

**JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL
FOR
OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION**

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, NCO 23, Station 618
Minneapolis VA Healthcare System Contracting Office
708 3rd Street, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55415
2237 # 568-15-1-2061-0006

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

The proposed acquisition is for a firm fixed price contract for psychiatry services through other than full and open competition procedures. The Government anticipates the award of a short term contract providing psychiatry services to the Black Hills VA Healthcare System (BHVAHCS).

3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agencies Needs:**

The proposed acquisition is for an emergency six month contract beginning 10/21/2014, with a 6-month option to extend if necessary. This contract has an estimated value of \$148,000.00 for 6-months. Total contract (base + option) estimated not to exceed \$225,000.00. The Black Hills VAHCS has a requirement for full-time psychiatrist working 40 hours per week. Services are required of a board-certified psychiatrist, with an active, current, full and unrestricted license in a State, Territory or Commonwealth of the United States or the District of Columbia.

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

The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 41 U.S.C.253(c) (2) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 6.302-1 entitled "Only one responsible source and no other Supplies or Services will satisfy agency requirements".

5. **Demonstrate that the Contractors Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above:**

The Black Hills VAHCS has an urgent need for psychiatry services in the Black Hills. This contractor, Locum Tenens, is an incumbent contractor, previously awarded under full and open competition. It is anticipated that the solicitation process, proposal evaluations, negotiations, required reviews, background investigations and credentialing processes for a long term contract will not be completed in time to continue servicing the veterans' mental health needs.

It is crucial to the operation of the Mental Health Service to have a psychiatrist that is experienced and fully trained, in order to ensure the safety of our patients. The current provider has been providing psychiatric services for some time and is fully versed in procedures and protocols.

Due to the time elements for security/background checks, privileging and credentialing processes, plus the added learning curve time for training on Black Hills protocols, a new procurement will take some time. To avoid a gap in services, in this critical area, a short term emergency contract is needed. A long term contract is currently being worked on. Keeping this incumbent contractor in place until a new long-term contract can be awarded is critical to the safety of our patients and the functioning of the Mental Health service area in the Black Hills HCS.

6. **Description of Efforts made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable**
The BHVAHCS is working on a competitive solicitation for these services for a base + 4 options.

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

The contracting officer will determine the price to be fair and reasonable.

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 in accordance with FAR Part 10 and is included as a part of the attached IGCE.

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 Action, if Any, the Agency May Take to Remove or Overcome any Barriers to Competition Before Making Subsequent Acquisitions for the Supplies or Services required:
No further action required

12. Requirements Certification:

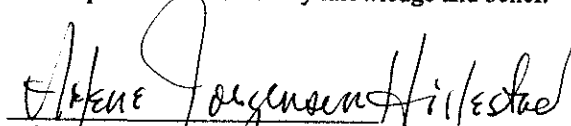
I certify that the requirement outlined in this justification is a bona fide need of the Department of Veterans Affairs and that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.


Lawrence Planery
Administrative Officer Mental Health Service

10/26/14
Date


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.


Arlene Jorgensen Hillestad
Contracting Officer

10-20-14
Date

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


Julie Stout
Branch Chief, Medical Sharing Team Two, NCO 23

20 Oct 2014
Date