



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.
To contract with BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center (BWPC) to engage the Black or Black Ancestry community to support Black Birthing families' health and well-being with education and outreach efforts, educate the public about the factors leading to the disparities in Black maternal and infant birth outcomes by providing consistent and culturally responsive information, and promote enrollment in the California Department of Public Health - Black Infant Health (BIH) Program.
 2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.
BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center
1133 S Street
Fresno, CA 93721
Shantay R. Davies-Balch, shantay@black-enterprises.com, 559-790-1905
 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 total compensation and term is \$500,000, effective March 14, 2023 to June 30, 2024.
 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.
BWPC's mission and scope of work (SOW) align with FCDPH BIH Program's SOW in providing support services to the community demographic our program is required to serve; Black/African American birthing individuals and their families. Their organization is dedicated to improving birth outcomes in the Black/African American community and identifying additional ways to provide support and access to needed services. BWPC has its own website that provides a variety of support, utilizing their comprehensive maternal and child health and prenatal/postpartum care resources. BWPC also has a BLACK Mobile Health Unit, a vehicle equipped to complement the doula training program and host community health education events for Black/African American birthing people and their families. BWPC is considered a trusted advocate in the maternal and infant health equity space.
 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.
BIH continues to achieve great milestones statewide, and locally, and continues to gain access to funding to further expand services. The FCDPH BIH Program was awarded and accepted funding to expand the program to increase access to services within Fresno County and has identified BWPC as a subcontractor. BWPC has extensive experience in implementing comprehensive interventions focusing on decreasing health disparities in the Black/African American community within Fresno County; they are a natural fit. Their efforts have helped to enhance the FCDPH BIH program's existing efforts and have been a partner and supporter of BIH on many occasions. Their website is a hub for public health information and advocacy tools for Black/African American birthing individuals in health care settings. With BWPC BLACK Mobile Health Unit, services provided include topics of safe sleep practices, COVID-19, flu, chronic conditions impacting pregnancy outcomes, health screenings, and supplies such as COVID-19 preparedness bags, diapers, and pregnancy bags.
 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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Other agencies identified were Fresno EOC's African American Coalition (AAC) and the West Fresno Family Resource Center (WFFRC). Both agencies target the Black/African American Community specifically but neither focus solely on maternal and child services. AAC focuses their efforts on educating the Black/African American community on COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines. WFFRC provides support to the Black African American Community by linking them to resources such as CalWORKs, Medi-Cal, CalFresh, WIC, Sickle Cell, job resources, and providing resources for youth. Although they are both great resources that provide vital information, neither specialize in education and support centered around maternal and infant health. Their focus within the Black/African American community would not align with BIH SOW, program mission and objectives.

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Division Manager

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Requested By:

Title

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

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Department Head Signature

gcornuelle 2/22/2023 12:37:38 PM

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Purchasing Manager Signature