

SOURCES SOUGHT

This is not a solicitation announcement. This is a sources sought only. The purpose of this is to gain knowledge of potential qualified sources and their size relative to NACIS 611430. Responses will be used by the Government to make appropriate acquisition decisions. Responses are not considered responses to any potential solicitation announcement.

(Draft)

Statement of Work

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

2002 Holcombe BLVD

Houston, TX 77030

SCOPE.

Title: Dialectical Behavior Therapy

DRAFT STATEMENT OF WORK FOR MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIANS TRAININGS IN DIALECTICAL BEHAVIORAL THERAPY FOR SUICIDAL CLIENTS

I.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this training is to provide 100 Clinicians with specialized skills in Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) to treat/engage veterans who are at high risk for suicide completion or suicide attempts. Attendees will learn how to conduct psychotherapy groups for Veterans who are severely mentally ill and who have multiple chronic problematic behaviors (e.g. suicidality, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, major depression, homelessness, unemployment, etc.). Attendees learn the basic principles of cognitive behavior therapy (CBT), including the four main change strategies utilized in treatment – skills training, contingency management, exposure therapy, and cognitive modification. Attendees are taught the rationale for, and strategic levels of validation; validation is used to balance the focus on behavior change when working with clients. Attendees learn DBT group skills and strategies for keeping treatment moving forward as quickly as possible. DBT is a specialized therapeutic approach officially provided by the contractor.

II.

BACKGROUND: The South Central (VISN 16) Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, Texas are seeking to enhance the clinical skills of 100 clinicians in order to reduce and minimize suicide risk factors. The MIRECC is a VISN-wide research and clinical education center funded by Office of Mental Health Services, VA Central Office. The MIRECC supports clinical training programs for

clinicians that the VISN 16 Mental Health Product Line and the Chiefs of Mental Health a for VISN 16 and VISN 17 medical centers view as priorities.

III.

TASKS:

TASK 1. The Contractor shall provide 100 Mental Health Clinicians a six month access to online training program on DBT Group Skills. Content of the online modules includes theory behind DBT and the DBT treatment approach, as well as specific skills used in group psychotherapies. Learners are expected to conduct their own DBT Skills Group after completing the online training program. The Contractor shall meet the performance requirements and standards as set forth in Attachment A.

TASK 2. The Contractor shall provide a qualified instructor, who is well versed in all subject matter to be covered, that can answer in depth questions on each topic, provide the required training in an online setting, using sound principles of adult learning to achieve the identified learning goals detailed below.

TASK 3. The Contractor shall be responsible for developing a course curriculum and delivering online training that includes principles, skills and strategies of Dialectical Behavior Therapy with the following learning goals and/or objectives:

- Develop specific skills to conduct DBT groups

Understand how skills training fit into the comprehensive treatment of DBT

- Lead teaching the Core Mindfulness Skills™
- Lead skills practice in group
- Explain the Interpersonal Effectiveness Skills
- Lead behavioral rehearsal in group, including the rapid rehearsal
- Overcome client objections during DBT Skills Training
- Teach Distress Tolerance Skills
- Problem solve clients' reluctance to use Distress Tolerance skills
- Teach Emotion Regulation Skills
- Lead homework review
- List the elements in skills coaching

- Discuss rationale for skills coaching

TASK 4. The Contractor must be aware that the participants are very seasoned mental health professionals as well as less seasoned mental health professionals. In addressing the curriculum, the Contractor must ensure that all participants understand the information being conveyed, without making the training laborious for those who may know much more.

IV. DELIVERABLES

Deliverable	Due Date	Format & POC
Draft course curriculum	Upon given online access codes	Online Access of each module given to the 54 Mental Health Clinicians
All necessary instructional materials including PowerPoint slides and articles, charts overhead transparencies, case studies, audio-visual media, recordings, modules, and other educational aides.	Upon given online access codes	All users including the admin staff shall need to create an account with the contractor in order to add the course keys to each individual for online access
Reinforcement of learning after training completion	Evaluation of learned content upon completion of the training	Online evaluation

V. GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT: The Government shall not provide any materials or equipment to the Contractor for these training sessions.

VI. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: The Purchase Order shall be Anticipated training dates June 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

VII. SCHEDULE: Anticipated training dates June 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

TECHNICAL CRITERIA:

1. TRAINING METHODOLOGY: The Offeror shall describe, in sufficient detail, the online approach to be used to train the Mental Health Clinicians (no more than 3 pages).

2. STAFFING REQUIREMENTS: The Offeror's representative(s) shall possess skills appropriate to conduct training for the 100 staff related to Dialectical Behavior Therapy, and must possess the following minimum education and experience: (resume of proposed trainer shall be no more than 3 pages): A Master's degree from an accredited college or university in organizational behavior,

psychology, or similar field. The instructor should possess a thorough theoretical knowledge of the topic through publications and/or experience. As a minimum, the instructor should possess 5 years of experience training mental health professionals.

ATTACHMENT A

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT	PERFORMANCE STANDARD	MONITORING METHOD
By the end of the course, attendees shall be able to structure psychotherapy for clients who are severely mentally ill and who have multiple chronic problematic behaviors (e.g. suicidality, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, major depression, homelessness, unemployment, etc.).	90% of attendees are able to structure psychotherapy and address at least problematic behaviors from a Dialectical Behavior Therapy approach.	Successful completion of online training quizzes and evaluation with 80% correct responses.
By the end of the course, attendees shall be able apply suicide crisis protocols of Dialectical Behavior Therapy.	90% of attendees are able to identify at least two suicide crisis protocols from a Dialectical Behavior Therapy approach.	Successful completion of online training quizzes and evaluation with 80% correct responses.
By the end of the course, attendees will be able to implement the structure, goals, and stages of Dialectical Behavior Therapy Skills Group.	90% of attendees are able to implement structure, goals, and stages of Dialectical Behavior Therapy treatment.	Successful completion of online training quizzes and evaluation with 80% correct responses.
By the end of the course, attendees shall be able to demonstrate the different communication strategies of Dialectical Behavior Therapy.	90% of attendees are able to demonstrate at least two communication strategies of Dialectical Behavior Therapy.	Successful completion of online training quizzes and evaluation with 80% correct responses.

All interested firms shall provide the following information: company name, address, point of contact, phone number, email address, capability statement, business size, DUNS #, and GSA contract number (if applicable) pursuant to the NAICS code 611430.

Responses Requested: The MEDVAMC requires the following questions answered in the RFI. Contractor shall answer questions to be considered as part of the Market Research. Contractor shall be considered non responsive if answers are not provided and will not be considered as part of the Market Research.

a. Does the Contractor possess all license and certifications required for the state of Texas to meet all government requirements for Dialectical Behavior Therapy? Contractor shall provide documentation of license and certification to support Market Research to be considered.

b. Contractors shall also provide their point(s) of contact name, address, telephone number, and email address; and the company's business size, and Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number.

c. Is your company a small business, SDBs, HUBZone, or 8A concern? Please provide proof of qualifications.

d. Provide in your capability statement a list of active contracts for commercial, federal, state, and local governments. List Contracts shall provide communication on the government requirement illustrating the capability for comparison.

e. Is your company available under any Government Wide Agency Contract (GWAC), General Services Administration Schedules (GSA), Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ), and/or Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA)? If so, please list the contract number and a brief summary of the products and services provided.

f. Provide a short summary of your potential approach to this type of contract and meeting the specific requirements per the draft Statement of Work and your experience managing similar contracts with similar requirements for the MEDVAMC.

Opportunity: The MEDVAMC, is seeking information from potential contractors on their ability to provide this service. THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) ONLY. Small Business Concerns are encouraged to provide responses to this RFI in order to assist the MEDVAMC in determining potential levels of competition available in the industry.

Contractor shall possess the capability to provide all requirements and objectives.

Instructions and Response Guidelines: RFI responses are due by May 2, 2017 at 10:00 am (CST); size is limited to 8.5 x 11 inches, 12-point font, with 1-inch margins in Microsoft Word format via email to **John.Ritter@va.gov**.

All Questions shall be submitted by April 30, 2017 at 11:00 am (CST) via email to **John.Ritter@va.gov**. Telephone requests or inquires will not be accepted.

The subject line shall read: VA256-17-N-0597 Dialectical Behavior Therapy Contract. NO SOLICITATION EXISTS AT THIS TIME.

Please provide the information you deem relevant in order to respond to the specific inquiries of the RFI. Information provided will be used solely by MEDVAMC as "market research" and will not be released outside of the MEDVAMC Purchasing and Contract Team.

This RFI does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP), Invitation for Bid (IFB), or Request for Quotation (RFQ), and it is not to be construed as a commitment by the Government to enter into a contract, nor will the Government pay for the information submitted in response to this request. All information contained in this RFI is preliminary as well as subject to modification and is in no way binding on the Government.

In accordance with FAR 15.201(e), responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the U.S. Government to form a binding contract. If a solicitation is released, it will be synopsized in the Federal Business Opportunities (FedBizOpps) website or GSA. It is the responsibility of the interested parties to monitor these sites for additional information pertaining to this RFI, or future RFP.

Contact Information:

Contract Specialist, John Ritter

Email address: **John.Ritter@va.gov**

Your responses to this notice are appreciated.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT A REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE QUOTES; however, any firm that believes it can meet the requirements may give written notification prior to the response due date and time. Supporting evidence must be furnished in sufficient detail to demonstrate the ability to perform the requirements.