



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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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-23-283) with various licensed facilities certified to provide placements and specialized residential services for seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) youth and adults with severe and persistent mental health conditions, including individuals suffering with eating disorders, pursuant to Welfare Institutions Code (WIC) and California Code of Regulations (CCR). DBH is attempting to add an out-of-county psychiatric health facility onto the executed Master Agreement.
 2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.

Central Star Behavioral Health, Inc.
702 Workman St., Bakersfield, CA, 93307
Kent Dunlap: (310) 221-6336; kdunlap@starsinc.com
 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 - \$13,500,000
FY 2023-2024: \$6,500,000
FY 2024-2025: \$7,000,000
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.

Contracted providers on this agreement are licensed to provide placement and specialized residential mental health services for seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) youth and adults with severe and persistent mental health conditions, including individuals suffering with eating disorders. Department of Health Care Services retains a list of licensed facilities. DBH will contract with any licensed facility that is reviewed and determined to meet the needs of the County.

Central Star Behavioral Health, Inc. will be opening a licensed psychiatric health facility serving youth in Bakersfield, CA. Additionally, this facility will feature the inclusion of two double swing beds to all for the facility provide services to an even younger age group of children 5-11. By contracting with this provider, DBH will be expanding its provier network to gain a potential psychiatric health facility placement for a specific population that is currently not supported by the established network. Adding such a provider to the Master Agreement expands Fresno County's options for provision of services. The addition of this provider will ensure a wider network to meet the varied needs of Fresno's youth community of persons served.
 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.

The Department maintains a network of contractors that provide several levels of care. This agreement additionally allows for the addition of psychiatric health facilities and providers serving youth populations. The need for these services are increasing annually and it is necessary for the Department to expand the County's network of specialized residential facilities to meet the needs of the Fresno County community. This agreement allows for the funding of services for undocumented, unfunded persons served as well.
 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.
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The County is required by Welfare Institution Code (W&IC), Section 500 et seq. and California Code of Regulations (CCR), Sections 72001, et seq. to provide placement and specialized residential mental services for seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) youth and adults with severe and persistent mental health conditions. The Department of Behavioral Health has received an increasing number of referrals from local hospitals seeking emergency placement for seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) youth and adults with severe mental illness (SMI).

In order to identify facilities qualified and capable of meeting the specific clinical needs of the varied community of Fresno County persons served, DBH's Contracted Division has discussed with various contracted providers regarding the inclusion of psychiatric health facilities on this agreement. Star View Behavioral Health, Inc, a contracted provider on this agreement, is a sibling organization of Central Star Behavioral Health, Inc., the provider DBH is attempting to add through this Suspension. After inquiring, it was determined that the new addition of the Bakersfield campus youth PHF would significantly widen the contracted services network maintained by DBH. Approval of this Suspension will allow for the addition of this provider and their youth PHF serving adolescents and the underserved community of 5-11 year old children.

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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.

sholt 7/1/2024 4:11:40 PM

Department Head Signature

[\[✉ Sign\]](#) Double click!

mvilanova 7/9/2024 2:41:50 PM

Purchasing Manager Signature

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