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425 S. Financial Place, Suite 1400 | Chicago, IL 60605-1000

# **Request for Proposal**

## **MWDBE Private Equity Investment**

**April 9, 2021**

Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund  
425 S. Financial Place, Suite 1400  
Chicago, IL 60605

## **Purpose**

The Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued by the Board of Trustees of the Public School Teachers' Pension and Retirement Fund of Chicago ("CTPF" or "Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund"). The Board solicits proposals from all qualified MWDBE (Minority-Owned, Women-Owned and Persons with Disabilities Owned Business Enterprise) professional firms interested in providing **Private Equity Investment Management Services ("Investment Manager")** offered in a closed end commingled fund structure. This RFP does not offer a contract, but seeks the submission of proposals from qualified, professional firms. Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to solicit additional proposals if that is determined to be in the best interest of CTPF. CTPF's investment staff will be receiving and analyzing all responses from this investment manager search.

**CTPF's investment policy, procurement policy and Code of Ethics, all of which are posted on CTPF's website (www.ctpf.org), are adopted and incorporated by reference. The investment policy, procurement policy and the Code of Ethics are subject to change.**

## **Scope of Services**

The Investment Manager(s) selected will perform the following services:

1. The Investment Manager will provide CTPF with private equity investment management services via a commingled fund structure.
2. The Investment Manager will have independent discretionary authority with respect to the investment of that portion of assets managed by Investment Manager.
3. The Investment Manager shall provide quarterly and annual performance (gross and net of fees) and portfolio valuation reports in addition to annual audited financial statements to CTPF, the Fund's general consultant, Callan Associates, and the Fund's custodian bank BNY Mellon.
4. The Investment Manager shall adhere to the due diligence responsibilities as detailed in the Subscription Document, Limited Partnership Agreement, Limited Liability

Corporation Agreement, or Investment Management Agreement, and related side letters, as applicable.

5. The Investment Manager shall abide by performance standards and criteria.
6. The Investment Manager will document all fund level investment activity with CTPF's master custodian in accordance with ILPA reporting standards and confirm all executed transactions from custodial account records; CTPF's current master custodian is Bank of New York Mellon.

### **Minimum Qualifications**

In order to be considered for selection as an Investment Manager, the Investment Manager must provide documented proof that the following minimum qualifications listed below are met.

1. The Investment Manager shall qualify as: a) an Investment Manager duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) pursuant to the Investment Advisors Act of 1940; or b) a bank, as defined by the Investment Advisors Act of 1940 (40 ILCS 5/1-113.14(b)). Venture Capital firms will be considered if they have filed as an Exempt Reporting Advisor, have a CRD# and an ADV.
2. The Investment Manager must qualify and be currently certified as a minority-owned business, a women-owned business, or as a business owned by a person with a disability as those terms are defined in the Illinois Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities Act. Such certification can be from Illinois or may be obtained from another state or a certifying entity. The certificate must be attached to the response to this RFP as (Appendix A).
3. The proposed investment vehicle must be open for subscription.
4. The Investment Manager or team must have a fully documented, transportable track record of realized investments in private equity assets, on behalf of institutional investors for at least

three years, that employed the same strategy as proposed for CTPF. The above referenced experience does not need to be at the submitting firm.

5. The investment manager and product submitted shall not be a BDC Fund, PIPE Fund, Fund denominated in currencies other than U.S. Dollars, or a Fund submitted by a Placement Agent. We will consider SBIC and RBIC funds.
6. The Investment Manager must be well capitalized and stable. The Investment Manager's financial statements (audited) must be made available during the course of review for this RFP.
7. The Investment Manager must have sufficient assets under management to support the professional staff required to successfully manage the strategy.
8. The Investment Manager and its personnel must have all authorizations, permits, licenses and certifications required by federal, state and/or local law.
9. The Investment Manager shall carry errors and omissions insurance, or comparable instruments as determined by CTPF to cover negligent acts or omissions.
10. The Investment Manager must maintain sufficient procedures and capabilities to ensure the timely and accurate backup and full recovery for all computers and other data storage systems.
11. The Investment Manager must have a company policy and practice of equal employment opportunity and non-discrimination.
12. The Investment Manager must have a sustainable strategy or product that contributes to an optimal risk management framework and demonstrates the creation of long-term investment value.
13. The Investment Manager must be willing to adopt the Institutional Limited Partners Association (ILPA) Capital Call, Distribution Notice and Quarterly Reporting Standards.

14. Investment services provided by an Investment Manager shall be rendered pursuant to a written contract between the Investment Manager and the Board. The Illinois Pension Code Section 1-113.14 (c) requires that the contract include all of the following:

- (1) Acknowledgement in writing by the Investment Manager that it is a fiduciary with respect to the pension fund or retirement system.
- (2) The description of the Board's investment policy and notice that the policy is subject to change.
- (3) (i) Full disclosure of direct and indirect fees, commissions, penalties, and other compensation, including reimbursement for expenses, that may be paid by or on behalf of the Investment Manager in connection with the provision of services to the pension fund or retirement system and (ii) a requirement that the Investment Manager update the disclosure promptly after a modification of those payments or an additional payment.
- (4) A requirement that the Investment Manager, in conjunction with the Board's Staff, submit periodic written reports, on at least a quarterly basis, for the Board's review at its regularly scheduled meetings. All returns on investment shall be reported as both gross and net returns after payment of all fees, commissions, and any other compensation.
- (5) Disclosure of the names and addresses of (i) the Investment Manager; (ii) any entity that is a parent of, or owns a controlling interest in, the Investment Manager; (iii) any entity that is a subsidiary of, or in which a controlling interest is owned by, the Investment Manager; (iv) any persons who have an ownership or distributive income share in the Investment Manager that is in excess of 7.5%; or (v) serves as an executive officer of the Investment Manager.
- (6) A disclosure of the names and addresses of all subcontractors, if applicable, and the expected amount of money each will receive under the contract, including an acknowledgment that the contractor must promptly make notification, in writing, if at any time during the term of the contract a contractor adds or changes any subcontractors. For purposes of this subparagraph (6), "subcontractor" does not

include non-investment related professionals or professionals offering services that are not directly related to the investment of assets, such as legal counsel, actuary, proxy-voting services, services used to track compliance with legal standards, and investment fund of funds where the Board has no direct contractual relationship with the Investment Managers or partnerships.

- (7) A description of service to be performed.
- (8) A description of the need for the service.
- (9) A description of the plan for the post-performance review.
- (10) A description of the qualifications necessary.
- (11) The duration of the contract.
- (12) The method for charging and measuring cost.

### **Preferred Qualifications**

1. Limited Partnerships are the only vehicles being considered.
2. Venture Capital, Growth, Lower Middle Market Buyout, Middle Market Buyout, Co-Investment, Distressed and Special Situations strategies will be considered. Fund of Funds with strong co-investment components and a focus on diverse and emerging managers will also be considered.
3. Equity and Equity focused strategies are preferred.
4. We will not be considering secondary fund vehicles at this time.
5. Organizations that demonstrate risk management and long-term investment value creation.
6. Organizations that demonstrate an understanding of the Illinois Pension Code and ILPA Principles are preferred.

### **Specifications for the Assignment**

At the point of contract, a final detailed agreement concerning services, investment guidelines, and performance expectations will be agreed upon between CTPF and the successful firm(s). The successful firm(s) shall acknowledge that the information received as part of the RFP was the determining factor in CTPF initiating a final agreement with the investment firm and certifies that the RFP information submitted is true. The terms of the final contract between CTPF and the successful firm(s) will be binding and supersede this RFP.

### **Due Diligence Questionnaire**

Please complete the ILPA Due Diligence Questionnaire, the contents of which are incorporated herein by this reference. This DDQ is available by selecting or hovering over the [Investments Procurements](#) in the [Procurement & Services Providers](#) link of the [About CTPF](#) tab on the CTPF website at [www.ctpf.org](http://www.ctpf.org).

### **Submission of Proposal**

All RFP documents and the ILPA DDQ are available by selecting or hovering over the [Investments Procurements](#) in the [Procurement & Services Providers](#) link of the [About CTPF](#) tab on the CTPF website at [www.ctpf.org](http://www.ctpf.org).

Proposal must be received electronically by CTPF Staff at the following addresses no later than the close of business (4:30 pm CST) on:

**Monday, May 10, 2021**

CC: Angela Miller-May, [millermaya@ctpf.org](mailto:millermaya@ctpf.org)

CC: Andrew Kelsen, [kelsena@ctpf.org](mailto:kelsena@ctpf.org)

CC: Summer Qiu, [qius@ctpf.org](mailto:qius@ctpf.org)

CC: [rfp.invest@ctpf.org](mailto:rfp.invest@ctpf.org)

In addition, one hardcopy of the proposal must be received by CTPF at the following address no later than close of business on **Friday, May 14, 2021**.

**Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund**  
**425 S. Financial Place**  
**Suite 1400**  
**Chicago, Illinois 60605**  
**Attn: Angela Miller-May, Chief Investment Officer**

It is the responsibility of the Investment Manager to ensure that its Proposal is delivered in a timely manner and received via email and in the proper office on or before the deadline for responding to this RFP. All proposals must be complete in every respect and must answer concisely and clearly all questions asked in this RFP. Incomplete proposals will be disqualified. Late proposals will not be accepted. All Proposals received will be subject to public disclosures (see below for additional information on disclosure). Proposals may not be modified or withdrawn after the deadline for Proposals has passed. Modifications or a withdrawal of a Proposal after the specified receipt date will not be considered. If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFP or if any additional data is necessary for an exact interpretation of the provisions of this RFP prior to the due date for Proposals, a supplement will be posted by Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund on its website [www.ctpf.org](http://www.ctpf.org). In such an event, Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund reserves the right to extend the deadline date of Proposals to accommodate such interpretations or additional requirements.

**All questions regarding this RFP should be submitted via email only to the following addresses no later than the close of business (4:30 pm CST) on:**

**Monday, April 19, 2021**

CC: Angela Miller-May: [MillerMayA@ctpf.org](mailto:MillerMayA@ctpf.org)

CC: Andrew Kelsen: [kelsena@ctpf.org](mailto:kelsena@ctpf.org)

CC: Summer Qiu: [qius@ctpf.org](mailto:qius@ctpf.org)

(In all cases, written communications will override verbal communications)

### **Evaluation and Selection**

All Proposals received by the requested deadline will be reviewed and evaluated. Staff shall objectively review the proposals to identify qualified candidates based on the criteria presented in the RFP as supplemented by material provided by the Staff. Staff and members of the Board



may interview all, some, or none of the RFP respondents, undertake site visits to respondent offices, and conduct such other due diligence as is prudent under the circumstances. Staff will prepare a report and present the report to the Board of Trustees during a public meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The Investment Committee may review finalists in preparation for interviews with the Board of Trustees. Interviews and recommendation for the award of a contract will be made to the Board of Trustees. The Board shall then act on the recommendation of Staff, Consultant, and the Investment Committee.

During the selection process all respondents to the RFP will be evaluated and ranked on four primary factors:

**People** - stability of the organization, ownership structure, documented experience in the management of institutional portfolios, reputation of key professionals, manager tenure, depth of portfolio team and research team and length of team cohesiveness, record of integrity and business ethics.

**Process** - clearly defined, reasonable, and repeatable investment strategy, consistency of application, risk controls and uniqueness of the process.

**Performance** - documented ability to meet investment long-term performance relative benchmarks, risk compared to benchmarks, consistency of performance relative to peers.

**Pricing** - fee schedule and associated costs

Staff is required to identify all minority and female-owned firms and firms owned by persons with a disability in the report presented to the Board of Trustees. Staff must specify the reasons when these firms are not brought forward as finalists.

The Board will select the manager(s) they determine, in their sole discretions, to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting proposals on the basis of the evaluations. Once the Board has selected an Investment Manager, negotiations for contract terms and conditions

will be finalized. The Board may also reject all candidates and begin a new search or seek other candidates from the respondents of the original RFP.

### **Timeline**

- A. Requests for Proposal will be publicized by CTPF on [www.ctpf.org](http://www.ctpf.org) (under General Information tab, Current RFP link) **April 9, 2021**.
- B. Inquiries for interpretation must be received by **April 19, 2021**.
- C. Responses to inquiries will be posted to [www.ctpf.org](http://www.ctpf.org) (under General Information tab, Current RFP link) website **April 23, 2021**.
- D. Proposals must be received by close of business day (4:30 pm CST) on **May 10, 2021**.

While there is no fixed date for the selection of a firm(s) to fulfill this mandate, it is anticipated that the finalist presentations will occur on **June 17, 2021**. Following selection, it is expected that contract negotiations will be completed by **July 31, 2021**.

### **Disclosure of Proposal Content**

The laws of Illinois require that at the conclusion of the selection process, the contents of all proposals be placed in the public domain and be open to inspection by interested parties. Trade secrets or proprietary information must be clearly identified as such in the proposal and will not be released to the extent permitted by law.

### **Disposition of Proposals**

All proposals become the property of CTPF and will not be returned to the respondent. CTPF reserves the right to retain all proposals submitted and to use any ideas in a proposal regardless of whether that proposal is selected. Submission of a proposal indicates acceptance of the conditions contained in this RFP, unless clearly and specifically noted in the proposal submitted and confirmed in the contract between CTPF and the firm selected.

### **Signature of Respondent Agent**

The tendered proposal, and any clarifications to the proposal, shall be signed by an officer of the responding firm or a designated agent empowered to bind the firm in a contract. All proposals submitted electronically must be submitted by an officer of the responding firm.

### **Quiet Period**

The following guidelines shall apply during the RFP process. A “quiet period” will commence as of **April 9, 2021**, and end when a contract is executed with the Investment Manager. The objectives of the quiet period policy are to ensure that:

- Prospective investment managers have equal access to information regarding the search parameters;
- Communications related to the selection are consistent and accurate;
- The process of selecting the investment manager is efficient, diligent, and fair.
- The initiation, continuation and conclusion of the quiet period shall be publicly communicated to prevent inadvertent violations.

### **Policy Guidelines**

The following guidelines and CTPF’s Code of Ethics shall apply to the Board, to the Consultant, to CTPF’s staff, and to the candidates during a search for an investment manager:

- Except as provided in the Procurement Policy, all Board members and Staff shall refrain from communicating with candidates regarding any product or service related to the search offered by the candidate throughout the quiet period;
- Board members, CTPF’s staff, and the Consultant shall refrain from accepting meals, travel, lodging, entertainment or any other good or service of value from the candidates;
- Throughout the quiet period, if any Board member or staff member is contacted by a candidate, the Board member or staff member shall refer the candidate to CTPF’s Chief Investment Officer, Angela Miller-May or CTPF’s Chief Legal Officer, Daniel J. Hurtado;
- All authority related to the search process shall be exercised solely by the Board as a whole and not by individual Board Members;

- All information related to the search process shall be communicated by CTPF's Consultant and Staff to the relevant Committee or Board as a whole, and not to individual Board Members; and
- The quiet period does not prevent Board approved due diligence, client conference attendance or communications with an existing investment manager that happens to be a candidate in the ordinary course of services provided by such investment manager; however, discussions related to the pending selection shall be avoided during those activities.

The provisions of this policy will apply to investment manager candidates throughout the quiet period and are hereby communicated to candidates in conjunction with this Request for Proposal.

A candidate may be disqualified from a search process for a willful material violation of this policy.

**Firm Name**

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**Firm Primary Location**

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**Primary Contact Name**

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**Contact Number/Email Address**

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**Product Name**

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**Strategy Description**

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**Date of first close/final close**

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**Total commitments to strategy as of 12/31/2020**

**\$** 

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**Total value of fully realized investments as of 12/31/2020**

**\$** 

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**Is your firm a certified MWDBE firm? (If you mark yes please provide certification)**

☐ Yes

☐ No

## **Request for Information**

### **Firm Information:**

Please provide an overview of your firm including the following:

- a. EEOC Chart (please use template available on CTPF website)
- b. Ownership Structure, per certifications below
- c. All related and affiliated firms, per certifications below
- d. Organizational chart, with brief biographies of all key personnel
- e. Number of institutional clients
- f. Number of public plan clients

### **Fees and Disclosure Information:**

Please provide a detailed description of:

- a. The method for charging and measuring any fees;
- b. The direct and indirect fees including commissions, penalties, and other compensation, including reimbursement for expenses, that may be paid by or on behalf of the candidate Investment Manager in connection with the provision of Investment services to the Fund;
- c. The names and addresses of any subcontractors, including third party marketers or individuals that an Investment Manager uses to market its products, if applicable, and the expected amount of money each will receive under the contract. The term subcontractor, as used herein, does not include non-investment related professionals or professionals offering services that are not directly related to the investment of assets, such as legal counsel, actuary, proxy-voting services, and services used to track compliance with legal standards;

- d. The names and addresses of any entity that is a parent of, or owns a controlling interest in, the candidate; any entity that is a subsidiary of, or in which a controlling interest is owned by, the candidate; any persons who have an ownership or distributive income share in the candidate that is in excess of 7.5%; or serves as an executive officer of the candidate;
- e. Any direct or indirect payments made by the candidate, by any executive officer of the candidate, by any parent entity, by the executive officers of any entity that is a parent of, or owns a controlling interest in, the candidate, and by any Shareholder of candidate, in excess of \$1,000 per calendar year within the prior five (5) calendar years and/or formal involvement with any Illinois-based community or not-for-profit organization relating to public education; and any involvement by candidate, any executive officer of the candidate, or by any executive officer of any entity that is a parent of, or owns a controlling interest in, the candidate, and any Shareholder as a member or director of a Chicago charter school or a contract school. For purposes of this Section (e) and (f), “Shareholder” shall mean any person who has an ownership or distributive income share in the candidate;
- f. Any direct or indirect financial support made by the candidate, by any parent entity, by the executive officers of any entity that is a parent of, or owns a controlling interest in, the candidate, and by any Shareholder of candidate, in excess of \$1,000 per calendar year within the prior five (5) calendar years and/or formal involvement with any community or not-for-profit organization with a central purpose of influencing public policy related to budgetary and fiscal policy which directly or indirectly relates to the continued availability and long-term viability of defined benefit pensions in the public sector, education policy, and retirement security policy. For purposes hereof, an organization has a “central purpose” of influencing policy if it is understood with the exercise of reasonable due diligence, including but not limited to the examination of the organization’s IRS filing and other publicly available statements of purpose, that the organization intends to affect policy or engage in lobbying or other advocacy

activity. A candidate is not required to disclose conditions to organizations that engage in such activities in furtherance of providing medical research, aid to the poor, disaster relief, or other such tangible goods and service. The Trustees have determined that the organizations listed in Exhibit A to the Fund's Procurement Policy presently fall under this required disclosure policy;

- g. The candidate and any parent, controlling entity, subsidiary, or affiliate have disclosed any direct or indirect financial relationships, transactions, investments, investment related agreements, or investment related contracts with the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, Chicago charter school, or a contract school entered into within the five (5) year period prior to the execution of this Agreement. Any such direct or indirect financial relationships, transactions, investments, investment related agreements, or investment related contracts with such an entity entered into on or after the execution of this Agreement shall be identified in an amended candidate disclosure pursuant to (i) below within thirty (30) days of any new relationship, transaction, investment, agreement, or contract with such an entity;
- h. Pursuant to Section 1-113.21 of the Illinois Pension Code, the candidate shall annually disclose on or about each September 1<sup>st</sup>, the number of its investment and senior staff and the percentage of that staff that are a minority person, a woman, a veteran, and a person with a disability. Further, the candidate shall disclose the number of contracts for investment, consulting, professional, and artistic services the candidate has with a minority or women-owned business, a veteran owned small business, or a business owned by a person with a disability. The candidate shall also disclose the number of contracts for investment, consulting, professional, and artistic services which the candidate has with a business other than a minority or women-owned business, a veteran owned small business, or a business owned by a person with a disability, if more than 50% of the services performed pursuant to that contract are performed by a minority person, a woman, a veteran, or a person with a disability. For the purposes of this subsection, the terms "minority person", "women", "person with a disability",



“minority-owned business”, “women-owned business”, and “business owned by a person with a disability” have the same meaning as those terms have in the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities Act. For the purposes of this subsection, the terms “veteran” and “veteran owned small business” shall have the same meanings as those terms have in 30 ILCS 500/45-57. For the purposes of this subsection, the terms “professional service” and “artistic service” have the same meanings as those terms have in 30 ILCS 500/1-15.60;

- i. All Fund required disclosures and representations made by the candidate during the procurement and selection process are affirmed and adopted and incorporated herein by reference (the “Disclosures”; attached as Appendix B). The candidate further agrees that it will promptly notify the Fund, in writing, if at any time the information contained in the candidate Disclosures changes in a material way.

Please note that contingent and placement fees are prohibited.

#### Request for Proposal Questionnaire

Please complete the components of the ILPA Due Diligence Questionnaire which is included in this Request for Proposal.

The Questionnaire must be returned electronically to the CTPF at the following address no later than the close of business (4:30 CST) on:

**Monday May 10, 2021**

Andrew Kelsen, [kelsena@ctpf.org](mailto:kelsena@ctpf.org)

Angela Miller-May, [millermaya@ctpf.org](mailto:millermaya@ctpf.org)

Summer Qiu, [qius@ctpf.org](mailto:qius@ctpf.org)

[rfp.invest@ctpf.org](mailto:rfp.invest@ctpf.org)

All documents submitted as part of this RFP, including the responses by prospective Investment Managers, shall be considered public records, and shall be made available for inspection and copying as provided in Section 3 of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1, et seq.