



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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

Community Justice Conferences (CJC), formerly known as Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP), is a program operated by Circles of Support and Accountability - Fresno, Inc (COSA). CJC currently provides Restorative Justice mediation services between juvenile offenders and victims of crime. The recommended agreement will provide these services to both juvenile and adult offenders. Restorative Justice focuses on the harm caused by crime, repairing the harm done to victims, and requires offenders to take responsibility for their actions and the harm they have caused.

CJC offers Restorative Justice and victim offender mediation as an early intervention service. Diversion and/or victim awareness type classes can be a component of the programming offered. Individuals who have committed misdemeanors and may have no formal charges filed will be referred. Services to offenders and their families that are on formal probation will also be referred for victim offender mediation, restitution collection, and other Restorative Justice methodology deemed appropriate by the Probation Department. CJC monitors the offender's performance of his or her obligation under their individual Restorative Justice Agreement until completion.

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

Circles of Support and Accountability - Fresno, Inc. (COSA), John Swenning, Director, 4840 N. First Street #101, Fresno, CA 93726, (559) 709-3326, email: John.Swenning@fresno.edu

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 cost of the Agreement for FY 2020-21 is \$132,000 with no net county cost. The maximum cost of the proposed Agreement for the three year term is \$396,000. Extensions for years four and five would be \$132,000 per year, if approved by the Chief Probation Officer, for a total maximum cost of \$660,000.

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.

Restorative Justice mediation services have been provided by CJC (formerly known as VORP) through sole source agreements approved by the Board of Supervisors and the Purchasing Division, since 1997. The current agreement expires on June 30, 2020. The requested suspension of competition will approve a three-year agreement to allow the continuation of these services through June 30, 2023, with two optional 12-month extensions, to extend the Agreement through June 30, 2025.

CJC is a program operated by COSA, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, that utilizes students in the Fresno Pacific University's Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies program and community volunteer mediators, specifically trained to provide Restorative Justice services. CJC brings together victim and offender to develop a mutually agreed upon plan for restitution. CJC (formerly known as VORP) has been providing these unique Victim/Offender services to the Probation Department since 1997 and was the only bidder during the last Request for Quotation process. Due to the specialized and unique services provided by CJC, as well as no other known vendor providing these services, the Probation Department is requesting a suspension of competition for the recommended Agreement. The Fresno County Probation Department is active in the Restorative Justice "community" and would become aware of any new entities offering these unique services. The CJC program operated by COSA is the only local provider of such services.

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.

Without the unique CJC program operated by COSA, the Probation Department would not be able to provide a Restorative Justice program to the community. Restorative Justice provides a way to seek redress for victims of crime and recompense by offenders, as well as provide for a sense of empathy. It also creates a stronger community as victims and offenders are reconciled. Trauma that is unaddressed comes out in different ways; thus, having a process in which this trauma can be talked about and dealt with in a healthy way, allows for healing and growth for all parties involved.

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.

As stated above, the Probation Department is active in the Restorative Justice "community" and would become aware of any new entities offering these unique services. The CJC program operated by COSA is the only local provider of such services.

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Requested By:

Probation Admin
Director

Title

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

khaynes 05/14/2020 10:03:12 AM

Department Head Signature

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Purchasing Manager Signature

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