

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval

For

Other Than Full and Open Competition

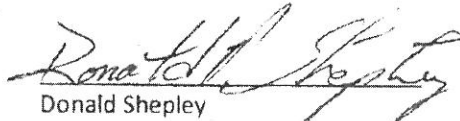
1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs
Network Contracting Office (NCO) 18
Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS)

NCO 18 proposes entering into a contract using Other Than Full and Open Competition for a requirement with the American Psychological Association Commission on Accreditation (APA-COA) to conduct a site visit which will include evaluation and accreditation of the Facilities Internship and Clinical Postdoctoral Psychology programs.

2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** The NCO 18 Contracting Office proposes a sole source firm-fixed price contract with APA-COA as the sole entity within the United States recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) (<http://www.apa.org>.) for the national accrediting authority of professional education and training in psychology. The accreditation process requires accredited providers to undergo periodic assessments also mandating site visits by members of the American Psychological Association Commission on Accreditation to the facilities in which the physicians are employed.
3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** The contractor (APA-COA) will provide agendas and review teams to evaluate VISN 18's Internship and Postdoctoral Psychology program accreditations at each respective facility. Accreditations shall last from 1 to 7 years depending on site visit outcomes. After evaluations are complete, the APA-COA will provide each health care facility a findings report, accreditation status, and a follow-up action plan. The estimated cost for this visit is \$5,100.00, and will be complete by September 30, 2013.
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 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;
5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):** The APA-COA is recognized by both the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, as the national accrediting authority for professional education and training in psychology (Attachment 1). They are the sole entity that is used throughout the VA for the accreditation of post doc and internship programs at each facility.

6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** A sources sought synopsis (VA258-13-Q-0390) was issued from March 25 to March 29, 2013. The synopsis sought any potential qualified contractor to provide an accreditation site visit to review SAVAHCS accreditation status. The sources sought also sought potential small businesses to include Service Disable Veteran Owned (SDVOSB) and Veteran Owned (VOSB) Small Business in accordance with Public Law 109-461. No responses were received for any other potential sources.
7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** The anticipated cost will be considered fair and reasonable IAW FAR 13.106-3(a)(2)(iii). Fees for site visits are fixed nationally to health care providers at \$1,700.00 per team member. By combining both the Internship and Clinical Postdoctoral programs accreditations the contractor will provide three (3) team members instead of the minimum two (2) per visit, this will reduce costs by \$1,700.00 and ensure both programs are accredited simultaneously. Each team will consist of 3 members, an overall team chair, an Internship program chair, and a Clinic Postdoctoral program chair.
8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:**
- a. Contacted current Contracting Officer Representative (COR) about services provided on past contracts.
 - b. Queried government-wide and Commercial Databases.
 - 1. Vista - Price found to be fair and reasonable compared to previous purchase orders.
 - 2. Vet Biz (<http://www.vetbiz.gov>) – No SDVOSB/VOSB's listed that provide service.
 - 3. VA FSS (<http://www.fss.va.gov>) – No vendors listed that provide service.
 - 4. GSA Advantage (<http://gsaadvantage.gov>) – No vendors listed that provide service.
 - c. Published sources-sought notification in FBO (<http://www.fbo.gov>) – No responses.
 - d. Internet search - Arizona Medical Association, Inc. is only entity found through an internet search that can provide the requested services.
9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:**
See Attachment 1
10. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:**
None
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:**
Not Applicable

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.


Donald Shepley
Supervisory Program Specialist, QM
PVAHCS

03-27-2013
Date

13. Approvals in accordance with FAR 6.304

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


Carlos Acosta
Contracting Officer
Network Contracting Office 18, SAVAHCs

3/28/2013
Date

- b. NCM/PCM: I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.


Sabrina J. Smith
Network Contract Manager 18

4/10/2013
Date

COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

SUMMARY OF RECOGNITION STATUS

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION (APA-COA)

In accordance with the *2010 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures, Paragraph 43*, this summary of recognition status describes the formal action taken by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Board of Directors with regard to an accrediting organization seeking recognition by CHEA.

PROFILE OF ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION

Type of Accreditor: Programmatic

Number of Programs: 909

CHEA-Recognized Scope of Accreditation:

Doctoral programs in clinical, counseling, school psychology, (and combinations of 2 or more of these practice areas); internship programs in professional psychology; and postdoctoral residency programs in traditional and specialty practice areas of psychology; within the United States, its territories, and Canada. (2013)

CHEA RECOGNITION INFORMATION

History: Recognized by CHEA in April 2002

Most Recent Recognition Action

Date: CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, January 28, 2013

Decision: Recognition for up to 10 years

The CHEA Committee on Recognition and the Board of Directors reviewed the American Psychological Association Commission on Accreditation (APA-COA). The review was based on the six CHEA recognition standards that require an accrediting organization to show that its accreditation process advances academic quality, demonstrates accountability, encourages self-scrutiny and planning, employs fair and appropriate procedures and demonstrates ongoing review of practice, and that it possesses sufficient resources to carry out its accreditation processes (*2010 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures*, Paragraphs 12A-12F, pp. 4-8).

APA-COA demonstrated that it meets these standards and that its accreditation process is consistent with the quality improvement and accountability expectations that CHEA has established.

Additional Determination: APA-COA is required to provide a report on the implementation of accreditation standards that (1) require programs routinely to provide reliable information to the public on their performance, including student achievement as determined by the institution or programs (Paragraph 12(B)(1), *2010 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures*) and (2) inform the public of the basis for final decisions to grant or reaffirm accreditation and, in the case of denial or withdrawal of accreditation, to provide specific reasons for the decision, accompanied by a response related to the final decision by the institution or program (Paragraph 12(B)(5), *2010 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures*).

The CHEA recognition policy requires that an accrediting organization undergo a recognition review at least every 10 years and submit two interim reports.

Posted March 15, 2013