

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval

For

Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 22, Network Contracting Office (NCO#22), 4811 Airport Plaza Drive, Suite 600, Long Beach, CA 90815 has a requirement to purchase expertise for coaching groups of VA clinicians on completing quality improvement projects related to improving care for older veterans for the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, as described in transaction #691-13-4-684-0082, under the authority of this Justification for Other Than Full and Open Competition document.
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** Approval is being requested to purchase the required services from UCLA Multi-campus Program in Geriatrics and Gerontology – a large business and the VA affiliate, on a sole source basis. The requirement will be awarded as a new firm-fixed price contract.
3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** Services are to include quality improvement coaching of VA Geriatric scholars attending the 2013 UCLA Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine, to be held on September 17th, 2013. Coaching facilitated and administered by Zaldy Tan, MD and Lee Jennings, MD. The estimated total for this procurement is \$50,000.00 - \$25,000.00 per doctor.
4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:**
 - (X) (1) Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements per FAR 6.302-1;
 - () (2) Unusual and Compelling Urgency per FAR 6.302-2;
 - () (3) Industrial Mobilization, Engineering, Developmental or Research Capability or Expert Services per FAR 6.302-3;
 - () (4) International Agreement per FAR 6.302-4
 - () (5) Authorized or Required by Statute FAR 6.302-5;
 - () (6) National Security per FAR 6.302-6;
 - () (7) Public Interest per FAR 6.302-7;
5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):** The VA Geriatric Scholars Program, funded by a grant from the VA Office of Rural Health, is a national, high visibility workforce development educational program to improve primary care services to older veterans, particularly in the rural VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC's). Participants in this VA program are required to complete three (3) mandatory training components:
 - (a) Attendance at an approved external geriatric medicine review course held by Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, the University of Wisconsin, or the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).
 - (b) Attendance at a VA Quality Improvement Course held in conjunction with one of the four (4) geriatrics review courses referenced above, and –
 - (c) Completion of a quality improvement project at the participant's home facility.

The University of Wisconsin was contacted by the using service and they found out that the University was unable to provide quality improvement coaches for this training. When contacted by

the using service, both UCLA and Mt. Sinai indicated that they only have the staff capacity to oversee the group coaching model in their respective locations. Mt. Sinai is unable to staff Quality Improvement (QI) coaches for the UCLA Quality Improvement component due to unavailable staff and time zone constraints.

As the sole sponsor of the UCLA Geriatrics review course, the UCLA Multi-campus Program in Geriatrics and Gerontology is uniquely qualified to provide this coaching to VA Geriatric scholars attending their course in September 2013. The program has received numerous grants and awards for geriatrics education and quality improvement. Additionally, it is consistently ranked as one of the top five geriatrics education programs in the United States by U.S. News and World Report.

Furthermore, the faculty assigned to conduct this coaching on behalf of UCLA – Doctors Zaldy Tan and Lee Jennings, are extremely well qualified to meet this need. Dr. Tan has experience developing geriatrics education resources at UCLA, Harvard University, and for the American Geriatrics Society's Annual Scientific Meeting. Geriatrics education is one of his primary research interests; and he is a past recipient of the American Geriatrics Society Annual Scientific Meeting Best Research Paper award. Similarly, Dr. Jennings has received recognition as the recipient of a UCLA NRSA GIM Fellowship in Primary Care & Health Services research. The expertise of these clinician educators complements and is consistent with training in Geriatrics that these VA clinicians will receive at a UCLA sponsored extensive course in Geriatrics and EES sponsored course in quality improvement.

Accordingly, UCLA is the only firm capable of providing the supplies and services described in Section III above without the Veteran's Health Administration experiencing substantial duplication of cost that could not be expected to be recovered through competition and unacceptable delays in fulfilling its requirements.

6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** The using service contacted the three (3) universities that provide the type of curriculum and services that are required. Two (2) of the universities did not have sufficient staff to provide the required coaching of the clinicians. UCLA is the only source that has sufficient staff to provide the coaching that will be needed to assist the clinicians in their quality improvement project. And because of the close proximity of UCLA to the VA medical center, the UCLA coaching staff and VA clinicians will be able to meet in person, if needed, when conference calls and e-mails won't suffice.

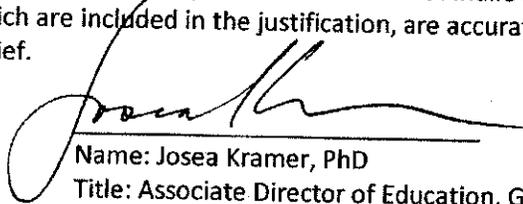
A Presolicitation Notice of the Contracting Officer's intent to negotiate sole source with UCLA was posted on August 28th under Synopsis Number/Solicitation Number VA262-13-Q-1532. No responses were received as a result of this notice.

7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** Based on a quote from Mt. Sinai to provide similar services to VA clinicians that will be attending their Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine, which is also funded by the grant from the VA Office of Rural Health, the anticipated cost for the services provided by UCLA are deemed fair and reasonable.
8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:** See number 6 above.
9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:** I cannot think of any other facts to support the use of other than full and open competition at this time. I think the explanations in the other line items provide sufficient detail as to the attempts made by the using service and the Contracting Officer to obtain competitive sources for this procurement.

10. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:** See Section 6 above.

11. **A Statement of the Actions, if any, the Agency May Take to Remove or Overcome any Barriers to Competition before Making subsequent acquisitions for the supplies or services required:** There are no actions that I can think of that the agency can take to remove or overcome any barriers to competition before making subsequent acquisitions for the services required.

12. **Requirements Certification:** I certify that the requirement outlined in this justification is a Bona Fide Need of the Department of Veterans Affairs and that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

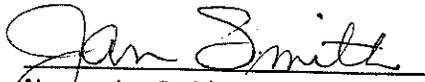


Name: Josea Kramer, PhD
Title: Associate Director of Education, GRECC
Facility: VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

9/5/13
Date

13. **Approvals in accordance with FAR 6.304**

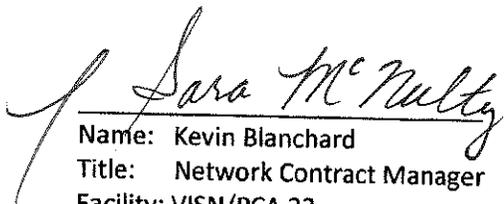
a. **Contracting Officer's Certification (required):** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Name: Jan Smith
Title: Contracting Officer
Facility: Network Contracting Office (NCO #22)

9/5/13
Date

b. **NCM/PCM (Required \$3K and above):** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.



Name: Kevin Blanchard
Title: Network Contract Manager
Facility: VISN/PCA 22

9-5-13
Date