



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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

The contractor will complete activities related to Fresno County Department of Public Health's (FCDPH) health equity initiatives. Activities will include:

 - 1) Transformation of pre-existing Health Equity trainings into online, digital, self-paced versions to be uploaded onto the Department's online training platform, NeoGov.
 - 2) Provide technical assistance to department staff for ongoing revisions and maintenance of online course materials.
 - 3) Development of training materials Racial Equity and Social Justice, including training presentations and online course packages.
 - 4) Development and facilitation of tailored Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training for managers, supervisors, and leads for health equity in the workplace for those in management positions.
 - 5) Development of an implementation plan for working with contracted community-based organizations, as it relates to their respective health equity infrastructure.
 - 6) Provide consultation technical assistance to five CBOs to focus on the implementation of previously developed health equity plans.
 - 7) Provide consultation services to department staff and assist in the development of the department's Health Equity Plan.

The contractor services will be considered a part of the FCDPH's approach to creating sustainability for health equity initiatives and embedding health equity within the department's framework.
 2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.

RIZE Consultants, Inc.
10130 Mallard Creek Rd
Charlotte, NC 28262
(910) 684-5844
Nicole Augustine
nicole.augustine@rizeconsultants.com
 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.

The agreement will be fully funded by federal grant funds through the US Department of Health and Human Services CDC - Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases (ELC) funding. The total cost for these services is \$316,197.44 for the full term of execution through May 31, 2026 with no potential renewal terms.
 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.

RIZE Consultants (RIZE) is uniquely qualified due to their extensive experience in developing and facilitating health equity related trainings. RIZE is also a previous contractor of FCDPH who provided contracted services for internal DEI training development and facilitation of live virtual trainings to FCDPH staff under Agreement A-23-250. RIZE's services included trainings on facilitation and implementation methods for a multitude of equity related topics including social determinants of health, cultural competency, cultural humility, health equity 101, as well as other materials.

Additionally, RIZE Consultants has the capability to transcribe the developed content into the most efficient format to align with FCDPH's internal online, digital, self-paced platform. RIZE also has the expertise needed to create additional custom training content and are uniquely positioned to assure that the training materials are accessible and available for FCDPH staff.

RIZE also has cultural knowledge and the ability to work with FCDPH's contracted community-based organizations (CBOs) housed under FCDPH's Health Disparities Program. Previously, RIZE has successfully provided technical assistance to the contracted partners in developing and planning strategies in each of the CBOs respective organizational health equity plans.

RIZE has also engaged FCDPH staff on multiple occasions and has developed relationships with FCDPH contracted partners. RIZE is in the best position to remain providing technical assistance and connecting with FCDPH staff and contracted partner. Moreover, RIZE's extensive experiences and expertise align with FCDPH's health equity initiatives that promotes and encourages equitable outcomes.
 5. Identify from Administrative Policy #34 what circumstances constitute a Suspension of Competition.
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- 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.

RIZE's extensive background and experience providing health equity trainings and consultations to partners in the private and public sectors will expedite the program's implementation timeline. RIZE has the first-hand knowledge on FCDPH staff training protocols and preexisting relationships with contracted partners. RIZE has been integral in the establishment of the health equity foundation as FCDPH moves towards an equity focused structure for all programs. RIZE's master trainer and custom product development services will allow FCDPH to offer health equity workshops and develop health equity plans tailored to fit the diverse needs of Fresno County. In efforts to create sustainability with the tools and trainings provided, RIZE has the capability to transcribe the trainings into a self-paced and online format.

Some of RIZE's previous work includes their direct work with FCDPH to develop and deliver five sessions of custom content training to staff members at the FCDPH in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024. RIZE was also contracted with the California Department of Public Health – Center for Healthy Communities branch in providing the Equity in Action Leadership Training Series, a four-session training series that specialized in operationalizing equity in leadership for over 100 participants from March to May of 2022. RIZE's services offered are essential to FCDPH and successful, sustainable implementation of program activities in the Health Disparities program and other programs across FCDPH, funded partners, partner organizations and other Fresno County Departments.

RIZE can begin program implementation upon execution of an agreement; whereas, contracting with a new vendor will require a request for proposal and onboarding period, as well as other costs and time commitments required. Given the limited term of the agreement, an immediate start of the program is crucial to overall success and reach of the program. It would not be in the County's best interest to pursue the competitive bid process at this time as it would be very challenging for FCDPH to achieve its ELC scope of work grant requirements in this limited timeframe. This suspension of competition will result in cost savings due to the amount of staff time and resources a formal competitive bid process takes. It will also ensure that the County can meet ELC grant contract obligations given the limited timeframe for the execution of these additional activities. Additionally, RIZE is working towards assisting FCDPH in internal sustainable efforts that include alignment with other contracted agencies implementing programmatic efforts and enhancing health equity across the department.

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.

Due to RIZE's demonstrated success in reaching FCDPH staff, working hand-in-hand with seven contracted partners, and assisting in the health equity required trainings and County processes, RIZE was determined to be uniquely qualified for the continuation of this intervention. With RIZE's experience and firsthand knowledge of Fresno's local landscape and community connections this will expedite the program's implementation timeline. Additionally, these culminating factors will enable RIZE to provide services immediately once a contract is executed. Contracting with RIZE will also be cost-effective and will save the County money since RIZE will be able to begin program services immediately and will not need to go through any County training and onboarding period. In preparation for the initial agreement between RIZE and FCDPH, five vendors from the California Department of Public Health's approved vendor list were contacted. The five contacted vendors included RIZE Consultants, Colibrí Collaborative, Interaction Institute of Social Change, LeaderSpring Center, and Visions of Equity. Of the five vendors, only two responded: Colibrí and RIZE. Colibrí offers live virtual classes, product development with Spanish translation, and strategic planning, but has a small-group workshop prioritized approach instead of large-capacity trainings. RIZE has experience in providing live virtual delivery, and better aligned with FCDPH's needs through increased participant capacity, multiple cohorts, assistance with strategic planning for funded partners, custom product development, and master trainer cohort trainings. Additionally, RIZE offers services that are in alignment with the Health Disparities workplan, FCDPH's approach to sustainability, and the California Department of Public Health's health equity work.

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Requested By:

Title

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

dluchini 9/16/2024 4:44:51 PM

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Department Head Signature

rblackburn 9/19/2024 11:03:42 AM

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Purchasing Manager Signature