

Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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

The County of Fresno, Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), has executed a Master Agreement (A-25-234) for the provision of specialty mental health services (SMHS) to Fresno County youth placed in local and out-of-county Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs). DBH is attempting to add a provider onto the executed Master Agreement.

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

Beloved Ones
7840 Fernwood Ave
California City, CA 93505
(661) 434-8759

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.

Contract Maximum: \$75,000,000
FY 2025-26 \$15,000,000
FY 2026-27 \$15,000,000
FY 2027-28 \$15,000,000
FY 2028-29 \$15,000,000
FY 2029-30 \$15,000,000

The acquisition will not result in an increase in Net County Cost.

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.

Per AB 403 (10/11/2015) and AB 1997 (9/25/2016), the STRTP licensing category is specific to the fact that youth placed in a licensed STRTP home by the County's Department of Social Services (DSS) or Probation Department will receive SMHS within the homes in which they are placed. Each of these homes require STRTP licensure through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Mental Health Program Application (MHPA) approval by the Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS), and Medi-Cal site certification by the local mental health plan in order to provide these services. DSS places youth into fully operational STRTPs which are in good standing and the intention of this Agreement is that the Fresno County DBH would be able to reimburse those STRTPs for the SMHS provided to our County's youth, or to youth presumptively transferred from other counties.

DBH will add all STRTP facilities who maintain STRTP licensure and MHPA approval, now and in the future, so there are no gaps or delays in services when youth are placed in their care. It is essential that DBH contracts with all facilities that provide services to youth to comply with DHCS Network Adequacy standards.

Network Adequacy: California counties providing Behavioral Health treatment services to persons served that are entitled to Medi-Cal are required, pursuant to 42 CFR 438.68, to ensure that services are available and accessible to all persons meeting medical necessity for those services. Counties must also ensure that services are delivered in a timely manner and within set distance standards from their residence. Counties are required to develop and enforce network adequacy standards and are required to have an adequate network of service providers to provide services based on State established anticipated Medi-Cal enrollment and expected utilization of services. Counties report this information to the State monthly and must complete a Corrective Action Plan if the network adequacy falls below state anticipated enrollment and utilization

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 \$5,000 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.
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Beyond being required by regulation, these services are essential to our County so that youth placed in these STRTPs are assessed for and receive the SMHS they need in order to move towards a successful outcome, such as reunification with their family, proper treatment for their diagnosis, success in school, stabilization in home/school/work/personal life, etc.

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.

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) releases a monthly update on all STRTPs located in the state that are somewhere in the process of licensure. This includes vendors who are just beginning the process of licensure through to those STRTPs which have obtained licensure, MHPA approval, and are fully operational. These updates are provided to all counties and keep the counties informed of placement options and the current standing of all STRTPs.

DBH utilizes the DHCS update to confirm which STRTPs have obtained CDSS licensure and MHPA approval. STRTPs who have obtained both, are in good standing, are interested in entering into a Master Agreement with Fresno County for these services, have obtained Medi-Cal Site Certification inclusive of medication support; and if their MHPA and Medi-Cal Site Certification was not already inclusive of medication support, if they had a plan to add this service to both within three (3) months, are eligible for this master agreement.

On June 10, 2025, the Board of Supervisors approved Agreement Number 25-234 which included STRTPs located within Fresno County and outside of Fresno County, who expressed interest in being part of the Agreement, were licensed by CDSS, had obtained MHPA approval, and had obtained Medi-Cal site certification.

On August 18, 2025, an emergency placement was made by the Department of Social Services into the Beloved Ones STRTP, located in Kern County. The youth who was placed had been denied by numerous STRTPs throughout the state and this facility was able to offer six months of operation as a STRTP of one, in which the youth would be the sole resident and receive the high intensity treatment required to meet their high-acuity needs. While the Beloved Ones STRTP had not previously expressed interest in being part of Master Agreement 25-234, the emergency placement prompted the need for their addition. DBH reviewed and determined that the STRTP has the proper licensure, MHPA, and Medi-Cal Site Certification in place and now requests their addition to the Master STRTP Agreement.

svanbruggen 9/15/2025 9:22:57 AM

Requested By:

Division Manager

Title

[ Sign] Double click!

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

sholt 9/17/2025 12:21:30 PM

Department Head Signature

[ Sign] Double click!

rblackburn 9/19/2025 9:32:01 AM

Purchasing Manager Signature

[ Sign] Double click!