



## Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

 [Email Me](#)  
Double click!

1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.  
Agreement to develop a Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) team in Fresno County to provide information, support, warm linkage, and resources to newly bereaved suicide survivors for support and recovery.
2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.  
Hinds Hospice, Fresno Survivors of Suicide Loss  
2490 W. Shaw Ave., Fresno, CA. 93711  
Kathleen Cromwell, Program Director; (559) 260-6643; kcromwell@hindshospice.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.  
Total cost: \$1,837,864  
Effective Upon Execution - June 2019: \$85,485  
FY 19-20: \$337,777  
FY 20-21: \$346,631  
FY 21-22: \$351,860  
FY 22-23: \$355,489  
FY 23-24: \$360,622
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.  
Hinds Hospice, Fresno Survivors of Suicide Loss (FSOSL) is the primary resource for suicide survivors in Fresno County. FSOSL has been serving the Fresno community since 1985. They provide emotional support in the aftermath of suicide and suicide prevention. FSOSL provides local resources, trainings, community outreach and education, peer-focused support groups, and individual and family grief support and counseling with a Licensed Mental Health Professional. FSOSL provides suicide prevention education and training (such as Q.P.R. – Question, Persuade, Refer) to faith-based organizations, first-responders, social service agencies, universities, and mental health agencies. FSOSL has the infrastructure, the experienced leadership and personnel in place to implement a LOSS team for Fresno County quickly. A LOSS team functions better when staff have lived experiences with suicide loss. FSOSL's current suicide support services are provided by staff and volunteers with lived experiences. FSOSL is currently connected with local law enforcement, emergency medical services, and mental health agencies as the primary responder to situations which involve suicide attempts or completions in Fresno County.
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.  
As recommended in the Department's Fresno County Community-Based Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan, the Department will develop a LOSS Team to provide active postvention (an intervention conducted after suicide) support for newly bereaved suicide survivors in Fresno County. Data shows that suicide survivors are likely to attempt or complete suicide themselves. FSOSL's experience in serving this specific population will be critical in implementing a successful LOSS Team in Fresno County. The Department's efforts in suicide prevention will be spearheaded by FSOSL's team of trained suicide loss survivors who can quickly implement the LOSS team concept and respond to the scene of suspected or probable suicide death to immediately intervene and/or disseminate information about local resources and provide an instillation of hope for the individual or family. FSOSL's current functions, resources, and connection with the local authorities and other local community partners allows them to easily assimilate the LOSS team concept and quickly start serving the Fresno County community.

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.

The selection of Hinds Hospice, Fresno Survivors of Suicide Loss (FSOSL) was based on research conducted by the Department and feedback from the Fresno County Suicide Prevention Collaborative community members. FSOSL is a consistent participant and supporter of the collaborative and has provided valuable input into the development of the Fresno County Community-Based Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan and the Department's suicide prevention efforts. Research consisted of consulting with local suicide prevention expert and Tulare-Kings County LOSS Team member, Noah Whitaker, and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Fresno, Executive Director, Chris Roup. The two experts agreed that FSOSL is the only entity in Fresno County that is currently providing services specifically for suicide survivors. They continue to state that FSOSL is the primary referral and linkage source for law enforcement and mental health agencies in the area. Analysis of nationally recognized suicide prevention organizations/websites (such as AAS, AFSP, SAVE) reveal that FSOSL is the only agency in Fresno County being listed and/or endorsed on their directories. Additional research shows that local agencies do provide general bereavement and grief counseling services/support groups (for example, St. Agnes Medical Center); however, they do not provide groups or support specific to suicides. The individuals or families who request additional support are almost always referred or linked with FSOSL. Additional research continues to provide a variety of modalities (i.e., telephone, video conferencing, forums, and chat rooms) for individuals to access counseling or support groups; however, they are passive approaches that require the individual or family in grief to have the capability and the awareness to reach out first. These technological services are not personable enough to serve this sensitive population nor do they have a local infrastructure for physical support.

solvang 3/6/2019 2:58:25 PM

Requested By:

Senior Staff Analyst

Title

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!

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

dutecht 3/6/2019 3:18:12 PM

Department Head Signature

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!

gcornuelle 3/22/2019 11:37:21 AM

Purchasing Manager Signature

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!