

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval

For

Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. Contracting Activity:

The Network Contracting Office (NCO) 22, 4811 Airport Plaza Drive, Long Beach, California 90915, as requested by the VA West Los Angeles Healthcare System, Department of Medical Research; Veterans Emergency Management Evaluation Center (VEMEC), will enter in a Purchase Order that requires justification for other than full and open competition.

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

The acquisition being procured is a Firm Fixed Price agreement with Laura A. Payne, 1317 N Benton Way, Los Angeles, CA 90026; Phone: (323) 907-7766. The estimated cost is \$36,400 for consulting services that will begin September 16, 2013 through September 15, 2014. Dr. Payne will assist Dr. Dobalian and project co-investigators with the conceptualization and development of the study design and measures, as well as with the analysis plans, and the writing of scholarly publications, reports and other avenues for the dissemination of findings.

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

In particular, Dr. Payne will consult with Dr. Dobalian and other VEMEC co-investigators on all projects dealing with disaster preparedness and in particular with risk communication and collaboration studies. She will work in close collaboration with Dr. Dobalian on most of the major project activities: development of scientific instruments for data collection and analysis; on-going literature review; abstraction form development and analysis; and reports and manuscripts. The estimated cost is \$36,400 for consulting services that will begin September 16, 2013 through September 15, 2014.

4. Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:

- ☒ (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):

Dr. Payne's unique expertise will make an invaluable contribution to several core VEMEC projects. These research and evaluation projects are designed to promote the health and welfare of veterans and the nation before, during, and after national emergencies and disasters. One specific project that Dr. Payne will be contributing is to design and to promote greater resilience among veterans and their families during disasters by identifying and addressing health-related conditions and needs that a disaster would likely exacerbate. Dr. Payne will bring unique expertise and skills to the VEMEC team. She has evaluated treatment protocols for a variety of anxiety disorders including panic disorder, social phobia, posttraumatic stress disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. She has extensive experience in conducting systematic cognitive and behavioral assessments of patients and research participants. She has administered full neuropsychological assessments, scored and interpreted the findings, and wrote comprehensive reports based on this work. Further, Dr. Payne has worked at the Boston Veterans' Administration Women's Stress Disorder Treatment Team, provided individual and group therapy to female clients diagnosed with anxiety, mood, substance use, and personality disorders. Dr. Payne has extensive experience in completing administrative and logistical work related to research and evaluation. She has developed and revised research protocol and session forms, managed Institutional Review Board applications, scheduled follow-up assessments, and trained research assistants in data management and analysis.

Dr. Payne is based in Southern California, which will allow her to collaborate effectively and efficiently on the VEMEC projects that require her expertise. Dr. Payne will contribute to the data analysis, interpretation, and written summaries of mental health-related findings of "Impact of Hurricane Ike on Health Services Use and Costs among Veterans," specifically around the impact of that disaster on psychiatric services use. VEMEC's work on "Disaster Preparedness in Nonprofit Organizations Serving Homeless Veterans" will also benefit from her expertise in clinical and research psychology, as the target population for this project is social service organizations serving large numbers of Veterans with mental health conditions. Finally, Dr. Payne's experience will contribute to the articles that result from the study, "Veterans Who Provide Disaster Response Support: Interviews with Team Rubicon Members," which aims in part to identify mental health-related conditions and needs that a disaster would likely exacerbate. VEMEC currently lacks such experience and expertise, and hiring someone into VA would be more costly compared to the use of Dr. Payne's expertise for the specific identified needs of the identified projects. Dr. Payne's knowledge and experience will allow her to make contributions in a targeted and efficient manner due to her extensive background in anxiety and trauma. The projects will also benefit from her experience in project management as well her contribution to analysis, interpretation, publication, and dissemination of results to leaders within and outside the VHA in research and emergency management communities. Dr. Payne has used research methods which have included advanced quantitative techniques. She has experience with evaluation design, data collection and analysis, and reporting. To obtain her unique skill set would require the hiring of multiple individuals, which would be costlier and less effective than having Dr. Payne participate in these projects.

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

See number 5 above. The Government recommends that this requirement be fulfilled by Dr. Laura Payne PhD, as a sole source procurement in accordance with FAR 6.302-1, citing 10 U.S.C. 2304(c)(1).

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

The anticipated cost of \$36,400 for consulting services is fair and reasonable to the Government based upon comparing with similar consulting services purchased in FY 12/13.

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

Market Research was not conducted based on the justification in number 5 above. The Director of the Veterans Emergency Management Evaluation Center and his colleagues are very familiar with the knowledge, experience and expertise of leading emergency management scientists from within and outside VA. Dr. Payne's knowledge, experience and availability make her uniquely suited to provide on-hands, in-person input and guidance into the identified VEMEC projects. No other individual would practicably be able to provide her expertise required for these projects. Other alternatives would lead to unacceptable delays in these projects that are designed to enhance VA's ability to more effectively prepare for and respond to a disaster or national emergency, and would lead to substantial additional costs as other individuals do not possess her combination of skills and expertise which are necessary for the successful completion of these projects.

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

Dr. Payne has published numerous scientific, peer-reviewed publications and received a number of awards and honors for her work. She is a member of the American Psychological Association and American Pain Association, and a member of the editorial board of Cognitive and Behavioral Practice. To obtain her unique and highly specialized skill set would require the hiring of multiple individuals, which would be costlier and less effective than having Dr. Payne participate in these projects.

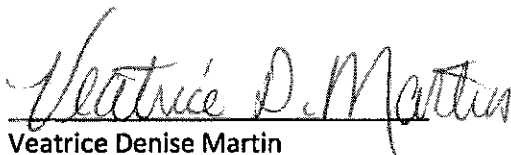
10. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:**

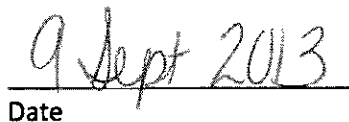
There are no other sources sought or have expressed interest for this particular procurement as of this date.

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.


Veatrice Denise Martin


Date

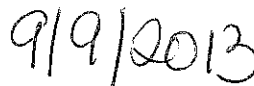
Administrative Officer, Veterans Emergency Management Evaluation Center (VEMEC)
VA Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center

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.



Maria Cruz-Thompson
Contracting Officer
Network Contracting Office (NCO) 22



Date

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



Kevin Blanchard
Network Contract Manager
Network Contracting Office 22



Date