



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.
The Department of Social Services seeks to purchase Purpose-Built, Curated Dataset (PBDS) access in the CalSAWS Amazon Simple Service Storage Solution (Amazon S3) location, infrastructure support from the CalSAWS Consortium. A PBDS will allow the Department to create customized reporting from a curated CalSAWS dataset to enhance data-driven decision making, improve program effectiveness, and optimize service delivery within the Department.
2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.
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Gainwell Technologies
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 agreement will be a 12-month term, effective June 1, 2026, through, May 31, 2027, with the total maximum compensation not to exceed \$39,233.04. The maximum compensation for the initial Fiscal Year (FY) 25/26 will be \$3,269.42, and for FY 26/27 will be \$35,963.62.
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.
In September 2023, the Department transitioned from its previous benefits determination system, CalWIN, to the Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS) as required by the California Department of Social Services. The CalSAWS Consortium is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) formed by all 58 California counties and is considered a "public entity" established pursuant to Article II to the CalSAWS JPA (A-19-129). The Consortium has solicited and selected Gainwell as the vendor to facilitate the Department's implementation of a PBDS. A PBDS is a modern, adaptable, and analytics-driven solution designed to meet the evolving needs of the Department. A PBDS features customization capabilities, analytical reporting features to facilitate a focus on Program outcomes and service needs.
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.
A PBDS will allow the Department to access curated CalSAWS data from the County's Amazon S3 account filtered specifically to the County of Fresno. The unique qualities and capabilities of PBDS are essential for ensuring data accuracy and relevance to the Department's operations. Having access to PBDS the Department can make informed data-driven decisions therefore improving services to the community. Prior to PBDS, the Department faced challenges associated with limited pre-defined reports, necessitating workarounds to combine data. PBDS addresses these challenges by providing a streamlined process for accessing and analyzing data, reducing the risk for errors and ensuring that decisions are based on accurate information. Additionally, Department will be able to leverage vendor expertise from Gainwell on generating, customizing, and interpreting reports within the CalSAWS system.
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 a county participant in the CalSAWS Consortium, the Department seeks to purchase PBDS access and infrastructure support using the established Consortium process, which was authorized by the Department's agreement with the CalSAWS Consortium (A-19-130). The Consortium, as a Joint-Powers Authority (JPA) holds the sole authority to select, enter contracts with, and approve vendors for statewide implementation. The decision to procure PBDS access as a suspension of competition acquisition is justified by the lack of alternative providers

authorized for counties participating in the CalSAWS Consortium. The PBDS uniqueness stems from its exclusive association with the CalSAWS Consortium, and the consolidated expertise and support provided through this partnership. This emphasizes the PBDS's role as a specialized solution tailored to meet the specific needs of California's welfare administration, setting it apart from other vendors or systems in the market.

ancervantes 4/3/2026 9:18:30 AM

Requested By:

Staff Analyst

Title

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!

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

martik 4/8/2026 12:52:58 PM

Department Head Signature

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!

rblackburn 4/10/2026 7:47:23 AM

Purchasing Manager Signature

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