



## Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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

Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) is seeking a vendor to conduct a community planning process around Transition Aged Youth (TAY) Innovation programs utilizing the Human-Centered Designed Thinking model. The planning process should be youth focused, driven and led by TAY participants. Facilitating and conducting the community planning processes for TAY Innovation Programs should conform to all guidelines and requirements set forth by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) for innovation programs.
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.

Total Cost - \$92,001.  
Effective Upon Execution - June 30, 2020. No renewal term.
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.

The Social Policy Institute at San Diego State University (SDSU) has developed an interactive process for health and human services professionals to identify ways to generate new ideas and solve complex problems using Design Thinking. Empathizing with diverse people, and defining the problems in our communities, participants use divergent thinking to create multiple solutions for human-centered problems. Social Policy Institute recently conducted such work for San Diego County and assisted in submission of plans developed by the community using Human Centered Design to the MHSOAC. SDSU Social Policy Institute's expertise of Human Design Thinking and knowledge of the various regulations around the Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) and Innovations allows for them to effectively assist the Department in fulfilling part of its required community planning efforts around Innovation and Youth.
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.

Fresno County DBH has a plan approved through MHSOAC to use funds from its Innovation Component of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to conduct community planning process around Innovation Plans. The Department does not currently have the resources to facilitate the community planning for youth innovation, as it is working on the County's MHSA Three Year Plan community planning process as well as working on moving forward seven Innovation Plans (not counting the ones that will be developed through this process) in the current fiscal year. In order to successfully meet the goals in one of its current Innovation plans, the Department needs to complete a youth focused planning project before the end of the current fiscal year. Completion of the planning process will provide guidance to the Department on current and future projects regarding our TAY population.
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.

Research shows that there are a few organizations who may conduct the community planning process, however, none are using the Human Centered Design Thinking model nor have the experience working with other counties and the MHSOAC for Innovation projects. Other potential vendors include:

Hands On Central California, is a local private agency, who has performed similar work around community planning, but is not focused on Human Centered Design, nor have they had any experience with MHSA planning (per info from at least two counties), or INN planning, development or process with the MHSOAC.

Central Valley Urban Institute has experience with community planning, but is not experienced with human centered design, and has a narrow focus at this time to specific community planning around health and housing. They have no prior experience with MHSA, MHSOAC, or Innovation programs or development.

Fresno State's Central Valley Health Policy Institute has done similar work with community planning but upon review of their catalog of projects has not worked on any MHSA projects, nor had experience with Innovation Planning and/or the MHSOAC.

Based upon research, SDSU Social Policy Institute is uniquely qualified to provide the requested services. SDSU's Social Policy Institute has both knowledge and experience in performing Human Centered Design work specifically for Innovation Projects for consideration and/or approval by the MHSOAC and has conducted similar projects recently for other California counties. With their knowledge, experience and organizational capacity, they will be able to easily conduct and complete the requested services in a timely manner to meet the Department's deadline.

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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.**

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Department Head Signature

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gcornuelle 2/5/2020 6:58:40 AM

Purchasing Manager Signature

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