



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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

Fresno County DBH has been approved by the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) to move forward with a pilot project that provide rapid response to children who have experienced trauma or a life changing event and link them to resources and services through mental health screenings and assessments. Timely/real time response is needed for this project to be successful. The Fresno Police Chaplaincy has developed a technology app that tracks services calls that included children and possible life changing incidents, fire, shootings, domestic violence, child abuse, arrest of a parent/someone in the home, etc. This information will be used each day to activate the triage team who will respond to the child's school and family to address trauma. The triage team will be the local education agency, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (FCSS), whom is an umbrella for all the school districts in Fresno County and can communicate and share information freely. FCSS will also provide school based mental health services and care coordination as part of this three year state funded pilot project.

2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.

The Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (FCSS)
Trina Frazier, Chief Student Services Officer
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(559) 265-3049
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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 entire pilot project received a total funding of \$1,527,000 over three years. The desired vendor, FCSS, would have a maximum budget of \$505,276 over the three year term of this innovations project. The individual fiscal year amounts are still being negotiated. Other remaining funds are used by the County for administration, an evaluator vendor, and the other project partner. This project is for three years, if the pilot is to continue after three years, the funding would change and a different funding structure would need to be identified.

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.

As an umbrella agency for the school districts in Fresno County, FCSS has access to student enrollment records across the County (and not just individual school districts) and can immediately notify the appropriate schools that a child needs to be handled with care because of a recent traumatic experience. This is advantageous to the success of this pilot project, as time is of the essence. FCSS would not have to execute any additional agreements or maneuver through any additional legal protections to provide this service.

Additionally, FCSS has an existing contract with DBH to provide school based specialty mental health services and prevention and early intervention services, known as All 4 Youth. They have already onboarded two of the four pilot schools of this project into their current program. Therefore, FCSS have the established infrastructure and Medi-Cal certification with Fresno County's Mental Health Plan (MHP) to provide Medi-Cal services. Linkage and referral to All 4 Youth services and other community resources would be simplified and trusted. FCSS have also invested into DBH's electronic health record (EHR) database (currently Avatar) which is required and vital for this pilot as the EHR helps identify a students behavioral health records in DBH's system of care so appropriate care coordination can occur.

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.

As a current partner in delivering school based services, FCSS is in the position to immediately assist in the development of this program. As the county's office of education they are able to access student records, provide services on various school campuses, and can provide the screening and identification of students needed by the triage team. FCSS also has been providing the services this already uses and has licenses for the county's Electronic Health Record (EHR) needed for treatment, care coordination billing, and for the research/evaluation component of this pilot.

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.

Although the triage and care coordination services itself can be provided by another vendor, they would have added barriers to overcome. The outside vendor would not have access to the school records and would still need to partner with a local education agency and/or schools districts for the information. The outside vendor would also need to navigate the complicated legal regulations outlined by HIPAA and FERPA. Also, additional cost can incur due to the need for purchase of the necessary software or licenses.

FCSS is being sought to deliver the triage services under this pilot, because it already has similar services in place, can leverage existing services, as well as resources to develop the program, and they have the real time access to student information needed for the project as well as for the on-going program evaluation.

FCSS is being sought out for suspension of competition because of the existing agreement with County to provide these services, this pilot seeks to test this trauma response/triage component. As it's a project with a limited funding, it is important to be able to leverage existing partnerships and resources. Only, FCSS has access to make inquiry into a student's information to determine, what school they attend, if that student is in services, addresses, other siblings, etc. who would need triage services following a traumatic or life changing incident in real-time. No other vendors at this time would have that immediate access to the student's information without executing additional agreements.

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Requested By:

Staff Analyst

Title

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Department Head Signature

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Purchasing Manager Signature

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