

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Justification and Approval (J&A) For  
Other Than Full and Open Competition (>\$150K)**

**Acquisition Plan Action ID:** VA245-17-AP-2303

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, Network Contracting Office (NCO 5) Washington, DC,
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** This action is for the continuation of the work that is being done under the contract to Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc (TAC). This bridge/interim contract action will continue provision of SSVF services for three (3) months, while a new RFP is being composed for full and open competition. It is important that this contract continues for provision of the urgently required grant management technical assistance it provides to Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) grantees. SSVF awards \$300 million annually to nearly 400 SSVF grantees serving over 170,000 Veterans and their families in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The contract would cover the period of April 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2017 with Option to Extend Services.

**Description of Supplies/Services Required Meeting the Agency's Needs:** SSVF is a critical part of VA's strategy to end homelessness among Veterans. SSVF has pioneered new interventions in the field of homelessness through widespread use of rapid re-housing and prevention services. In order for these interventions to be deployed effectively and efficiently, grantees must have access to technical assistance that allows them to provide evidence-based services.

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

- ( X ) (1) Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements per FAR 6.302-1;
- ( ) (2) Unusual and Compelling Urgency per FAR 6.302-2;
- ( ) (3) Industrial Mobilization, Engineering, Developmental or Research Capability or Expert Services per FAR 6.302-3;
- ( ) (4) International Agreement per FAR 6.302-4
- ( ) (5) Authorized or Required by Statute FAR 6.302-5; ( ) (6) National Security per FAR 6.302-6;
- ( ) (7) Public Interest per FAR 6.302-7;

**3. Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):** TAC, the incumbent contractor is uniquely qualified to continue provision of the required services without interruption and represents the Only Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements per FAR 6.302-1;

It is key to the program and VA values that provision of these services continue unabated. TAC is in that position to maintain continuation as it has the experienced, trained and vetted personnel in place to maintain seamless continuation of services. To bring in a new contractor would disrupt the services until the new contractor has transitioned into the workflow, had its new employees, cleared, vetted and surpass the steep learning curve in 4 months for VA processes including VISTA and eCMS. TAC has personnel in place who are performing at that optimum level. TAC has personnel that would also represent best value to the Government by expertly transitioning the future contractor's personnel coming in after award of the new contract. To solicit an award for this three (3) months, and negotiate with a new contractor would be disruptive and an unproductive expenditure of resources that would be better allocated to performance by TAC.

The goal of this award is to maintain continuity of provision of SSVF services until a new long-term contract is awarded. This technical assistance contract is used to support the dissemination of evidence-based practices, provide training on program rules and expectation, and facilitate community planning across Continuums of Care throughout the country. A new contract is scheduled to be solicited and awarded via competitive bid on or before September 29, 2017. TAC has been vetted and has the qualified personnel in place to continue performance of this vital contract without delay. TAC the present contractor is able to be productive on the first day of the contract and continue to support SSVF with its inherent program knowledge. This contract will allow VA to bridge the period between the end of the current TAC contract and the award of the new contract without causing a disruption in SSVF service quality. The homelessness program will experience a significant deficit if this bridge is not awarded. Any break in service will directly impact the Veteran by not supplying adequate training and support to community planning and grass root agencies that have direct access to these individuals, in need; As the contract is just over 3 months, it is imperative that TAC be retained to perform this work as it has done satisfactorily to date. fulfilling the FAR 6.302-1 requirement for Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements per FAR 6.302-1;

4. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** This three (3) months bridge contract allows for the continuation of services until the ensuing RFP for a base plus four (4) years will be solicited on FBO within few months. An award is scheduled to be made on or before September 29, 2017.
5. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable based on published professional rates, and Contract history of the current contract in comparison to increase funding for estimated rates.
6. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons in depth Market Research Was Not Conducted:** Market research efforts through NAICS 541990 for SDVOSB/VOSB in (VIP) reveal several potential sources with NAICS 541990 that could meet the requirements of the services. However, given that this is a Sole Source Bridge Contract targeting the incumbent Contractor; it would not be in the Government's best interest to seek Full and Open Competition as suggested by the market research. The goal of this award is to maintain continuity of SSVF services until a new long term contract is awarded. At which time an in depth market research will be conducted. The homelessness program will experience a significant deficit if this bridge contract is not awarded.

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

None.

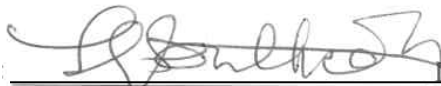
8. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:**

None.

9. **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:**

Network Contracting Office (NCO 5) plans scheduled to solicit for services, and make an award on or before September 29, 2017.

10. **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: Linda J. Southcott  
Title: Deputy Director, SSVF  
Facility: VHA Homeless  
Programs Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: 3/1/17

11. **Approvals in accordance with the [VHAPM, Volume 6, Chapter VI: OFOC SOP](#).**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

Title

Facility

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

- b. **Director of Contracting /Designee (Required over\$150K but not exceeding \$700K):** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

NCO5 Director of Contracting or Designee Facility

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date