



SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Superintendent of Schools

Randolph E. Ward, Ed.D.

June 15, 2014

Dr. Juan J. Sánchez
Southwest Key Programs
6002 Jain Lane
Austin, Texas 78721

Dear Dr. Sánchez,

I am pleased to hear that Southwest Key Programs, a non-profit, community based organization, is submitting a proposal to expand shelter services provided to unaccompanied alien children in this region. I understand that Southwest Key is proposing to provide these services through funding obtained by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement/ Division of Unaccompanied Children's Services (ORR/DUCS).

We have had the pleasure of observing Southwest Key's work in the delivery of these services first hand as they have provided an excellent, full range of residential services for unaccompanied alien children who enter the United States undocumented and who are currently in the custody of ORR/DUCS. Awarding Southwest Key Programs a contract to provide additional services in this area will ensure that more unaccompanied minors will receive the highest quality of culturally competent physical and mental health, education, reunification, and residential services. I know that during their stay at a Southwest Key facility, every effort is made to achieve the goal of reunification with biological parents or other appropriate family members. This is a rewarding outcome for all parties.

As the Senior Director for the San Diego County Office of Education, I would like to express my upmost support for Southwest Key's Unaccompanied Minors Shelter Care Program. Over the past several years, we have worked with Southwest Key to provide additional services in this area will ensure that more unaccompanied minors will receive the highest quality of culturally competent physical and mental health, education, reunification, and residential services. We look forward to continue working in partnership with Southwest Key programs to continue providing these services to help improve the lives of these unaccompanied minors. We are confident that this collaboration will allow both organizations to stretch needed resources so that we may reach more children more profoundly.

Respectfully yours,

José Manuel Villarreal, Ed.D.
Senior Director

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