



# Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.  
The County and the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) is in need of psychiatric services by licensed psychiatrists and psychiatric nurse practitioners. Additional psychiatry professionals are needed to reach an adequate level of psychiatric services for persons served by DBH.
2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.  
Central California Faculty Medical Group, Inc.  
dba Inspire Health Medical Group  
Joyce Fields-Keene, Chief Executive Officer  
2625 East Divisadero Street  
Fresno, CA 93721  
(559) 453-5200
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 estimated total cost of acquisition and breakdown per fiscal year is below.  
Total Cost: \$ 20,899,611  
  
FY 2025-26 \$ 10,483,970  
FY 2026-27 \$ 10,415,641
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.  
Inspire Health Medical Group (Inspire Health) is the only local medical group in Fresno County that has the experience and existing resources to meet the immediate need for continued direct psychiatric services to DBH's vulnerable population. These services are provided directly (in-person) to County behavioral health persons served by licensed psychiatry professionals offered by Inspire Health. Psychiatrists and Psychiatric Nurses are historically a hard to fill, high need position for DBH. When DBH entered into the current agreement with Inspire Health the Department eliminated these positions from the Salary Resolution, therefore, psychiatric services are primarily provided through the recommended agreement with Inspire Health.
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 recommended agreement will allow licensed psychiatrists and psychiatric nurse practitioners to provide psychiatric services to DBH persons served which include: assessments, consultations, medication management and monitoring, crisis and family interventions, participation in multi-disciplinary teams, forensic evaluations and court proceedings, and group therapy. These services are unique and vital to DBH to ensure adequate levels of psychiatric services are available to DBH persons served. Historically, this is a classification that is very challenging to fill and retain, due to the highly competitive employment market and shortage of qualified psychiatry professionals. Inspire Health has helped bridge the gap in recruiting and retaining trained and qualified psychiatry professionals and would continue to further build the team of psychiatrists and psychiatric nurse practitioners serving DBH persons served. Without these efforts by Inspire Health, the Department would not be able to adequately serve persons in need in Fresno County, which would lead to disruption of services required to serve vulnerable and severe population.

Furthermore, Inspire Health is the only local agency that has a long-standing relationship with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) for cultivating medical residents to be prospective psychiatrists for the Department.

The Department holds agreements with UCSF for medical interns and psychiatry residents to integrate with DBH clinics. Throughout the current contract with Inspire Health (formerly referred to as CCFMG) UCSF residents who worked in the DBH clinics in collaboration with Inspire Health psychiatrists have chosen to continue providing services to DBH persons served through the existing agreement after their residency period ended. The combined efforts and symbiotic relationship between DBH, Inspire Health, and UCSF have been fruitful in recruitment, training and retaining psychiatry providers in Fresno County.

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 Department currently has agreements with locum tenens psychiatry staffing agencies (i.e., master agreements for Locum Tenens and Telemedicine) which offer psychiatrists and psychiatric nurse practitioners on a short-term assignment basis. The majority of these locum tenens psychiatry professionals provide remote services and a few provide services onsite in DBH clinics. These positions are a secondary source of service provision intended to temporarily fill in service needs when there is insufficient psychiatry coverage. Although the locum tenens contractors have relationships with numerous providers, the majority of their providers do not want to or cannot relocate to Fresno County to provide direct in-person services, and other providers who are willing to relocate request rates higher than what the Department is able to provide. The locum tenens contractors are generally independent, for-profit entities not affiliated with UCSF or other academic institutions to help grow the population of psychiatry professionals and encourage them to relocate to Fresno County to provide in-person services to DBH persons served, as Inspire Health does.

leflores 4/11/2025 4:59:15 PM

Requested By:

DD

Title

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

sholt 4/14/2025 12:19:36 PM

Department Head Signature

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!

rblackburn 4/17/2025 8:51:05 AM

Purchasing Manager Signature

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