



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 (DSS) requests the continuation of a customized training program for social services, human services, and public sector management that meets State and Federal mandated staff training requirements.
2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.
Michell Franklin
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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 is for two years, July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027. There are no renewal terms. The total cost is \$790,500.
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.
The State has designated UC Davis as one of the contracted providers that can provide comprehensive trainings services to all county social services departments in California. Services allow for customized training tailored to the Department to meet the training requirements and needs in all areas including Eligibility, Employment Services and Child Welfare. Training needs focus on Customer Service, Project Management, Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse, Working Cooperatively, Permanency Planning, and Documentation.
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 requested training services are required in accordance with DSS' Annual Training Plan mandated by the State of California Health and Human Services Agency and Department of Social Services, Manual of Policies and Procedures, Chapter 14.
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.

California Department of Social Services has a Training Support Unit (TSU) to focus on the oversight of the development, support, capacity building, and expertise of child welfare professional and public entities providing child welfare services. The TSU oversees and supports training of child welfare professionals via contractual relationships with the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) and the statewide Regional Training Academies (RTA). RTA is broken into several California regions.

Academy for Professional Excellence provides services to 7 counties in the southern California region: Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Ventura. Curriculum and trainings focus on Child Welfare Services. Trainings offered include Family Violence, Substance Abuse, and Documentation and Writing for CWS. This Academy does not serve the Central Valley Region.

Bay Area Training Academy provides services to 13 counties in the California bay region: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma. Curriculum and trainings focus on Child Welfare Services. Trainings offered include Facilitation, Visitation, and Case Review. This Academy does not serve the Central Valley Region.

California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) sunset operations at UC Berkeley on June 30, 2024. Programs administered by CalSWEC have transitioned to other host institutions.

Central California Training Academy provides services to 12 counties in the central California region. Curriculum and trainings focus on Child Welfare Services. Trainings offered include core training for line workers, Foundations of Child Welfare Supervision, Specialized Training and Training support services.

Northern California Training Academy (UC Davis) provides services to 28 Northern California counties and three tribes. Training services are also offered to other regions as well. Curriculum and trainings include Child Welfare Services and customizable workforce development and organizational development needs.

A partnership between the State and UC Davis Extension began more than 30 years ago to develop new skills for their social workers. In addition to their Child Welfare related trainings, UC Davis Extension has expanded to cover a wider variety of courses and custom courses, providing State-approved comprehensive social service, human services, and public sector management training programs for California counties.

Although the other academies offer Social Services training, their main focus is Child Welfare Training and Curriculum. In addition, some academies only serve their designated regions.

The Department is in need of the State-approved customizable and comprehensive trainings UC Davis offers.

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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.

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Department Head Signature

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rblackburn 4/21/2025 3:22:14 PM

Purchasing Manager Signature

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