

# ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION REQUEST

Please email requests to the Mayor's Legislative Team  
at [MileHighOrdinance@DenverGov.org](mailto:MileHighOrdinance@DenverGov.org) by 9 a.m. Friday. Contact the Mayor's Legislative team with questions

Date of Request: **8/30/2024**

Please mark one:  Bill Request or  Resolution Request

Please mark one: The request directly impacts developments, projects, contracts, resolutions, or bills that involve property and impact within .5 miles of the South Platte River from Denver's northern to southern boundary? (Check map [HERE](#))

Yes  No

## 1. Type of Request:

Contract/Grant Agreement  Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)  Rezoning/Text Amendment

Dedication/Vacation  Appropriation/Supplemental  DRMC Change

Other:

2. **Title:** (Start with *approves, amends, dedicates*, etc., include name of company or contractor and indicate the type of request: grant acceptance, contract execution, contract amendment, municipal code change, supplemental request, etc.)

Approves 2-year contract extension with **GRID Alternatives Colorado, Inc.** for Good Green Jobs Contract, providing an expiration date of December 1, 2026; Contract No. CASR-202475635-02\_202161073-02

3. **Requesting Agency:** Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency (CASR)

## 4. Contact Person:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Contact person with knowledge of proposed ordinance/resolution (e.g., subject matter expert) | Contact person for council members or mayor-council |
| Name: Jessmine Anderson  | Name: Jessmine Anderson                             |
| Email: Jessmine.Anderson@denvergov.org   | Email: Jessmine.Anderson@denvergov.org              |

## 5. General description or background of proposed request. Attach executive summary if more space needed:

GRID Alternatives Colorado, Inc. is a non-profit providing the SolarCorps Fellowship Program, a paid training pathway which connects Denver job seekers from underserved communities with career opportunities in the rapidly growing renewable energy industry.

This amendment is to allow a contract term to extend beyond three (3) years for the following reason(s): To allow GRID SolarCorps to achieve contract deliverables (specifically, get closer to the contract goal of 92% completion where current completion is 44%) through improved program supports such as increase in pay and a new registered apprenticeship model; and use the remaining \$165,000 funds in their budget to work toward this goal.

- Reasons for low program completion:
  - The SolarCorps Fellowship was a new program for GRID Alternatives. As a pilot program, the organization has encountered issues such as difficulty getting some participants through the one-year program, for the first time. They have learned from participant feedback and completion rates and have made improvements to address these challenges.
  - The program recruits 100% from Denver's underserved population, including justice involved and low-income individuals. Most program dropouts were due to life challenges such as issues with work visa, justice involvement issues, or having to move out of state.
- Steps GRID Alternatives has taken to improve program completion:
  - Increase training wage up to \$23.50/hour (higher than the \$21.40 training wage supported by CASR), based on additional skills such as Spanish.

To be completed by Mayor's Legislative Team:

Resolution/Bill Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Entered: \_\_\_\_\_

- Enroll all Fellows into Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) Registered Electrician Apprenticeship and hired three electricians to help mentor their Fellows in the electrical industry, something they did not have in the first two years. This programmatic change allows Fellows to accrue on-the-job (OJT) training hours during their one-year Fellowship that can be transferred to an electrician job upon graduation, improving retention within the industry.

The relationship with this vendor is beneficial because it is currently one of the only paid training programs in Denver exclusively training priority populations in solar installation. Additionally, the one-year length of the program is unique in that it gives trainees significant work-based learning experience for their resumes prior to receiving job placement support. As a one-year solar training program in Denver with 100% priority population enrollment, extending this contract will benefit the City by supporting the Green Workforce vision to expand green job opportunities for under-resourced individuals through paid training programs. This amendment is only to extend performance period/time, not scope or budget.

6. **City Attorney assigned to this request (if applicable):** McKenzie Brandon

7. **City Council District:** Citywide

8. **\*\*For all contracts, fill out and submit accompanying Key Contract Terms worksheet\*\***

### Key Contract Terms

**Type of Contract:** Professional Services > \$500K

**Vendor/Contractor Name (including any dba's):** GRID Alternatives Colorado, Inc.

**Contract control number (legacy and new):** CASR-202475635-02\_202161073-02

**Location:** Citywide

**Is this a new contract?**  Yes  No **Is this an Amendment?**  Yes  No **If yes, how many?** 2

**Contract Term/Duration (for amended contracts, include existing term dates and amended dates):**

Existing: 12/1/2021 - 12/1/2024; Amended: 12/1/2021 - 12/1/2026

**Contract Amount (indicate existing amount, amended amount and new contract total):**

| <i>Current Contract Amount</i> | <i>Additional Funds</i> | <i>Total Contract Amount</i> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| (A)                            | (B)                     | (A+B)                        |
| \$588,081.00                   | \$0                     | \$588,081.00                 |

| <i>Current Contract Term</i> | <i>Added Time</i> | <i>New Ending Date</i> |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 12/1/2021 - 12/1/2024        | 2 years           | 12/1/2026              |

**Scope of work:**

GRID Alternatives Colorado, Inc. is a non-profit providing the SolarCorps Fellowship Program, a paid training pathway connecting Denver job seekers from underserved communities with career opportunities in the rapidly growing renewable energy industry. Through the 12-month program, SolarCorps Fellows gain valuable and comprehensive experience on actual solar installations with training, coaching, and supervision from skilled professionals at no cost to them, while making significant contributions to GRID

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Colorado and the communities they serve. SolarCorps Fellows receive support finding a solar or clean energy job upon completion of the program.

The SolarCorps Training includes:

- In-demand Industry Credentials: First Aid & CPR, OSHA 10 or 30,
- Support in attaining North American Board Certified Energy Practitioners Credential (NABCEP), an in-demand industry credential
- On-the-job hours counted toward Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) Registered Electrician Apprenticeship
- On-site training in:
  - Safety Training
  - Fall Protection
  - Ladders/Power Tools
  - Site Management
  - Training that is industry-relevant and recognized in the electrical and construction trades.
  - Installation Flow, Wiring, Conduit Size, Component Selection, Mounting & Racking, Modules,
  - Commissioning
  - Training that is specific to solar installations, including system design, permitting, installation of solar panel systems, approval, and utility interconnection.
  - Exposure to diverse building sites, various roof configurations, electrical systems, customized solar system designs, operations, and maintenance.
  - Non-installation skills
  - Securing a building permit
  - Customer engagement with solar clients.
  - Computer skills, Google Suite, Salesforce, SiteCapture
  - Project Management
  - Warehouse/procurement

Outcomes so far:

- 100% priority populations enrollment, specifically:
  - 75% Justice Involved
  - 88% Low Income
  - 75% BIPOC
  - 38% Resident of NEST neighborhood
- 8 fellows receiving paid training of \$59,196 year, plus a full slate of benefits.
- 67% placement rate of graduates into a solar or electrician job, earning \$22/hour starting wage.

**Was this contractor selected by competitive process? Yes**

**If not, why not?**

**Has this contractor provided these services to the City before?**  Yes  No

**Source of funds:** Climate Protection Fund

**Is this contract subject to:**  W/MBE  DBE  SBE  XO101  ACDBE  N/A

**WBE/MBE/DBE commitments (construction, design, Airport concession contracts):** N/A

**Who are the subcontractors to this contract?** N/A

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