



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

[\[Email Me\]](#)
Double click!

1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.
The Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) is requesting to execute a Service Agreement with the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno (Superior Court) for court coordinator and drug court supportive services for eight collaborative treatment and drug courts, including state-mandated Community Assistance Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act and Felony Drug Court (Proposition 36) programs within Fresno County, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028, with the option for one (1) additional one-year renewal period.
 2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.
Superior Court of California, County of Fresno
1100 Van Ness Ave.
Fresno, CA 93721
Maria Camarillo, Procurements Manager
Phone: (559) 457-2155
E-mail: mdcamarillo@fresno.courts.ca.gov
Kimberly Sisk, Fiscal Analyst
Phone: (559) 457-2157
E-mail: ksisk@fresno.courts.ca.gov
Jeffrey Y. Hamilton, Presiding Judge
Phone: (559) 457-6495
E-mail: jhamilton@fresno.courts.ca.gov
 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.
Contract Maximum: \$451,335.00
FY 26-27 Max Comp: \$150,445.00
FY 27-28 Max Comp: \$150,445.00
FY 28-29 Max Comp: \$150,445.00
 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 Superior Court is a government agency that acts as an umbrella government agency encompassing all the Collaborative Courts, Specialty Treatment Courts, Diversion Courts, and Drug Courts in which DBH participates to support persons served within its system of care. To provide these services effectively to youth, families, and adults living with substance use and mental health disorders who are involved in the justice system, it is essential to partner with this government agency to bring services to those involved in these court programs. There is no other entity that DBH can contract with to provide the same coverage and level of access to persons served who are court-involved. This agreement enables DBH to reach a higher volume of youth and adults in need of mental health, housing, and substance use disorder services and allows DBH to outreach and engage with those individuals who are justice involved.
The Courts that will be included in the agreement are: (1) Family Behavioral Health Court (FBHC), which is part of the juvenile justice system and serves youth placed on formal juvenile probation and their families; (2) Adult Behavioral Health Court (BHC), which serves adults living with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) who have been convicted of a felony criminal matter; (3) Misdemeanor Drug Court, which serves adults with misdemeanor charges and are in need of substance use disorder treatment and often mental health treatment; (4) Mental Health Diversion (MHD) Court, which serves adults involved with the criminal justice system, living with a mental health disorder of which will respond to treatment; (5) Misdemeanor Incompetent to Stand Trial (MIST) Court, which serves adults with misdemeanor criminal charges, found incompetent to stand trial (IST) and need mental health and often substance use disorder treatment; (6) Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial (FIST) Court, that services those with a mental health disorder that is typically an SMI and often also need substance use disorder treatment; (7) CARE Act, which serves the most vulnerable individuals living with an untreated or insufficiently treated SMI diagnosis of either a schizophrenia spectrum of disorders or bipolar I disorder with psychotic features, are at risk of being unhoused, hospitalized, and placed on conservatorship; (8) Felony Drug Court, which serves individuals in need of treatment for a substance use disorder and often a mental health disorder.
 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 unique collaboration between DBH and the Superior Court for the innovative mental health programs and services allows DBH to further serve youth, families, and adults involved in the justice system. The specialty treatment courts utilize a collaborative, coordinated approach to organizing treatment, supportive services, case management, and supervision for participants. The collaborative teams include judges, court coordinators, and representatives from prosecution, defense counsel, probation, and treatment providers. The teams work together to remove barriers to recovery and wellness. Superior Court provides Court Coordinators, who are court employees, to care coordinate, identify gaps in services, gather data, and track program outcomes for each Collaborative Treatment Court referenced in the agreement, which is imperative for data reporting that is required by the State of California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

Pursuant to Senate Bill 1338, the CARE Act program is a civil court process that was implemented in Fresno County on December 1, 2024, and specifically requires significant coordination to ensure state-mandated deadlines are met, required services and supports are provided to persons served, and that DBH avoids possible sanctions imposed by the State via the Superior Court Judge's order for not providing needed services, supports, and resources to persons served. CARE Act participants are required to attend frequent court hearings which are calendared at intervals set by California statute. This program is state-mandated to track and report a substantial amount of data and requires significant care coordination.

Pursuant to Proposition 36 (the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act), which went into effect on December 18, 2024, DBH implemented the Felony Drug Court program during fiscal year 2025-2026. This law created a new treatment-focused court process for some drug possession crimes. DBH is mandated to participate in this court process which requires specific annual data reporting about persons served through the Felony Drug Court program; DBH is pursuing a grant for this program which would require additional data reporting and coordination.

FIST Court diverts individuals from being sent to the Department of State Hospital (DSH) for restoration to competency to receive needed services, which could reduce DBH's potential amount owed to the State of California for exceeding the growth cap on the number of persons sent to DSH for restoration to competency from Fresno County. Tracking this data and coordinating with the Court to serve this population is imperative to the success of FIST Court and reducing the amount that DBH will owe to the State annually due to imposed growth cap penalties. Additionally, the Superior Court provides court staff support and client incentives for Drug Court in a strengths-based model and extends services to individuals currently not being served. These services are essential to provide for adequate and timely access to much needed behavioral health and substance use disorder services, as well as ancillary supportive services within all the collaborative and drug courts located in the Superior Court.

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.

There are no other vendors of this type in Fresno County for DBH to contract with for these services. The Superior Court is the only government agency that encompasses all the collaborative treatment, drug courts, including Felony Drug court, and Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act within Fresno County, each of which operates under distinct statutory and/or procedural requirements.

svanbruggen 3/12/2026 9:44:41 AM

Requested By:

Division Manager

Title

[\[✉ Sign\]](#) [Double click!](#)

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

sholt 3/16/2026 2:36:34 PM

Department Head Signature

[\[✉ Sign\]](#) [Double click!](#)

rblackburn 3/27/2026 3:24:23 PM

Purchasing Manager Signature

[\[✉ Sign\]](#) [Double click!](#)