

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval

For

Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 11, Indianapolis, IN (583) Medical Center / Research Service. Transaction: 583-14-1-971-0032
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** As a follow-up to the VA funded project titled “VISN Implementation of VA Acute Stroke Care Centers: Formative Evaluation,” led by Teresa Damush, PhD, additional analyses are planned to understand implementation activities in response to the VHA Acute Ischemic Stroke (AIS) Directive. Specifically, the planned analyses will determine the presence or absence of clinical champions and opinion leaders at each site participating in initial study. Additionally, we will characterize clinical champions and opinion leaders in terms of their role at the facility and identify how they participated in responding to the AIS directive. Results from this study will help to determine the role and impact that clinical champions and opinion leaders exerted in establishing policies in accordance with the AIS *Directive*.
3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency’s Needs:** Dr. Damush requires an individual with several years of experience working on health services projects within the VA system. The individual should have publications in the area of implementation and workflow integration. Vast experience in qualitative data analysis and multi-method research designs is also required. The individual should have experience working with research teams to provide analyses and manuscript preparation for implementation and health services research involving health care organizations particularly in the Veterans Health Administration organization. POP: one year from date of award. Mindy Flanagan, 6240 Northlake Drive, Parkville, MO 64152. Total cost: \$59,400.00.
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):** Dr. Mindy Flanagan has several years of experience working on health services projects within the VA system. Dr. Flanagan has several publications in the area of implementation and workflow integration. Dr. Flanagan brings a great deal of experience in qualitative data analysis and multi-method research designs. She will lead the qualitative data analysis and triangulation with quantitative data sources. Dr. Flanagan has experience working with research teams to provide analyses and manuscript preparation for implementation and health services research involving health care organizations particularly in the Veterans Health Administration organization.
- Dr. Flanagan has participated in multiple studies to understand implementation of new strategies for enhancing patient safety (i.e., MRSA practices, handoff tools). In these studies, interview data was analyzed to understand barriers and facilitators to implementing new practices. Similarly, in the present study, Dr. Flanagan will have these same goals with a focus on clinical champions and opinion leaders. With her previous experience in implementation (conducted in VA Medical Centers), she has knowledge and analytical skills to conduct this work. Dr. Flanagan maintains her certifications to conduct research with the VHA and has WOC status.
- Due to the complexity of the research project and past work experience of Dr. Flanagan, no other vendors are able to provide continuity required to continue this project. Securing another vendor would compromise research work to date.
6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** N/A – due to the complexity of the research project and past work experience of Dr. Flanagan, no other vendors are able to provide continuity required to continue this project. Securing another vendor would compromise research work to date.
7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** Dr. Flanagan's hourly rate and total time required is reasonable. The past year she completed work under PO 583 D37016 - \$11,330.00 at the same rate (\$55/hr). Considering her experience with qualitative data and implementation research, there are no additional training requirements before the work is performed.
8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:** Considering Dr. Flanagan's vast experience and past participation in similar VA research projects Market Research was not conducted. Secondly, great concern is placed on continuity of the research project, thus it was not reasonable to consider alternative sources.
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:** None
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:**

Research projects are very specific in nature – should the opportunity arise when selection can be made from a pool of vendors every effort will be made to do so.

- 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.

_____*Julie Herbertz*_____
Name: Julie Herbertz
Title: Program Specialist / Research
Facility: VAMC, Indianapolis, IN

_____*1-24-14*_____
Date

- 13. Approvals in accordance with FAR 6.304** *This part if filled out by Contracting Staff as part of the Justification*

- 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
Title
Network 11 Contracting Office

Date

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

Name
NCM/Supervisory Contract Specialist (as appropriate)
Network 11 Contracting Office

Date

- c. **SAO(If over \$650K):** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

Ricky L. Lemmon
SAO Director
Central Region

Date

- d. **VHA HCA Review and Approval:** I have reviewed the foregoing justification and find it to be complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief and recommend approval (if over \$12.5 million) or approve (\$650K to \$12.5 million) for other than full and open competition.

NORBERT S. DOYLE
Chief of Procurement and Logistics Officer
VHA, Head of Contracting Activity (HCA)

Date

- e. **VA Deputy Senior Procurement Executive Approval (over \$12.5 million but not exceeding \$50 million):** I have reviewed the foregoing justification and find it to be complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief and approve for other than full and open competition.

C. FORD HEARD
Deputy Senior Procurement Executive (DSPE)
Office of Acquisition and Logistics
Department of Veterans Affairs

Date

- f. **VHA Senior Procurement Executive Approval (over \$50 million):** I have reviewed the foregoing justification and find it to be complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief and approve for other than full and open competition.

JAN R. FRYE
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Logistics
Senior Procurement Executive (SPE)
Department of Veterans Affairs

Date