

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

1. Contracting Activity:

Department of Veterans Affairs, Network Contracting Office (NCO) 21, VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS), Menlo Park Division. 795 Willow Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Requisition Number: 640-14-3-344-0079 Part-time Health Care for Homeless Veterans Social Worker

2. Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:

The VA Palo Alto Health Care System anticipates entering into a sole source negotiation in accordance with FAR 13.106-(b) with Rachael Sanders, Social Worker (MSW.) The Government intends to establish a new firm fixed price contract with the current contractor for fiscal year 2014 (Sep 30, 2014 – Sep 29, 2015.)

3. Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:

Serve as a part-time outpatient and outreach Social worker for the VAPAHCS Homeless Program. Responsibilities include: data collection and analysis, program development and implementation; clinical interventions (including treatment planning and care coordination and outreach/community partnership maintenance. Work hours are 20 hours per week during the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Work assignment may be at the VAPAHCS Palo Menlo Park Division, or other areas in the VAPAHCS catchment area including Monterey, Fremont and Stockton.

Contracting Officer's (CO) Cost Estimate: The value of the contract would be approximately \$78,000 per year. (\$1,500 per week x 52 weeks) The period of performance is September 30, 2014 – September 29, 2015.

4. Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:

FAR 6.302-1, only one responsible source and no other supplies or services will satisfy agency requirements.

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

Prior to her work with the VA, Ms. Sanders had over ten years of experience serving low-income, homeless, at-risk, and otherwise marginalized populations. She possesses a MSW from Santa Clara University School and is an active member of the Board of Behavioral Sciences of California. Ms. Sanders has worked directly with homeless Veterans for many years. Her diverse and extensive work with the homeless has given her specialized experience in research, writing, program development and clinical applications.

Ms. Sanders has been a contracted Social Worker for the Department of Veterans Affairs since 2010. In this role, she has provided extensive clinical and program consultation, training, and program development services across multiple VA programs as well as throughout a ten-county catchment area. Ms. Sanders is our primary Outreach Social Worker and takes the lead in outreach activities

throughout the catchment area. In addition, she is active in assuring the Teams compliance with QASP, CARF and TJC requirements. Ms. Sanders utilizes recognized best practices, including Harm Reduction, Housing first, and Lean and Root Cause Problem Solving principles, to inform program-wide practices. Through her work with VA she has gained an extensive working knowledge of, and competency applying, many local, state, and federal housing programs and the regulations which govern them. Her past performance with our VAPAHCS as a Contractor has been exceptional.

Ms. Sanders' specialized knowledge is critical to meeting the VA's goal of ending Veteran Homelessness by 2016. She has continuously provided leadership and clinical skills in specific areas that the other team members do not possess and are unique to her part time position. Accordingly, Ms. Sanders is the only supplier capable of providing services described in Section III above without the Veteran's Health Administration experiencing 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:

An RFQ was posted to GSA Ebuy (RFQ895733) Titled "Part Time Social Worker for Health Care for Homeless Veterans" from 7/14-14 – 07/18/2014 which yielded no offers.

A notice of Intent to Sole Source will be published on FedBizOpps. Any responses will be referred to the Coordinator for the Health Care for Homeless Veteran (HCHV) Program to determine if additional sources capable of satisfying the agency's requirements exist.

7. Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:

Price reasonable will be determined in accordance with Simplified acquisition procedures (FAR 13.106-3 (a)(2) If only one response is received.

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, market research was conducted. A search of GSA SIN 621 I Professional and Allied Health Care Staffing Services, Category 621-047 Counseling related services (includes: Community counselor; marriage/family counselor/therapist; mental health counselor; rehabilitation counselor; social worker)(BS); social worker (MS); music therapist; art therapist and dance therapist (registered DTR) reveals that there are many staffing firms able to provide social workers. However, being that none responded to the GSA RFQ, it is assumed that none are interested in part time work.

9. Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:

All pertinent facts have been noted above.

10. Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:

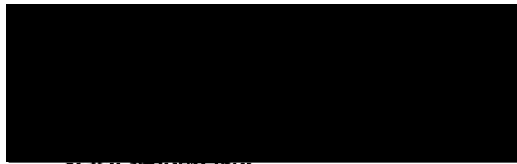
See Section VI above.

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:

The procurement action will be posted to the Government Point of Entry (GPE). Any responses will be referred to the Supervisor for the Health Care for Homeless Veteran (HCHV) Program to determine if additional sources capable of satisfying the agency's requirements exist.

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.

I certify that the technical requirements are accurate and complete to support the recommendation for other than full and open competition.



Stacy Studebaker
Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Coordinator
VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Menlo Park Division

9/4/14
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.



Tracy Worrell
Contracting Officer
Network Contracting Office (NCO) 21

9/4/14
Date

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



Claire K. Ursino, VHA-CM
Branch Chief, Medical Sharing 1
Network Contracting Office (NCO) 21

9/29/14
Date