

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval

For

Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 7, Nursing/Patient Care Services, Atlanta VA Medical Center (VAMC), VISN 7 Network Contracting Activity for Justification of Other Than Full and Open Competition, transaction 508-14-4-713-0029.

2. Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed: International Watson Caring Science Institute Affiliate Membership (WCSI) annual membership. Type of contract will be a firm-fixed service contract for a base with four option years.

3. Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs: The Atlanta VA Medical Center will be recognized as an invited member/affiliate of the Watson Caring Science Institute (WCSI) Membership is required to continue to work WCSI to incorporate new caring initiatives for staff and patients with outcome data for expanding national programs within the VA System. The membership is reoccurring annually. To continue with caring initiative projects already started in FY 2013, it would be in the Government's best interest for this service contract to be awarded with option years.

0001	Base year 9/12/2014 – 9/11/2015 for a based membership to affiliation with Watson Caring Science Institute to enhance work environment for staff and patient and educational programs,	1	EA	\$27,000
1001	Option Year One – 9/12/2015 – 9/11/2016	1	EA	\$27,000
2001	Option Year Two – 9/12/2016 – 9/11/2017	1	EA	\$27,000
3001	Option Year Three – 9/12/2017 – 9/13/2018	1	EA	\$27,000
4001	Option Year Four – 9/12/2018 – 9/11/2019	1	EA	\$27,000
	Aggregate Total			\$135,000

4. Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:
(x) 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): The Watson Caring Science Institute Affiliation is by invitation only. This membership/affiliation would distinguish the Atlanta VAMC as an innovative transformative culture among healthcare organizations within the State of Georgia for incorporating new initiatives and serving has an exemplar of new indicators for Caring Science criteria for

staff, patients, families and community stakeholders. The membership/affiliation allows the Atlanta VAMC to engage in multisite caring research initiatives with outcome data for expanding national programs and advancing collaborative projects within the VA system. It will allow the Atlanta VAMC ongoing engagement in research opportunities, educational programs, etc, that is paramount for continued Magnet Designation. The Atlanta VAMC obtained a membership to WCSI in the last fiscal year and is becoming a model exemplar for engaging in national benchmark outcome data related to both staff and patient care satisfaction. This procurement will be a follow-on service contract. Because of the highly specialized caring research initiatives that have already begun at the Atlanta VAMC, seeking competition would cause an unacceptable delay in fulfilling the agency's requirement.

6. Description of efforts made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable: The Watson Caring Science Institute Membership/Affiliation is by invitation only and is a small woman owned business. It is a distinctive organization and further competition is not being sought.

5. Describe all efforts taken (or to be taken) to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as practicable under the circumstances. The Atlanta VAMC has been working with WSCI for the past several years. FBO was searched for same or like training requirement, with keyword "caring patient" and the NAICS code for 611710. Market research in the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) indicated that several medical centers procured a membership site license or a data gathering to apply for a grant.

7. Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable: Market research findings listed multiple VA medical facilities having procured membership/affiliation with WSCI or grant studies: (1) VA247-12-C-3286 @ \$27,000, (2) VA248-14-P-3311 @ \$2695.32; (3) V580-C10612 @ \$13,600.00. Variances in pricing were based on project development for each facility, which some incorporated the annual membership fee. Based on these findings, the anticipated cost to the Government is considered fair and reasonable

8. Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted: The Watson Caring Science Institute is a distinct organization that has previously partner with the Atlanta VAMC and is continuing to work on several caring projects in developing patient and staff satisfaction surveys and educational programs in the core concept of care science. Membership/affiliation to this organization is issued by invitation only. Further market research was not conducted.

9. Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition: Care science is an evolving new field that is grounded in the discipline of nursing and evolving nursing science and is becoming an interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary field of study. It is imperative for the Atlanta VAMC continues seeking educational opportunities for nursing staff in caring for the patient by using art, science, humanities, spiritually and the dimension of mindbodyspirit medicine. By expanding on this paradigm, it helps the VA to meet its mission in caring fully for the veterans and their families with compassion and respect

10. Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition: Membership to WSCI is by invitation only.

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 agency will continue to monitor the market and government sources to expand competition opportunities.

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.


Regina Taylor MN, APRN, ACNS-BC
Regina Taylor, MN, APRN, ACNS-BC
Clinical Nurse Specialist/Magnet Program Director
Atlanta VA Medical Center

9/12/2014
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.


RAJ
NC0704
9-15-14


Laurinda N. Millage
Non-Medical Services Team Supervisor
Network Contracting Activity

9/12/2014
Date

- b. **NCM/PCM** : I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

for


Prudence Y. Howard
Director of Contracts Management
VISN 7

9/15/14
Date