



# Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.

The County of Fresno, Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) intends to execute a Master Agreement with various licensed facilities certified to provide placements and specialized residential services for seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) youth with severe and persistent mental health conditions pursuant to Welfare Institutions Code (WIC) and California Code of Regulations (CCR). Providers located in Fresno and out-of-county would be part of the executed Master Agreement. Services include Psychiatric Health Facility, Mental Health Residential Treatment, Parital Hospitalization, Intensive Outpatient Program services, Community Treatment Facility services, and Day Treatment - Intensive Services.
2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.

Central Valley Behavioral Health Psychology Corporation d.b.a. Ascend Behavioral Health  
1781 E Fir Ave, Suite 101, Fresno, CA 93720  
Alicia Avila; alicia.alva@ascenddbh.com

Star View Behavioral Health, Inc.  
1501 Hughes Way, Suite 150, Long Beach, CA 90810  
Kent Dunlap; kdunlap@starsinc.com
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 - \$1,500,000  
FY 2025-2026: \$300,000  
FY 2026-2027: \$300,000  
FY 2027-2028: \$300,000  
FY 2028-2029: \$300,000  
FY 2029-2030: \$300,000  
The acquisition will not result in an increase in Net County Cost.
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 contracted providers listed above are licensed to provide placement and specialized residential mental health services for SED youth with severe and persistent menal health conditions. Youth placed to facilities under this agreement are conserved or foster youth. These facilities serve hard to place youth with high treatment needs. The majority of youth specialized residential facilities are located outside of Fresno County. Local placements are sought first, however, out-of-county placements are often necessary to ensure the proper level of care. Residential facilities specializing in youth placement are able to sustain themselves through patient fees and private insurance. They do not rely on Medi-Cal for revenue. For that reason, these facilities are typically unwilling to respond to County requests such as procurements.
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 proposed agreement would be for a higher level of care for conserved persons. The need for these services has been increasing annually and it is necessary for the department to expand our network of specialized residential facilities to meet the needs of the people of Fresno County, espically for youth. This agreement allows for the funding of services for undocumented and unfunded clients.

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 County is required by WIC, Section 500 et seq. and CCR, Sections 72001, et seq. to provide placement and specialized residential mental services for SED youth with severe and persistent mental health conditions. The Department of Behavioral Health has received an increasing number of referrals from local hospitals seeking emergency placement for SED youth with severe mental illness (SMI). In order to identify facilities qualified and capable of meeting the specific clinical needs of the referred individuals, the Department of Behavioral Health's Conservatorship Team reached out to the facilities and inquired about the services offered and the populations served at their locations. The facilities that are added to this master agreement are able to serve very high need youth that have hard to treat disorders and educational needs. The two facilities mentioned above have made it through the vetting process by the Conservatorship team and have been identified as providing adequate and quality services.

The two facilities above are currently on the Specialized Residential Mental Health Services Master Agreement. DBH has not had any issues with the facilities during the current agreement. If any other facilities are identified as a good fit for a conserved or foster youth through the referral process DBH will add them to this master agreement.

svanbruggen 3/19/2025 11:51:44 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 3/24/2025 5:38:29 PM

Department Head Signature

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!

rblackburn 3/25/2025 11:46:09 AM

Purchasing Manager Signature

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!