



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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

The Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health has joined four (4) other Counties who are part of a multi-county collaborative project with Syracuse University to serve as the fiscal intermediary for the Psychiatric Advance Directives Project. Phase I of the project is near completion. This Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request is specifically for Phase II of the project.

2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.

Syracuse University
Stuart Taub, Director
Office of Sponsored Programs
211 Lyman Hall, Syracuse, NY 13244
(315) 443-9356

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 maximum cost for this agreement is \$3,000,000.00 for up to four (4) years.

FY 2025-2026: \$758,248.00

FY 2026-2027: \$749,729.00

FY 2027-2028: \$744,232.00

FY 2028-2029: \$747,791.00

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.

This project required five (5) counties to come together to work with five (5) different vendors to implement this Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC). None of the participating counties had the capacity to be both a fiscal pass-through for the four other counties and also contract on their behalf with at least five (5) different vendors.

Syracuse University (SU), through its various departments including the principal investigator and engaged external evaluator, the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI), has both experience with such cross-multi-agency projects and experience with serving as a fiscal intermediary. SU was also involved in the initial planning of the statewide project through MHSOAC who initiated the project. The Fresno County Board of Supervisors approved the Phase I portion of project, effectively contracting with this vendor on May 3, 2022 (A-22-175) under a Suspension of Competition. SU was chosen to be the fiscal intermediary for all required phases on this project including this Phase II.

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.

SU was chosen by all of the involved counties to serve as the fiscal intermediary for this project. Phase I has been completed and the project is moving into Phase II. SU remains the fiscal intermediary for this 2nd phase of the project. This vendor has experience with supporting multi-county agencies on such projects, and has specific familiarity with this project as they were involved in the initial planning and consultation alongside the MHSOAC. All counties contracted with this vendor for work conducted in Phase I of this project, and the partner counties have decided to continue with this vendor for Phase II. Since Fresno County is in partnership on this project with other counties, there is no option to select another separate vendor as the fiscal intermediary.

SU will serve as the fiscal administrator for the various counties and will engage the selected subcontractors on each county's behalf while simultaneously providing the necessary oversight of those subcontractors' budgets and invoices, including all approved direct and indirect costs. SU, through the BBI, will administer and manage all

applicable contracts and provide the required financial oversight, including routine financial reporting to counties, subcontractors, and project management.

SU will provide a dedicated team to this project to coordinate all related operation, legal, and fiscal activities within the various departments at the University, including the Offices of Sponsored Programs and Sponsored Accounting, Payroll, Purchasing, Disbursements, and the Burton Blatt Institute as the principal investigator and engaged external evaluator for the implementation of PADs 2 across all counties.

Activities handled by SU will include: the drafting, finalizing, renewing, and updating all contracts with counties, subcontractors, and other parties as required; reviewing contracts to ensure completeness, accuracy, and conformity with county policies and applicable California state and federal regulations; overseeing the confidentiality requirements of vendors and subcontractors; performing background vetting and checks of potential vendors and subrecipients; completing financial risk analyses of potential vendors and subrecipients; reviewing invoices for accuracy, compliance, and alignment with the project scope; ensuring that payments to vendors and subrecipients are made accurately and promptly; establishing appropriate formats and a schedule for financial updates; coordinating deliverables and communications with project management and counties; attending meetings with counties and project management to provide financial updates; and advising on various financial, accounting, or related legal issues as they arise.

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.

CalMHSA-the organization of which Fresno County is a member, and has assisted with similar type of work, was not able to take on this project.

SU was already the chosen vendor for Phase I of the project and was involved with the State's portion of planning this project as noted above. SU has both the required experience and ability to continue serving as the fiscal intermediary and also appropriate familiarity with the specific work for Phase II.

The five (5) participating counties initially explored options such as California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions, but they no longer perform fiscal intermediary services. Additionally, the County Behavioral Health Directors Association did not have the capacity to serve as a fiscal intermediary. SU remains the necessary and appropriate vendor to ensure timely completion of Phase II of this ongoing project and avoid any interruptions as the multi-county project transitions into its second phase.

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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 7/11/2025 9:55:03 AM

Department Head Signature

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!

rblackburn 7/15/2025 10:05:53 AM

Purchasing Manager Signature

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!