

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval

For

Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Integrated Service Network 17 (VISN 17), Network Contract Office 17 (NCO), 7400 Merton Minter Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78229. (671-12-3-052-0030).
2. **Name and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** This is a request for other than full and open competition, NCO 17 intends to negotiate and award a new firm fixed purchase order on a sole source basis to Behavioral Tech, LLC 2133 Third Ave., Ste 205, Seattle, WA 98121.
3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** The contractor shall provide all training materials, supplies, labor, personnel and supervision necessary to provide Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). DBT is the only evidence-based efficacious therapy for persons with Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD). BPD patients often have unstable emotional control and interpersonal conflicts, which lead to frequent suicidal behavior and acute psychiatric admissions. Therefore, VISN 17's Senior Leadership determined that there is a need for training of mental health clinicians to provide DBT at each of the four Health Care Systems/Medical Centers. DBT is derived from a philosophical process called dialectics. Dialectics is based upon the concept that everything is composed of opposites and that change occurs when one opposing force is stronger than the other, or in more academic terms: thesis, antithesis and synthesis.

The period of performance shall be from 6/15/2012 – 6/14/2013. The estimated cost for procurement is \$65,200.00.

4. **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;
  - ( ) (2) Unusual and Compelling Urgency;
  - ( ) (3) Industrial Mobilization, Engineering, Developmental or Research Capability, or Expert Services;
  - ( ) (4) International Agreement
  - ( ) (5) Authorized or Required by Statute;
  - ( ) (6) National Security; or
  - ( ) (7) Public Interest

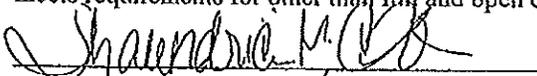
5. Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited: DBT was developed by Dr. Marsha Linehan and her research group at the University of Washington. Subsequently, Dr. Linehan formed Behavioral Tech, LLC to provide DBT training across the country through extended workshops and follow-up case consultation/supervision by phone with a certified DBT trainer. Behavioral Tech, LLC is the only organization that provides DBT training with full fidelity to Dr. Linehan's method. To date, this group has successfully trained over 3,000 mental health providers in DBT. In order to assure that Veterans receive the full benefits of DBT, it is imperative that treatment remain with Behavioral Health Tech.  
  
The requirement for this training is to reduce the number of suicides in VISN 17. The specialized training provided by Behavior Tech LLC teaches the patient skills to cope with stress, regulation emotions and improve relationships with others. It is a type of Cognitive Behavioral therapy.
6. Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable: An Internet search was completed in order to find other potential sources to meet the requirements of the VISN 17 Mental Health Office. However, Behavioral Tech, LLC was the only organization that provided DBT training with full fidelity to Dr. Linehan's method. Dr. Linehan not only developed the Dialectical Behavioral Therapy training but also is the owner of Behavioral Tech, LLC. Additionally, a notice of intent was issued to fedbizopps notifying the public of the Governments intent to sole source the requirement to Behavioral Tech, LLC.
7. Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable: In accordance with FAR 13.106-3(a)(2)(ii), the Contracting Officer shall determine pricing fair and reasonable based on comparison of the proposed price with prices found reasonable on previous purchases for the same service. The requirements of FAR 15.406-2, Certificate of Current Cost or Pricing Data are not applicable to this acquisition.
8. Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted: An internet searched revealed that there are several different types of courses for behavioral therapy training. However, these services are not available via a federal supply schedule contract. The suggested source does not have a National Acquisition Center Contract or General Service Administration contract. A keyword search was conducted on both sites yielding zero results.
9. Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other Than Full and Open Competition: There are no other facts supporting the use of Other Than Full and Open Competition.
10. Listing of Sources that expressed, in writing, an interest in the acquisition: There are no known sources but the proposed.
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: Market research is conducted by the VISN office on a continual basis as new types of behavioral courses are developed. The proposed contract is for 12 months. This will allow the VA Arlington Network Contracting Office enough time to compete the requirement. Acquisition planning for the follow on contract will commence following contract award.

12. Requirements Certification: I certify that the requirement outlined in this justification is a bonafide 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.

Approvals in Accordance with FAR 6.304:

Approvals:

a. **CONTRACTING OFFICER'S CERTIFICATION (required)**: I certify that the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.



5/30/2012

CONTRACTING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

DATE

SHAUNDRICA M. CLOSE

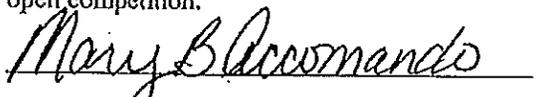
Contracting Officer

Network Contracting Office (NCO 17)

Service Area Office (SAO) – West

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

b. **FIRST SUPERVISOR**: I certify that the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.



6/5/2012

CONTRACTING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

DATE

MARY ACCOMANDO

Supervisor, NCO 17, SAO-W