



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.
Partnership with Valley Center for the Blind to be the main operator for the information line serving the disability community in the Fresno County and provide services associated with the County general operator line.
2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.
Valley Center for the Blind
3417 W. Shaw Ave
Fresno, CA 93711
Contact: Shellena Herber Email: SHeber@myVCB.org
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 total potential cost is \$811,000.00 for the full five year term of the agreement. The initial 3-year term shall not exceed \$505,000.00. This increases to \$655,000.00 upon the first optional one-year extension and increases to the full \$811,000.00 total upon the second optional one-year extension.
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.
Valley Center for the Blind (VCB) is the only organization in the Fresno County who is operating the COVID information line to the disabled community. VCB has been performing the services under Exceptional Parent Unlimited in the COVID Equity Project since October 20, 2020 and has the capacity to meet the needs within the disabled community. VCB is also the only workforce development organization in the Central Valley for the visually impaired. During their collaboration in the COVID Equity Project, VCB's has increased its administrative capacity and are fully capable of direct contract with Fresno County and expand its workforce development to the visually impaired community while supporting other County services.
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.
During VCB's collaboration in the COVID Equity Project, VCB has grown to serve as the COVID information hub for referral to the disabled community. As the COVID Equity Project is set to end on December 31, 2021, the information line provided by VCB is a vital component to the Fresno County's disability community. In addition, these skills can be fully utilized in servicing the information line needs for ITSD since this staff is fully trained to manage a county information line. Fully trained staff will support immediate implementation for ITSD and continue a supporting the disabled community through the information line. Improving economic mobility to all Fresno County residents is a goal of the Department and this vendor provides this opportunity for a particular part of the population that has significant challenges in obtaining a job.
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.
Conducting a google search, Valley Center for the Blind is cited by multiple central valley county agencies as a resource for the visually impaired community. Workforce development companies for the visually impaired are located in the Bay Area and Los Angeles area. Valley Center for the Blind is local and more intimately familiar with the needs of the community.

chjones 12/28/2021 4:28:24 PM

Requested By:

Senior Staff Analyst

Title

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

rbash 12/29/2021 4:38:01 AM

Department Head Signature

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!

gcornuelle 1/3/2022 11:40:08 AM

Purchasing Manager Signature

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