



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.

Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health is seeking evaluation services for Fresno County's The Lodge Innovation plan, which provides short-term lodging to individuals with a severe mental illness who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Evaluation services should include the development of evaluation tools, gathering and analysis of data, advice on data collection, providing organized reports and assistance in communication of findings. The selected vendor should have knowledge and experience working with the homeless population in Fresno County.
2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.

Timothy J. Kubal
California State University, Fresno Foundation
Social Research Institute
4910 N Chestnut Ave., Fresno, CA 93726
(559) 278-5145
tkubal@csufresno.edu
3. What is the total cost of the acquisition? If an agreement, state the total cost of the initial term and the amounts for potential renewal terms.

Maximum compensations: \$150,000 over the three-year project. This Agreement may be extended for one (1) additional consecutive six (6) month period upon written approval of both parties no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the next extension period.

Effective Upon Execution - June 30, 2021: \$37,500
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022: \$37,500
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023: \$37,500
July 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023: \$37,500
4. Identify the unique qualities and/or capabilities of the service(s) and/or product(s) that qualify this as a Suspension of Competition acquisition.

The Social Research Institute (SRI) is ran through the Department of Sociology at Fresno State and has several decades of experience in providing evaluation services for government and community groups in the Central Valley. The institute has been led by Dr. Timothy Kubal since 2012. Dr. Kubal's academic research has been focused primarily on culture and social changes, specifically the homeless problem in Fresno. He has interviewed many homeless people that make a living through recycling, and most notably, collected thousands of interviews from Valley residents about homelessness. His work includes providing the research, ongoing data, and design for the Central Valley Regional Foundation's Community Scorecard Project, providing the complete analysis and extensive write-up of one of the Fresno Housing Authority homelessness Point in Time count annual data collections (including special federal support for veterans), providing annual research and technical support to the Fresno policy institute survey project, and, most recently, completing an evaluation of Fresno's community garden initiative.
5. Identify from Administrative Policy #34 what circumstances constitute a Suspension of Competition.
 - In an emergency when goods or services are immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, welfare, or safety, or for the protection of County property.
 - When the contract is with a federal, state, or local governmental agency.
 - When the department head, with the concurrence of the Purchasing Agent, finds that the cost of preparing and administering a competitive bidding process in a particular case will equal or exceed the estimated contract amount or \$2,500 whichever is more.
 - When a contract provides only for payment of per diem and travel expenses and there is to be no payment for services rendered.
 - When obtaining the services of expert witnesses for litigation or special counsel to assist the County.
 - When in unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the Board of Supervisors or the Purchasing Agent/Purchasing Manager determines that the best interests of the County would be served by not securing competitive bids or issuing a request for proposal.
6. Explain why the unique qualities and/or capabilities described above are essential to your department.

Pursuant to Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) Innovation Regulations, approved County innovation plans must include a method for evaluating the effectiveness and feasibility of the project. The evaluation services are essential to the Department to assess if the identified Lodge program is effective in engaging with individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, with a diagnosed mental illness, and in the pre-contemplating stage. Should the program prove to be effective, the Department would evaluate options and make future program decisions based on data and information yielded from the program and evaluation.

7. Provide a comprehensive explanation of the research done to verify that the recommended vendor is the only vendor with the unique qualities and/or capabilities stated above. Include a list of all other vendors contacted, what they were asked, and their responses.

Research shows that there are a few organizations who may conduct the evaluation services, however, none have the knowledge or experience working with Fresno County's unique homeless population. Other potential vendors include:

Alliant International University's California Psychology Internship Consortium is an American Psychological Association accredited program that provides evaluation services to many government organizations. As they rely heavily on students to provide evaluation services, this option is limited due to Coronavirus and all the students working virtually from home.

RAND Corporation is an international organization that has experience in large evaluation projects. Although they provide great evaluation services, they do not have direct knowledge and experience working with Fresno's homeless population.

UC Davis' Behavioral Health Center of Excellence has done similar evaluation work with other counties, but does not have the experience and knowledge of Fresno's unique homeless population.

Based upon research, California State University Fresno Foundation is uniquely qualified to provide the requested services. CSU Fresno Foundation has both the experience in providing evaluation services for government and community groups, and has extensive knowledge for Fresno's homeless population. With their knowledge, experience and organizational capacity, they will be able to provide the solicited evaluation services to meet the Department's need.

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Requested By:

Staff Analyst

Title

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I approve this request to suspend competition for the service(s) and/or product(s) identified herein.

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Department Head Signature

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Purchasing Manager Signature

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