

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Justification and Approval
For
Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. **Contracting Activity:** Veterans health Administration (VHA), Network Contracting Office (NCO) 16, G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center, 1500 E Woodrow Wilson Drive, Jackson, MS 39216. The requesting facility has a requirement for on-campus collaboration of rehabilitative services and access to mental health care for veterans within the Mississippi State University (MSU) catchment area as described in document.

VA 2237-586-14-3-312-0027

2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** The proposed action is a sole source solicitation of a new Firm Fixed Price contract to the Mississippi State University (MSU).

This requirement is being requested for a base and four (4) renewable options. The estimated overall value of the proposed contract, including options, is \$395,708.00. The expected award date is June 1, 2014, with an ultimate completion date September 30, 2019.

3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** The on-campus rehabilitative services and rural health initiative on-campus program manager required from the Contractor include:

- Occupational Therapy (OT)
- Physical Therapy (PT)
- Speech Therapy (ST)
- Program Management

The individual orders under this contract shall describe the specific nature of the rehabilitative services and program management required for an eligible Veteran and no other services may be provided by the Contractor without separate specific authorization/order.

4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:** In accordance with FAR 6.302-1, Only One Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirement.

5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority).**

This is an acquisition for rehabilitative services and access to mental health care that will support the goals and objectives of the VHA Office of Rural Health Initiative, C00856, ***MSU Collaboration for Mental Health and Polytrauma***, to increase access to these services for rural area student Veterans attending Mississippi State University (MSU).

- Realize cost savings through the utilizations of simplified billing practices
- Ensure quality-driven services

- Maintain and augment VA's capability in the provision of these services to eligible beneficiaries in current and future years
- Increase rural access to mental health care and rehabilitative services
- Decrease wait times in facilities with lengthy wait lists for mental health and rehabilitative services

Increase academic success of the Veterans at the University by reducing the time away from the classroom by providing requested services on campus.

The Office of Rural Health Initiative, C00856, ***MSU Collaboration for Mental Health and Polytrauma***, requires that rehabilitative services and access to VA mental health services utilizing VA telehealth equipment be provided on campus to meet the goals and objectives of the initiative. These services will be provided at the John C. Longest Student Health Center (LHC), T.K. Martin Center for Technology and Disability, Student Counseling Center, and Psychology Department Laboratory. There are no other health care providers available to provide this care on campus.

6. Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable.

IAW FAR 6.302(1), Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements Full and Open Competition need not be provided for when statute expressly authorizes or requires that the acquisition be made through another agency or from a specific source.

7. Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable: The Contracting Officer anticipates the cost to the Government will be fair and reasonable due to use of flat rate pricing for clinical access, which is expected to be below Medicare. The escalation rate of 3% was used to estimate the cost for each option year.

8. Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted: In accordance with FAR Part 10, the market research was conducted, but was super ruled since this Office of Rural Health Initiative was earmarked exclusive to Mississippi State University.

9. Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition: Veterans who live in rural settings have greater healthcare needs than their urban counterparts. Specifically, rural Veterans have lower health-related quality-of-life scores and experience a higher prevalence of physical illness compared to urban Veterans. These differences in health-related quality-of-life scores, which equate to lower self-rated health status, among rural dwelling Veterans, are substantial, clinically meaningful, and associated with increased demand for healthcare services.

Despite greater health care needs, rural Veterans are less likely to access health services for both, physical or mental illness either through the VA or the private sector. In particular, rural Veterans have lower access to care for chronic conditions such as hypertension and

public transportation contribute to limited access to care for rural as compared to urban Veterans.

The G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery Center for America's Veterans located on the campus of Mississippi State University is a National Leader in providing comprehensive support through a University based Veteran Resource Center. This Resource Center provides educational assistance and care for Veterans attending the University. Many of these Veterans are Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND) Veterans in need of Polytrauma and Mental Health Services. Currently, Veterans attending MSU must miss class to receive care from the VAMC. By providing services in conjunction with the University on site will allow these Veterans and other rural Veterans in the area access to healthcare at a closer point of service. This initiative aligns with both the ORH and Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 16 strategic plans to increase access to care to rural Veterans in North Mississippi.

10. Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing and Interest in the Acquisition: N/A

11. A Statement of the Actions, if any, the Agency May Take to Remove or Overcome any Barriers to Competitions before Making subsequent acquisitions for the supplies or services required: Given the unique nature of this requirement and in support of the goals and objectives of VHA Office of Rural Health Initiative, C00856, MSU Collaboration for Mental Health and Polytrauma, services will continue to be met through the sole source provisions of FAR 6.302-4.

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.

<u>Patricia Grigoryev</u>	<u>5/8/2014</u>
Name: Dr. Patricia Grigoryev	Date
Title: Rural Health Program Manager	
Facility: G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VAMC, Jackson, MS	

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.

debra.jackson4@va.gov	<small>Digitally signed by debra.jackson4@va.gov DN: cn=debra.jackson4@va.gov Date: 2014.05.20 14:04:14 -05'00'</small>
Debra K. Jackson	Date
Contracting Officer	
G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VAMC/Network Contracting Office 16	

- b. **P&C:** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

toni.clendenen@va.gov

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Toni Clendenen
Chief, Purchasing and Contracting
HOUSTON/580, Network Contracting Office 16

Date

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

Aaron Villalpando
Director of Contracting
Network Contracting Office 16

Date