

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval (J&A)

For

Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, Sierra Pacific Network VISN 21, through its Network Contracting Office (NCO 21) is contracting for services for San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center (SfVAMC). SfVAMC (Eureka CBOC) requires case management services for housing placement and case management services for the HUD-VASH program.

Purchase Request Numbers: 662-16-3-465-0011

2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** This is a short-term sole source contract to provide continued case management service while a long-term contract is being negotiated for the region. This procurement is in accordance with FAR 13.5 Test Program for Certain Commercial Items and specifically FAR 13.501 Special Documentation Requirements, where acquisitions conducted under Simplified Acquisition Procedures are exempt from the requirements of FAR Part 6, but still require a justification using the format of FAR 6.303-2.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) HUD-VASH program is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and VA to place and maintain homeless Veterans in permanent, community based housing using HUD Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers that are paired with ongoing VA case management services. Many of these Veterans have co-morbid conditions that include serious mental illnesses, substance abuse disorders, and other serious medical conditions.

3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** The contractor shall provide three full-time equivalent (FTE) case management workers to service veterans. The contractor will work with HUD-VASH veterans to include chronically homeless, with advanced age, mental health, substance abuse, medical and/or other co-occurring psychosocial issues, highly vulnerable, with a high likelihood of death from homelessness. The contractor will work in conjunction with the SfVAMC in Humboldt County. The Contractor will utilize the Housing First approach in housing homeless individuals. Contractor-employees shall be VETPRO certified and shall pass OPM security clearances.


4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:** 41 USC §1901, as implemented by FAR 13.5 in accordance with FAR 6.302-1 Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy.

The authority for applying the Commercial Test Program of FAR 13.5 is (Section 4202 of the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996) and is implemented by for restricting competition on this procurement via FAR 13.106-1(b)(2).

5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):** NCO 21 is currently preparing a solicitation for a long-term case management contract for SfVAMC (Humboldt County). The current contract is set to expire March 31, 2016, and SfVAMC must have uninterrupted service from April 1, 2016 until the new, long-term contract can be established. Veterans Resource Centers of America, has been providing the service with the existing contract. NCO 21 will establish a short-term contract with the incumbent contractor to provide continued service while the VA solicits and concludes its negotiations for the replacement long-term contract. It is not possible, nor prudent to

attempt to allow for competition of this highly crucial service for the short-term contract. An attempt to do so would divert limited resources and put the continued service at risk.

6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** It is not possible to attempt competition for this short-term contract as it would present an unacceptable risk to patient care for case management services. Verifying eligibility to provide this highly demanding service requires significant time and resources. Contractors are required to be VETPRO certified and have OPM security clearances with valid PIV cards and access to VA system. Attempting to compete this short-term contract would jeopardize the continuity of service and could jeopardize patient care and the VA mission as a result.
7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** The Contracting Officer has a substantial amount of information, including an Independent Government Estimate, information from market research, and federal equivalent rates to evaluate the price and determine it 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:** The Contracting Officer completed limited market research for this service due to the time constraints. Market research on the long-term contract will be extensive and will include a Sources Sought Synopsis, Pre-Solicitation Notices, and a review of comparable procurements. The market research is fully documented.
9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:** NCO 21 has been working for a replacement contract for this service for nearly a year. Award was originally anticipated for April 1, 2016. However, unforeseen delays with the requirement pushed this requirement back more than reasonably anticipated. As a result, a short-term so-called bridge contract is the only viable method for continued service in the interim.
10. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:** The only known interested offeror for this immediate, short-term contract is the incumbent, Veterans Resource Centers of America.
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:** NCO 21 seeks a very short-term contract to provide continued case management services. In an attempt to maximize competition, the NCO 21 will award a contract for only six months while it solicits for and negotiates a long-term contract. In this way, NCO 21 seeks to minimize to the greatest extent practicable a non-competitive award.
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.


Name Brian Dobbins
Title Head VHSN Supervisor / CO R
Facility 5FVAMC
Date 3/31/16
13. **Approvals in accordance with the VHAPM, Volume 6, Chapter VI: OFOC SOP.**

- a. Contracting Officer's Certification (required): I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Nicole N
Do 503061

Digitally signed by Nicole N Do
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Contracting Officer, NCO 21

Date

- b. Director of Contracting /Designee (Required \$150K and above): I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

3/31/16

Beverly Quevedo

NCO 21 Branch Chief, Services Team II

Date