



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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

Probation is in need of full service for Public Safety Assessment (PSA) tool, which includes training for system stakeholders and Fresno County Probation staff in the overall purpose, scoring, use of the PSA, and regular validation of the PSA. Services also include: support on the decision matrix tool that provides judges with clear understanding of how to use the results of the risk assessment, conduct quality assurance reviews and reports, develop internal processes to monitor and provide feedback to the staff scoring the PSA as well as decision makers using the assessment results, and the continuous validation of the PSA.

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

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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.

Year 1: \$52,500; Year 2: \$117,500; Year 3: \$52,500; Year 4: \$52,500; Year 5: \$117,500
Total for potential 5 (3-1-1) year agreement: \$392,500

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.

JSP can implement and sustain the PSA to reach the maximum benefits of integrating the PSA into daily practice.

JSP can provide technical assistance, quality assurance, training to Probation staff, training to system stakeholders, and the validation package for the PSA. All requested services can be covered under one agreement with JSP, which will prevent Probation from seeking the required services from multiple vendors. The PSA is an actuarial pretrial risk assessment, an objective resource based on statistics that uses pretrial risk factors to predict pretrial success or failure. An essential aspect of JSP's work is translating empirical data and study outcomes into language and tools that decision-makers can use to design effective policies, and that professionals in the field can apply in their daily practices. As the criminal justice system continues to explore ways to improve services, there is a growing need for agencies to help bridge the gap between academia, evidence-based interventions, and on-the-ground practices and JSP assists in guiding these goals.

JSP assists their partners to reimagine their work by combining rigorous research, technical assistance, and knowledge of evidence-informed strategies. They infuse creativity, innovation, and passion into their work, taking an integrated approach to system transformation to help their partners operationalize meaningful change. JSP works with jurisdictions using a holistic, data-driven approach to understanding criminal justice system populations and practices, identifying areas of improvement, and proposing solutions to make systems more efficient and effective.

Consulting services from JSP are unique due to their considerable experience in developing and implementing technical assistance models, building long lasting collaborations, and a commitment to translating the latest research into improved outcomes for public safety systems. JSP has used a collaborative approach to supporting the implementation of the PSA tool in more than 40 jurisdictions across the country including multiple locations within the state of California. JSP has an understanding of the inequities with society and the criminal legal system and has responded by integrating elements of research, evaluation, and analysis with practical tools and services tailored to jurisdictions' individual needs.

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.

JSP is essential to our department due to their overall understanding of pretrial risk assessment and their experience with implementing the PSA in over 40 jurisdictions nationwide. JSP's staff possess strong project management skills, an extensive history of implementing projects across multidisciplinary teams, and specialized expertise in validating and norming the pretrial risk assessment instruments. JSP completes the necessary validation of the assessment tool to ensure compliance with SB 36, a process that has been beneficial to the integrity of the law enforcement community ensuring the safety of the community.

Beyond their expertise, JSP has established a seamless integration of their PSA tool with our existing local justice system's data infrastructure. This integration, with their familiarity to our specific data sets and formats, would be challenging and costly to replicate with a new vendor. Furthermore, JSP has cultivated strong working relationships with local judges, Probation staff and key stakeholders, fostering trust and facilitating smoother implementation. These established relationships and their understanding of our local nuances are vital for the continued success of the PSA tool.

JSP's validation of the PSA tool has thus far been beneficial to the integrity of the law enforcement community ensuring the safety of the community. They possess historical data on the PSA tool's performance within our specific jurisdiction, allowing for more accurate validation and ongoing analysis, which would be lost with a new vendor. Reconvening of the implementation team of multidisciplinary agencies and the Courts, a process already streamlined with JSP, would require an overwhelming undertaking and unacceptable delays in the progress already achieved. Switching vendors would also incur significant costs associated with data migration, retraining staff, and customizing a new PSA tool, all of which are unnecessary with JSP.

JSP has consistently met the needs of the Courts, Probation, District Attorney, Defense attorneys, and other law enforcement agencies within Fresno County. Their dedicated support team, familiar with our systems and needs, ensures prompt and effective issue resolution, minimizing downtime. JSP will continue to provide valuable and viable services not only to the Probation Department, but also ongoing training and education for our justice partners. Therefore, to maintain operational continuity, data integrity, and ensure the continued success of the PSA tool, JSP is the only viable option.

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.

University of Cincinnati (UCCI): <https://cech.uc.edu/about/centers/ucci/products/assessments.html>

UCCI is the only other vendor Probation can locate who offers the implementation support of the risk assessment tool, but does not offer the validation of the PSA tool, which would require an additional vendor to complete the validation portion of the PSA. Although UCCI can provide the needed service for the support of the PSA, they cannot provide all necessary functions for the Probation Department and the system stakeholders. UCCI requires a separate purchase of their Information Technology Solution Center to provide maintenance support, causing an additional expense and lack of the full service Probation is seeking.

JSP understands the data provided for quality assurance of the PSA and the validation process providing full services for the PSA. JSP has an understanding of the unique qualities of Fresno County and continually provides support and services to the Probation Department.

shdeleon 04/08/2025 12:09:40 PM

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.

khaynes 04/14/2025 3:57:34 PM

Department Head Signature

[ Sign] Double click!

rblackburn 4/28/2025 3:32:27 PM

Purchasing Manager Signature

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