

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

1. **Contracting Activity** Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Strategic Acquisition Office
10300 Spotsylvania Avenue Suite 400
Fredericksburg, VA 22408

2. **Description of Action**

The proposed action is for a sole source, Firm-Fixed Price (FFP) contract with Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, 3720 Rockledge Drive Ste. 100, Bethesda, MD 20817-1891. The procurement includes the support of evidence-based PTSD training to rural clinicians treating Veterans. This is justification for other than full and open competition. The period of performance will include a 12-month base period with four (4) one-year option periods.

3. **Description of Supplies or Services**

This procurement is for training rural providers' evidenced-based PTSD treatments. The proposed acquisition is to conduct trainings for rural providers that are treating Veterans in their private practice. One of the goals of this project is to improve the lives of our Veterans whether or not they seek treatment in the VA. We have been approved to train non-VA providers in an evidence based PTSD therapy. We are proposing to conduct three 3-day-in-person trainings using the manual titled Prolonged exposure therapy for PTSD: Emotional process of traumatic experiences - Therapist Guide (Treatments that Work) by Edna Foa, Elizabeth Hembree, Barbara Rothbaum. It is intended to acquire this training by the Henry Jackson Foundation beginning in September 2018 and the first year cost will be approximately \$70,000. The total estimated value of the proposed action is \$454,000 inclusive of options.

4. **Statutory Authority:**

The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 41 U.S.C.3304(a)(1) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 6.302-1(a) (2) Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements.

5. **Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above:**

The proposed requirement is to provide training in Prolonged Exposure (PE) therapy for PTSD for Veterans. This is a highly specialized training that requires both competency in Prolonged Exposure training as well as military culture and Veteran mental health and recovery. The following are the unique training services the Henry Jackson Foundation's offers through the Center for Deployment Psychology:

- They are the only non-VA organization with the PE training expertise required that focuses solely on training providers who treat veterans and service members. Their PE training offers a unique focus on military combat trauma and/or the experience of military sexual trauma.
- They are the only non-VA organization with PE training expertise that also provides expertise in military culture. The Center for Deployment Psychology is recognized as a leader in military culture training. This is critical because aspects of military culture interfere and complicate reactions to trauma making it more difficult to treat PTSD.
- They have trained other DoD providers and using this source would allow for continuity in the quality of the training for Veterans who were seeking care while in the military and to continue this when they are discharged from the military.
- They are a mobile training unit and it is more cost effective to have 1-2 trainers travel from location to location rather than have 30 providers travel to one location.
- The trainings incorporate information particular to the treatment of military personnel and veterans struggling with PTSD including the role of military culture in the psychological treatment of veterans.

The Center for Deployment Psychology is the only organization outside of VA with the necessary training and experience to provide the necessary services outlined in this contract due to the time requirement and the high standards set by the developer of the treatment and lack of knowledge on the unique aspects of delivering this treatment to military Veterans. The Henry Jackson Foundation is able to provide the necessary services with no additional training needed. The Center for Deployment Psychology has over 10 years of experience in effectively delivering evidence-based psychotherapies (EBP) for PTSD to providers treating military Veterans. Their multi-day workshops were developed using the same training principals as the developers of the selected treatments (in this case PE) but modified for military Veterans. Using mobile training teams from CDP headquarters and DBHPs, workshops have been delivered throughout the country and internationally.

CDP's training program has delivered nearly 300 workshops (up to 50 in some years) that have been attended by more than 9,000 DoD providers. The CDP also has extensive experience training civilian providers in the use of EBPs for PTSD. For example their 1-week Civilian Course and the Star Behavioral Health Providers (SBHP) program train civilian providers to address the needs of Service members, Veterans and their families. Since their inception, these programs have incorporated EBP workshops. To date, more than 5000 providers have completed at least one EBP workshop through these programs.

The vendor also has extensive experience training *providers who treat Veterans who have military trauma. They also meet the following criteria.*

- *The providers must be VA or DoD trained in the PE treatment for PTSD according to the manual titled Prolonged exposure therapy for PTSD: Emotional process of traumatic experiences - Therapist Guide (Treatments that Work) by Edna Foa,*

Elizabeth Hembree, Barbara Rothbaum, Oxford University Press (2007) and the workbook titled Reclaiming Your Life from a Traumatic Experience: A Prolonged Exposure Treatment Program Workbook by Barbara Rothbaum, Edna Foa, Elizabeth Hembree, Oxford University Press (2007).

- *Each trainer must have conducted at least two prior trainings within the VA or DoD.*
- *They have experience conducting trainings, and have experience obtaining continuing education credits from the American Psychological Association, the National Association of Social Workers, and the National Board for Certified Counselors (to include Marriage and Family Therapists).*

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition:

Market research was conducted as described in Section 8 of this document. Additional sources of PE training were identified; however, these trainings are located in Philadelphia and lack the military culture aspect of the training. This would require additional training on the part of the VA as well as increased costs to travel 90 clinicians rather than 6 trainers.

7. Actions to Increase Competition:

The current technical dependency on one contractor is reviewed continually by the Office of Quality, Safety, & Value-Utilization and Efficiency Management Program staff. The ability to integrate other clinically appropriateness criteria into the PE Training cannot occur without a major training initiative and case subjects increasing the number of training therapists in the treatment for PTSD for Veterans.

8. Market Research:

Market research included internet searches to identify all clinical appropriate trainers available in the marketplace. Although several trainers exist, only two are nationally recognized, and evidence-based. The other trainer Dr. Foa offers this training in Philadelphia for \$1,500 per person which would total \$135,000 for 90 and they would all have to travel to PA for the training which would further increase the cost of this training and would also limit the reach of this program. Many clinicians would not be able to leave their homes for a 5 day training plus 2 travel days.

https://www.med.upenn.edu/ctsa/workshops_ptsd.html Part of the benefit of our training is going into the provider's community and reduce the costs for the training to reduce barriers for providers receiving this evidence based treatment training..

9. Other Facts:

None