



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.
Behavioral Health Interpreter Training
2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.
National Latino Behavioral Health Association
Contact Person: Maxine Henry
P.O. Box 1360, Pena Blanca, NM 87041
(720) 607-7897
maxine@nlbha.org
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.
Initial Term (FY 22-23): \$130,400
First renewal term (FY 25-26): \$52,500
Second renewal term (FY 26-27): \$55,000
Total cost for FY 22-27: \$237,900
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.
Continuum of care. The National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA) has served as the Department's Behavioral Health Interpreter Trainer since 2018, providing services through an agreement with the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions. Throughout this time, NLBHA has created their training curriculum with Fresno County's threshold languages of Spanish and Hmong in mind. They have also provided specialized support for both County personnel and the County's contracted providers over the course of the trainings. This support has been received positively and the Department sees value in continuing to maintain consistency of services that they have been providing effectively.
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.
National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA) has the background, training, work experience, accreditations NLBHA has written and copyrighted their BHIT Trainings with the intention of training multi-lingual behavioral health staff to meet the language needs of the community being served. Their interpreter trainings are designed to accommodate and include activities for staff speaking both Spanish and any additional language requested, allowing the Department to work with both of the county's threshold languages, Spanish and Hmong. Throughout the history of the partnership, NLBHA and the Department of Behavioral Health have been able to provide high-quality trainings to build the skills, knowledge, and qualifications of the local behavioral health workforce. NLBHA also provides interpreter training to DBH staff and its contracted providers on best practices when using an interpreter; this training is for English-speaking staff who use interpreters as part of their job.
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.
Aside from the NLBHA, the Department performed due diligence by researching the other potential vendors to provide these services. We have found the following vendors were not as qualified:
Liberty Language Services offers their Behavioral Health Interpreter Bridge Training in a live, virtual classroom learning experience to prepare interpreters for interpreting in behavioral health settings. However, the vendor does not provide the option to specialize the training for Spanish and Hmong languages. The vendor also does not provide trainings for providers on how to use interpreters.

The Medical Interpreting and Translating Institute Online (MiTio) provides a 40-Hour Mental Health Interpreting Course. It is a self-paced, online certification course that provides interactive practice opportunities. The self-paced format lacks the direct instructor interaction that NLBHA provides, and this lack of instructor interaction prevents the training from being able to support the Fresno County's threshold languages of Spanish and Hmong.

bfenne 5/24/2022 8:35:04 AM

Requested By:

Title

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!

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

sholt 5/24/2022 9:19:41 AM

Department Head Signature

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!

gcornuelle 5/26/2022 11:53:10 AM

Purchasing Manager Signature

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