

## **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

### **Justification and Approval**

**For**

### **Other Than Full and Open Competition**

**1. Contracting Activity:**

Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 20, PR# 496-13-3-240-0019

**2. Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:**

This justification and approval is for a firm-fixed price contract for American Indian Cultural Sensitivity Training specific to aspects of American Indian culture, traditions, habits and how these can affect clinical outcomes.

**3. Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:**

Participants will be divided into three-(3) to four-(4) family groups at camp of approximately 15-20 participants for each family group. Each family group was lead by a traditional Indian person (interpreter) with a clinical background and who is also a Veteran. In addition, each family group has an elder and Indian Veteran in their group who help facilitate this process with the interpreter. The interpreter, elder and Indian Veterans are traditional people who speak their native language and practice their native traditions. Each group is a mix of clinical and administrative staff. Classes will start on Monday and end Friday evening for travel home on Saturday. Various activities will be held throughout the week to provide additional Indian sensitivity and awareness such as: Sweathouse; Indian legends (story-telling); Washit and Shaker services, Indian crafts; Powwow dancing and learning traditional Indian dances and meaning; Powwow and huge feast of traditional foods, which include; venison, elk, salmon, huckleberries and fry bread.

Camp cost for 60 participants(VA employees) is \$44,705.00, (approximately \$745.00 per person) which is an all-inclusive rate of the training program (all professional fees), tuition, lodging, and meals for the camp program scheduled from August 18 (travel day), to begin August 19 and end August 23.

**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 Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Nation is a federally recognized tribe with unique training facilities (Camp Chaparral), which is located on the tribe's sacred ground held on the reservation of the Yakama Nation in Washington State. This training is hosted by the people of the Yakama Nation. However, the Camp Chaparral staff consists of several tribes through the Northwest and United States, such as: Lummi, Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla, Quileute, Karuk, Nez Perce, and Sioux. Due to the unique nature of this training, specific to aspects of American Indian culture, traditions, and habits and how these can affect clinical outcomes, to include and being able to identify effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and physical wounds on American Indian Veterans, the staff mix and location are essential in providing this training. This location and mix of tribal involvement is unique to and unlike any other within the United States.

**6. Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:**

An Announcement in FedBizOpps will be posted in accordance with FAR 5.203.

**7. Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:**

Costs are significantly reasonable compared to similar services from other sources. VISN 20 is sending 60 participants for an all inclusive rate (food, lodging, training materials, and speaker/training fees) at a rate of \$745 per person, which is a 3% increase from the 2012 cost.

Prior year costs:

2012: 496-A20005, 60 participants, \$42,139, \$702/person.

2011: 496-A10015, 60 participants, \$42,139, \$702/person.

2010: 496-A00020, 40 participants, \$27,319, \$683/person.

2009: 648-A90388, 40 participants, \$26,523, \$663/person.

The cost per person for 2013 equates to \$124/day per person for 6 days which includes sleeping arrangements, food and training. The per diem rates for Toppenish, WA are:

Lodging = \$77

Meals = \$46

TOTAL = \$123/day

It is determined the cost is fair and reasonable as Federal Per Diem rates are only one dollar less than what is being charged for this contract which also includes training.

**8. Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:**

Procurement list Ability One was checked via key words "Indian Culture Training" with no results. UNICOR was checked via the same key word with no results. NAC was checked via key word "Indian Culture Training" with no results. I conducted a search on GSA and didn't see any similar training offered. The services requested are not available from Ability One or UNICOR (mandatory sources of supplies), nor are they available under GSA FSS contract. Based on my market research, I believe this is truly a sole-source requirement.

As described in Section 6 above, market research, in accordance with FAR Part 10, was conducted by synopsis of the proposed acquisition, advising industry of the pending acquisition.

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

None not previously mentioned.

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

See Section 6 above.

**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:**

No actions are planned at this time as this requirement is so unique to American Indian tribes located in the Pacific Northwest. The award is made to one tribe, however, multiple Indian tribes are involved in the training as they understand the importance and uniqueness for enhancing Indian Veteran care.



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.

Jodie Waters  
Jodie Waters  
VISN 20 Planner/Rural Consultant

4/18/13  
Date

13. **Approvals in accordance with FAR 6.304**

- a. **Contracting Officer'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. **NCM/PCM (Required \$3K and above):** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
Network Contract Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date