

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval

For

Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. **Contracting Activity:** Network 23 Contracting Office (NCO 23) – Sioux Falls, 2501 W. 22nd Street, Sioux Falls SD 57105; 636-14-1-4607-0028
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** This will be a fixed price contract with the Bruce Alexander to provide necessary labor to conduct work for the Center for Comprehensive Access & Delivery Research and Evaluation, Eli Perencevich, Director and the Veterans Rural Health Resource Center – Central Region Peter Kaboli, Director.
3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:**
Bruce Alexander will provide expertise regarding: VA pharmacy data, pharmacotherapy, and medications on VA formulary in Iowa; development of front-end interfaces and technologies for research data management systems (i.e. SQL, VB, VBA); reconfiguring data between design formats to create unique analytical datasets; and designing, managing, and manipulating research databases to specified research program needs. There is no government furnished property. Estimated Cost: \$50,500. Anticipated period of performance Contract Award Date – 9/30/14.
4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:** 41 USC §253(c)(1), as implemented by FAR 6.302-1.

(X) (1) Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements per FAR 6.302-1;
5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):** Bruce Alexander is providing services in support of 2 VA funded Centers. Bruce Alexander was identified as the only contractor that can provide the uniquely requested services the state of Iowa. The work cannot be conducted without utilizing Bruce Alexander. Bruce Alexander has the unique capabilities and expertise combined with the required knowledge to consult on the questions proposed in the Centers. The information and skills required are extremely unique and specialized and only Bruce Alexander has the knowledge and existing capabilities to complete. Going outside a contract with Bruce Alexander would severely hamper the progress of the Centers' activities and impact the timeline of the results.
6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** Market research was conducted as part of the review process. No other vendor was identified in the funding process as meeting the specific requirements.
7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** The anticipated cost to the Government is based upon a comparison of previously proposed prices and previous Government and commercial contract prices with current proposed prices for similar services and comparison of proposed prices with prices obtained through market research for the same or similar items. According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) and the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), the median calculated cost of conducting 243 studies was \$24,471.00 (interquartile range [IQR], \$11,531.00 - \$63,808.00). The median authors' estimate of study cost was \$10,000.00 (IQR, \$4,000.00 - \$25,000.00). Some funding

was obtained for 72 (29.6%) of the studies. Of studies that were funded, the median amount of funding was \$15,000.00 (IQR, \$5,000.00 - \$66,500.00). The median calculated cost of funded studies was \$37,315.00 (IQR, \$18,731.00 - \$82,393.00). Article located at <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=201474>

8. Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons

Market Research Was Not Conducted: Market research was conducted as part of the review process. No other vendor was identified in the funding process as meeting the specific requirements.

9. Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition: None.

10. Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition: See Section VI above. Bruce Alexander Ph. (319) 321-6395 Baalexander51@hotmail.com

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: We will be open to other sources in the future when making a new project application. The centers are funded through VA HSR&D and ORH Central Office after leadership review and a review of the budget and project leader expertise.

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.

kari.steinkamp2@va.gov

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Kari Steinkamp
AO for Research
Iowa City VA Health Care System

Digitally signed by
kari.steinkamp2@va.gov
DN: cn=kari.steinkamp2@va.gov
Date: 2013.12.04 10:08:40 -06'00'

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.

john.becker3@va.gov

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John Becker
Contracting Officer, NCO 23 Sioux Falls

Digitally signed by
john.becker3@va.gov
DN: cn=john.becker3@va.gov
Date: 2013.12.04 10:17:49 -06'00'

Date

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

Lori Fischer

Lori Fischer
Facility Contract Manager, NCO 23 Sioux Falls

12-4-13

Date