



BROADMEADOW-EASTLAWN-NORTHVIEW-PLEASANT ACRES
PREK CENTER - RISE ACADEMY - JW EATER
1 AVIATION CENTER DRIVE, RANTOUL, IL 61866
217.893.5400 - www.rcs137.org

November 27, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: debbra_s@yahoo.com

Dear Debbra Sweat:

On November 20, 2024, a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request was received by our school district. A response is due on or before November 27, 2024.

On November 19, 2024, you sent an email requesting the following:

I am requesting electronic copies of the following information and documents regarding NIA Inc., Sam E. Hall III registered agent.

- 1. Electronic copies of any and all correspondence regarding funding request, the application, and proposal from NIA Incorporated.
- 2. Electronic copies of any and all financial/funding correspondence and documents regarding the grant allocated to the program from RCS #137.
- 3. Electronic copies of any and all program evaluations, progress reports, to include an annual report/summary (if submitted).
- 4. Electronic copies of any and all criteria/metrics used in the program evaluation/analysis as well as any results.

Below is the response to your FOIA:

- 1. Attached are the records responsive to your request.
- 2. Attached are the records responsive to your request.
- 3. There are no records responsive to this request.
- 4. There are no records responsive to this request.

Regarding the provided documents, the following exceptions apply:

- 7(1)(c): Unwarranted invasion of personal privacy as it relates to personal signatures.
- 7(1)(f): Preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda, and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated. This applies to a document marked "DRAFT."
- 7(1)(kk): The public body's credit card numbers, debit card numbers, bank account numbers, Federal Employer Identification Number, security code numbers, passwords, and similar account information, the disclosure of which could result in identity theft or impression or defrauding of a governmental entity or a person.

The person responsible for the response to your request is Scott Woods, FOIA Officer for the School District. You may ask the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor (PAC) to review this response concerning your records request, by submitting a Request for Review to the PAC by electronic mail or U.S. Mail within 60 days after this response, denial, or partial denial of your request. A request for Review by the PAC should be directed to:

Public Access Bureau
Office of the Attorney General
500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield IL 62706
publicaccess@atg.state.il.us

The PAC's telephone number is (877) 299-FOIA.

You also have the right to administrative review by a court of law pursuant to Section 11 of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely

Scott C. Woods, FOIA Officer Rantoul City School District #137
 Subject:
 Re: Draft MoU

 Date:
 2023-07-26 09:26:25

 Download

 From:
 Samuel Hall III

 To/Cc:
 Scott Woods

Help

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View Source

Ok, thanks.

On Wed, Jul 26, 2023 at 9:36 AM Scott Woods <swoods@rcs137.org> wrote:

Correct. It will be a short meeting unless public comment goes long.

Scott Woods, Superintendent Rantoul City Schools#137

On Wed, Jul 26, 2023 at 9:34AM Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org> wrote:

Hello Dr.

I wanted to confirm that we are all set for tomorrow? I do not need to bring anything. I just need to be prepared to answer questions if they arise. Is that correct?

Thank you

Sam

On Wed, Jul 12, 2023 at 4:51 PM Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org> wrote:

It looks great.

Thanks

Sam Hall, III

Founder & Executive Director Nia, Incorporated NFP sam@niaincorporated.org

217.778.6773 |

From: Scott Woods <swoods@rcs137.org> Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 1:37:12 PM To: Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org>
Cc: Sam Hall <sam@dreaam.org>

Subject: Re: Draft MoU

Here is what I put together. If you ok this, I will put it on our July 27 agenda. We will likely cut you a check the following day.

Scott Woods, Superintendent Rantoul City Schools#137

On Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 4:50 PM Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org> wrote:

Thank you again for your support. I spoke with Tracy and he said that Michelle did not create a MoU for the agreement they had with RCS. I, however, drafted one for your review. know what you think.

Have a good evening

Sam Hall, III

Founder & Executive Director

Nia, Incorporated NFP

Email: sam@niaincorporated.org

Cell: 217.778.6773

Sam Hall, III

Founder & Executive Director

Nia, Incorporated NFP

Email: sam@niaincorporated.org

Cell: 217.778.6773

Sam Hall, III

Founder & Executive Director

Nia, Incorporated NFP

Email: sam@niaincorporated.org

Cell: 217.778.6773

Subject: Re: Parent Mentor Program Updates

Date: 2023-11-09 15:32:09 Download

From: Samuel Hall III To/Cc: Scott Woods

View Message

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I'm going to attend tonight. I'll mention it if you don't mind.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S22 Ultra 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone Get Outlook for Android

From: Scott Woods <swoods@rcs137.org> Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 4:58:48 PM To: Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org> Subject: Re: Parent Mentor Program Updates

Great to hear. If I remember I will mention the NV information at this evenings meeting.

Scott Woods, Superintendent Rantoul City Schools#137

On Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 3:23 PM Samuel Hall III < sam@niaincorporated.org > wrote:

Good afternoon Dr. Woods:

I hope that this email finds you well. I want to send you a short update regarding the Nia, Parent Mentor Program. First, I have not received any reimbursements yet for the expenses that the program has incurred since beginning in August. In the past, reimbursements started in September and continued monthly until July. This year they are behind for some reason. I have submitted over \$30,000 worth of expenses and am told that payment will be sent in December. The delay has been on the state level from what I understand. I have only made one payment of \$2,000 toward the \$20,000 loan you and the district approved. As soon as I receive the remainder, I will write RCS a check for the \$18,000 and deliver it to Mrs. Flores.

Good News, we have almost all 24 potential mentors background checked and starting in their respective classrooms. A few have also applied for paraprofessional positions already. We share with them the opportunity during their initial week of training. I had hoped that they would have waited until they were grounded in the program and comfortable with the routine before applying, I guess some are anxious to be of help. Good news nonetheless.

Great News, the program has been approved and funded to add Northview School to the program. I have already discussed it with Principal Kelly Mahoney and her staff and begun recruiting mentors and one coordinator for the new Northview cohort. It's exciting to know that we will be able to work alongside all the schools in the district to help children and families succeed.

I promised a short update, so I will end here. I have more to share about potential programming but will save it for a later time.

Let me know if you have any questions, comments or thoughts.

Sam Hall, III

Founder & Executive Director

Nia, Incorporated NFP

Email: sam@niaincorporated.org

Cell: 217.778.6773





RANTOUL CITY SCHOOLS

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PARENT MENTOR PROGRAM (PMP) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

This PMP Agreement (Agreement) is made and entered into as of July 27, 2023 by and between Rantoul City Schools #137 (RCS) and Nia Incorporated (Nia), a Not For Profit operating in accordance with the laws of the state of Illinois, with RCS and Nia collectively referred to herein individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties". This document creates a memorandum of understanding for the purpose of providing services benefiting RCS through Nia.

Through this MOU, the Parties establish a contractual partnership through which Nia will provide a PMP and RCS will provide an initial "line of credit" to Nia in the amount of \$20,000.

Nia will appoint a person to serve as the official contact and coordinate the activities of the PMP in carrying out this MOU. Samuel Hall, III, Executive Director of Nia, Incorporated NFP will serve as the official contact and coordinate the activities. Nia will perform the duties of administrative agent, including fiscal management, staff hiring and training, contractual agreements to achieve the program goals and operate a high-quality, evidence-based program for all stakeholders.

RCS will provide Nia a line of credit, loan or grant in the amount of \$20,000 in order to be used for program expenditures, on or before August 15, 2023 Nia, will pay back the line of credit or loan, once funds are received from the grantor, Southwest Organizing Project, on or before December 31, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF:			
	/		/
RCS Board President	/ Date	Nia, Incorporated NFP	/ Date

Subject: Nia, Inc Award Letter **Date:** 2023-07-27 17:08:01

2023-07-27 17:08 Download

From: Samuel Hall III
To/Cc: Scott Woods

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Dr. Woods:

Attached is the award letter that the school board requested. Thank you and the board for supporting Nia, Inc.

Let me know what I need to do next.

Sam Hall, III Founder & Executive Director Nia, Incorporated NFP sam@niaincorporated.org

217.778.6773 |



Help



Mr. Hall,

Congratulations! We are pleased to announce that Project Nia will be awarded a contract in the amount of \$208,000 for a full-year Parent Mentor Program in 4 public schools, to recruit and support at least 24 parent mentors throughout 2023-2024 School Year. The proposal review team was pleased that you submitted an application to continue the work that was begun.

In the meanwhile, we ask you to do these two things:

- 1) Please sign and return a copy of your program budget to <u>rrodriguez@swopchicago.org</u>. A template is attached, along with instructions. The deadline to return a signed budget is 5:00pm on Friday July 28th, 2023.
- 2) Make sure your key parent mentor program staff mark their calendars! Below are some key dates:

Parent Mentor Program Executive Director Meeting (Mandatory for Executive Directors and Organizers)

Thursday, July 20th from 2:30-3:30pm via zoom https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2642207814

(Calendar invites for the following with applicable zoom links will be sent at later dates.)

PMP Orientation Series: (Mandatory for all coordinators and organizers, Executive **Directors-optional**) The dates are:

5 DAYS Tuesday, August 7th - Friday, August 11th.

TTT train the Trainer: (Mandatory for all coordinators and organizers, Executive Directors-optional) The dates are:

4 DAYS Monday, August 28th - August 31st.

KICK OFF:

September 1st

Ruby Rodriguez

Please let me know if you have any questions. Once again, congratulations!

Parent Mentor Administrative Financial Manager



Ranfroul Chry Schools

orienow Sabarawi Norbaniew Preling Achi Prel Geneel - Albe Achiely - JW Erich Tavisco Elwes Orive Califold, AlGebe

October 21, 2024

Dear Sam Hall,

I am pleased to offer my full support for your proposal, "The Project Nia Parent Mentor Program: Equipping Parents as Change Agents for Equity and Transformation in Schools," which you are submitting to the Spencer Foundation's Research Practice Partnership competition. Rantoul City Schools has greatly benefited from our partnership with Nia Inc.'s Parent Mentor and after-school programs. I am excited that this proposal will further sustain and enhance the positive influence that Parent Mentors have on our students and teachers. I am particularly pleased that the project will strengthen the relationship between Rantoul and the University of Illinois.

I understand that one of the project's goals is to engage with key leaders in educational organizations to support teacher professional pathway development. Rantoul City Schools has significantly benefited from hiring Parent Mentors as paraprofessionals in our district. I would be enthusiastic about participating in exploratory discussions on how best to support education professionals in our district, helping them serve our students while advancing their own career aspirations.

I am fully in support of this proposal and look forward to hearing about the success of your submission.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Woods

Subject: Re: check

Date: 2023-08-18 07:40:02 Download

From: To/Cc: Samuel Hall III Christine Johnson

View Message

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I'm on my way there now. I should arrive before 10am.

Sam Hall, III

Founder & Executive Director Nia, Incorporated NFP sam@niaincorporated.org

sam@mamcorporated.t

217.778.6773 |

From: Christine Johnson <christine.johnson@rcs137.org>

Sent: Friday, August 18, 2023 9:31:26 AM
To: Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org>

Subject: check

Hi Sam,

Do you have an idea when you'll stop by today?

__



Christine Johnson

Director of Finance

christine.johnson@rcs137.org (217) 893-5050 fax: (217) 893-4313 400 East Wabash Ave. Rantoul, IL 61866 Help

Subject: Re: Nia, Inc loan payment **Date:** 2023-10-11 10:27:20

Download
From: Yasmin Mejia
To/Cc: Samuel Hall III

View Message

View Source

Yes, of course you can. I'll be here until 3:30 today.

On Wed, Oct 11, 2023 at 11:08AM Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org> wrote:

Hi Yasmin:

How are you? I want to make a payment on the \$20,000 loan I received in August this week. Can I bring it to you at the new office?

Help

--

Sam Hall, III

Founder & Executive Director

Nia, Incorporated NFP

Email: sam@niaincorporated.org

Cell: 217.778.6773



Yasmin Mejia Accounts Payable/Receivable Specialist Rantoul City Schools #137 1 Aviation Center Drive. Rantoul, IL 61866 217-893-5400 ext. 5446 yflores@rcs137.org Subject: Date:

Re: Nia 2023-08-16 18:25:40 Download Christine Johnson Yasmin Mejia + From: To/Cc:

View Message

View Source

I will have someone pull the check tmrw and I'll make sure it's up front Friday.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 16, 2023, at 7:14 PM, Yasmin Mejia <yflores@rcs137.org> wrote:

The office is open 7:00 to 3:30, feel free to stop by anytime. I'll notify the receptionist about the check as well. Hope your feeling better.

On Wed, Aug 16, 2023 at 6:52 PM Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org> wrote:

I can stop by Friday. Just let me know what time and I will make arrangements. I am in town, I'm just recovering from a procedure that I had last week.

Thanks.

Sam

Sam Hall, III

Founder & Executive Director Nia, Incorporated NFP sam@niaincorporated.org

217.778.6773

From: Yasmin Mejia <yflores@rcs137.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 5:55:56 PM To: Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org>

Cc: Christine Johnson christine.johnson@rcs137.org; Scott Woods swoods@rcs137.org;

Subject: Re: Nia

Hello Sam,

Check has already been cut and I am out of the office for the rest of the week. Chris could you pull the check from the vault so it doesn't get mailed out Friday?

Sam - what day will you be back to pick it up?

On Wed, Aug 16, 2023 at 5:31 PM Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org> wrote:

Good Evening All:

I was just thinking, is it possible to issue the funds by electronic transfer? I'm still out of the office and it would make life a bit easier if so. If not, then I'd prefer to pick up the check.

Let me know if electronic funds transfer is possible.

Thank you

Sam Hall, III

Sam Hall, III

Founder & Executive Director Nia, Incorporated NFP sam@niaincorporated.org

217.778.6773 I

From: Christine Johnson <christine.johnson@rcs137.org>

Sent: Monday, August 7, 2023 7:23:52 AM

To: Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org>; Yasmin Mejia <yflores@rcs137.org>

Cc: Scott Woods <swoods@rcs137.org>

Subject: Re: Nia

mailed:) It will be cut with the August board meeting on the 17th. Will be mailed the 18th.

On Fri, Aug 4, 2023 at 2:00 PM Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org> wrote:

I was just wondering, will the check be mailed or will I need to pick it up?

Thanks

Sam

Sam Hall, III Founder & Executive Director

Nia, Incorporated NFP sam@niaincorporated.org

217.778.6773 |

From: Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org> Sent: Thursday, August 3, 2023 8:16:25 AM

To: Christine Johnson christine.johnson@rcs137.org

Great, let me know if there is anything else needed. I'm traveling tomorrow and will have limited email and phone access.

Have a good day, Christy.

Sam

Sam Hall, III

Founder & Executive Director

Nia, Incorporated NFP sam@niaincorporated.org

217.778.6773 |

From: Christine Johnson christine.johnson@rcs137.org

Sent: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 8:57:38 AM To: Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org>

Subject: Re: Nia

Received, thank you.

On Tue, Aug 1, 2023 at 3:52 PM Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org> wrote: | See attached

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S22 Ultra 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone Get Outlook for Android

From: Christine Johnson christine.johnson@rcs137.org
Sent: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 2:35:39 PM
To: Samuel Hall III christine.johnson@rcs137.org
Co: Scott Woods christine.johnson@rcs137.org
Co: Scott Woods christine.johnson@rcs137.org
PM
To: Samuel Hall III christine.johnson@rcs137.org
Co: Scott Woods christine.johnson@rcs137.org
Co: Scott Woods christine.johnson@rcs137.org

Subject: Re: Nia

Sam.

Can you just send me your W9? No need to come in.

On Tue, Aug 1, 2023 at 2:12 PM Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org> wrote:

Should I stop by office today or tomorrow?

Sam Hall, III

Founder & Executive Director Nia, Incorporated NFP sam@niaincorporated.org

217.778.6773 |

From: Scott Woods <swoods@rcs137.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 12:53:14 PM
To: Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org>; Johnson, Christine <christine.johnson@rcs137.org>

Subject: Nia

Sam,

Chris needs to get your organization set up so she can issue you the money.

Scott Woods, Superintendent Rantoul City Schools#137

Christine Johnson

Director of Finance Rantoul City Schools 400 E Wabash Ave Rantoul, IL 61866 (217) 893-5050

Christine Johnson

Director of Finance Rantoul City Schools 400 E Wabash Ave Rantoul, IL 61866 (217) 893-5050

Christine Johnson

Director of Finance Rantoul City Schools 400 E Wabash Ave Rantoul, IL 61866 (217) 893-5050



Subject: Re: Project Nia - update and request

2024-10-21 08:27:15 Download Date:

From: Samuel Hall III To/Cc: Scott Woods

> View Message **View Source**

Help

On Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 9:48AM Scott Woods <swoods@rcs137.org> wrote: See attached.

Scott Woods, Superintendent Rantoul City Schools#137

On Fri, Oct 18, 2024 at 12:04 PM Samuel Hall III <sam@niaincorporated.org> wrote:

Good Morning Dr. Woods:

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to seek your continued support for an exciting extension of our existing Project Nia Parent Mentor Program, which has already been a success in the five schools where we have had the privilege of working, thanks to your partnership.

As you know, the Parent Mentor Program equips parents to be advocates for educational equity and transformation within our schools. We are expanding this effort to include additional professional development for our Parent Mentors, the integration of participatory action research (PAR), and career readiness opportunities for participants.

We are currently preparing to submit a proposal to the Spencer Foundation's Research Practice Partnership competition, and as part of the submission process, I kindly request your endorsement by signing a formal letter of support. This letter will be a vital part of our efforts to secure funding and demonstrate the strength of our partnership with Rantoul City Schools. Your support will help us bring more resources and opportunities to both the parents and students in our community.

I have attached a draft of the letter if that would be helpful, or we can work together to draft one that reflects our shared goals for the program.

Thank you again for your leadership and your ongoing support of the Parent Mentor Program. I look forward to continuing our work together and discussing this opportunity further.

Warm regards,

--

Sam Hall, III

Founder & Executive Director

Nia, Incorporated NFP

Email: sam@niaincorporated.org

Cell: 217.778.6773



__

Sam Hall, III

Bank of Rantoul

Report Date:11/19/2024 at 3:22pm

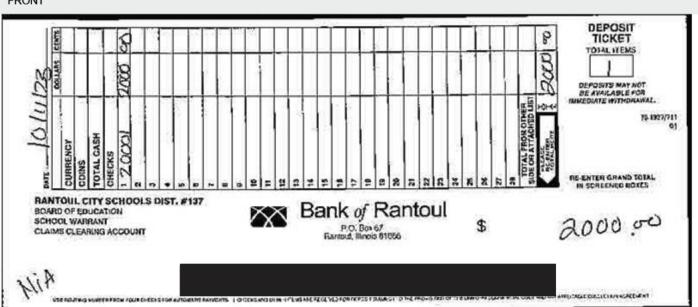
Transaction Report Page 1

ACCOUNT CLAIMS CLEARING *1363	CATEGORY	TRANSACTION DATE 10/11/2023	AMOUNT \$2,000.00
DESCRIPTION		NOTE	

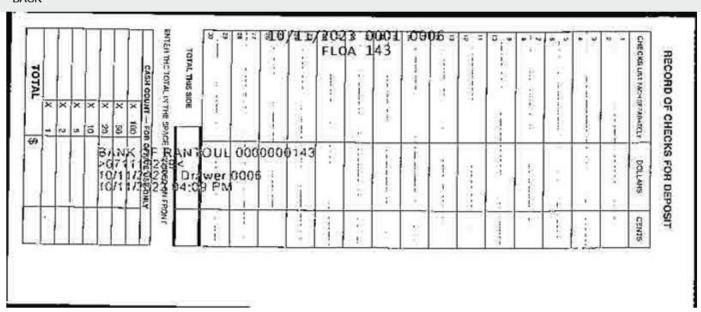
Deposit

ATTACHED IMAGES









Rantoul City Schools District #137

MIA INCOOOO NIA INCORPORATE NFP Check No. 25594
Check Date 08/17/2023
Check Type Computer

200 S CENTURY BLVD RANTOUL, IL 61866

Invoice #	P.O. #	Inv Description	Inv Date	Gross	Net
	Adjustment Des	c Adj Amount	Discount Desc		Disc Amount
			Account Number		Account Amount
8/15/23 0	0	CONTACT AND COORDINATE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PMP	08/15/2023	20,000.00	20,000.00
			10E000 2319 3120 00 000000		20,000.00
		CHECK TOTAL		20.000.00	



RANTOUL CITY SCHOOLS

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IN	WI	TNES!	HW	EB	FOF.

✓ RCS Board President	712 <u>123</u> /Date	Nia, Incorporated NFP		/ 7 /28 /23 / Date	
	106000	2319	3120 -	NIA	

Bank of Rantoul

Report Date: 11/19/2024 at 2:23pm

Transaction Report

Page 1

ACCOUNT	CATEGORY	TRANSACTION DATE	AMOUNT
CLAIMS CLEARING *1363		12/15/2023	\$18,100.00

DESCRIPTION Deposit

NOTE

ATTACHED IMAGES

FRONT

DDA Credit



BANK OF RANTOUL

Amount: 18100.00 Account Number: 11363

Tran Code: 042 Date: 12/15/2023

Customer Name: Rantoul City School District

Comment:

BACK

12/15/2023 0001 0003 KBAK 149 18100.00 12/15/2023 02:02 PM