Heavy/Highway Group 4	$49.28	$25.09	$74.37
Plumber - Sewer & Storm	$48.84	$23.58	$72.42

Drain			

3. Contractor Compliance Requirements

- Pay each covered laborer or mechanic no less than the applicable Davis-Bacon basic hourly wage plus fringe benefits for the classification of work actually performed.
- Meet the fringe-benefit obligation through qualifying bona fide benefit contributions/credits and/or permissible cash in lieu of fringe benefits.
- Pay covered workers weekly and submit weekly certified payroll information for the prime contractor and every covered subcontractor.
- Use U.S. DOL Form WH-347 or another payroll format containing all required information. Each payroll submission must include a signed Statement of Compliance with the required certifications.
- Maintain accurate worker classifications, daily/weekly hours, rates, fringe-benefit information, deductions and other labor-compliance records required by the contract.
- Use apprentice rates only when the individual and program satisfy applicable registered-apprenticeship requirements.
- Flow applicable Davis-Bacon labor clauses, wage determination requirements and payroll obligations into covered subcontracts and lower-tier subcontracts.
- Promptly investigate and correct misclassification, fringe-benefit shortages or wage underpayments and provide evidence of restitution/correction when requested by AKA.
- Cooperate with AKA, the funding agency, U.S. Department of Labor and authorized auditors/representatives in payroll and labor-standards reviews.

4. Weekly Certified Payroll Submission

Submission	Minimum AKA Requirement
Frequency	Weekly for each week in which covered work is performed; submit a no-work notice if AKA requires one for inactive weeks
Prime contractor	Responsible for timely collection/review of its own and all covered subcontractor payrolls
Form	WH-347 or compliant equivalent, with signed Statement of Compliance
Project identification	Project name/number, location and applicable wage determination number/revision
Worker information	Required identifying information, classification, work hours, rate(s), gross pay, deductions, net pay and fringe-benefit reporting
Correction	Revised certified payroll and restitution evidence where an error or underpayment is identified
AKA review	Payment may be held where required labor-compliance records are missing, materially incomplete or show unresolved underpayment, subject to the Contract and applicable law

5. Classification and Conformance

The Contractor is responsible for classifying workers based on actual duties performed.

Where work requires a classification not contained within the applicable wage determination, the Contractor shall notify AKA and cooperate with the federal conformance process.

6. California Prevailing Wage

This Exhibit addresses federal Davis-Bacon requirements.

The Contractor remains responsible for compliance with any applicable California prevailing wage obligations that may also apply to the work.

7. Bidder Acknowledgment

By submitting a proposal, the bidder acknowledges:

- Prevailing wage obligations are included in the proposal price.
- Fringe benefit obligations have been included in the proposal price.
- Subcontractor pricing reflects labor standards requirements.
- The final wage determination incorporated into the Contract shall control.
- The bidder agrees to provide authorized Department of Health and Human Services representatives access to the project site as required by 45 CFR 1303.55(d).

EXHIBIT D-5
PLAYGROUND BID FORM

Contractor Information

Contractor Name: _____

Address: _____

California Contractor License No.: _____

Contact Person: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

BASE BID

Item	Amount
Head Start Playground Equipment	$_____

Hip Shade Structures	$_____
Artificial Turf Safety Surfacing	$_____
Foundations and Site Preparation	$_____
Delivery / Freight	$_____
Design / Engineering	$_____
TOTAL BASE BID	**$**_____

ALTERNATES

Alternate No. 1

Poured-In-Place Rubber Surfacing

$_____

Alternate No. 2

Engineered Wood Fiber Surfacing

$_____

Alternate No. 3

Additional Shade Coverage

$_____

PROPOSED MANUFACTURERS

Play Equipment Manufacturer:

Shade Structure Manufacturer:

Surfacing Manufacturer:

PROJECT DURATION

Proposed Contract Duration:

_____ Calendar Days

Authorized Signature:

Date:

EXHIBIT D-6

BIDDER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the Request for Proposals, exhibits, plans, specifications, addenda, and related contract documents associated with the GRCDC Child Care Center Playground Equipment, Shade Structures, Safety Surfacing & Site Improvements Project.

The undersigned certifies that:

- The proposal includes all labor, materials, equipment, supervision, engineering, permits, testing, inspections, delivery, installation, startup, closeout requirements, and warranties required to complete the work.
- The proposer has reviewed the solicitation documents and available project information.
- The proposer possesses the necessary licenses, qualifications, experience, and financial capacity required to perform the work.
- The proposer can comply with Davis-Bacon labor standards and certified payroll requirements.
- The proposer acknowledges the requirements of 45 CFR 1303.55(d) and agrees that, if awarded the Contract, the construction or renovation contract will give the responsible Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) official or his or her designee access to the facility, at all reasonable times, during construction and inspection.
- The proposer can comply with applicable federal procurement requirements.
- The proposer has included all known costs necessary to provide a complete operational installation.
- The proposer understands that AKA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, request clarifications, negotiate scope or pricing, and award in the best interest of the organization.

Legal Company Name:

California Contractor License Number:

Authorized Representative:

Title:

Signature:

Date:

EXHIBIT D-7

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Prior to contract execution, the successful proposer shall provide certificates of insurance evidencing the following minimum coverages:

Coverage	Minimum Requirement
Commercial General Liability	$1,000,000 per occurrence / $2,000,000 aggregate
Automobile Liability	$1,000,000 combined single limit
Workers' Compensation	Statutory
Employer's Liability	$1,000,000 each accident

Additional Insured Requirement

All Kids Academy Head Start, Inc. shall be named as an Additional Insured where applicable.

Duration of Coverage

Coverage shall remain in effect throughout project construction and any applicable warranty period.