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County of El Paso Agenda Item Details

Item Title:	Purchasing- Approve and authorize the Single Source purchase for a comprehensive evaluation of the El Paso County Sheriff's Crisis Internation Team
Submitted By:	Karen Davidson, Purchasing Agent
Department:	Purchasing
Department Phone Number:	915-273-3349
Subject:	Approve and authorize the Single Source purchase for a comprehensive evaluation of the El Paso County Sheriff's Crisis Internation Team (C.I.T) performed by Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute of San Antonio Texas in total amount of \$200,000. Funds are available in SG-ARPLAN21-OPERATING EX. Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 262.024 (a)(7)(A), as a single source item, it is exempt from the provisions of the County Purchasing Act. Single Source will be re-evaluated at the time of new contract to ensure compliance with statute.
Background:	As part of the County's Strategic Plan, El Paso County Administration is seeking services to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Sheriff's Office Crisis Intervention co-response Team (CIT). Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (Meadows Institute) brings experience, design, implementation, and evaluation of similar projects, including an evaluation of the City of El Paso's C.I.T. Program. They will conduct an efficacy analysis of the program including an analysis of the impacts of the pandemic on crisis response. Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 262.024 (a)(7)(A), as a sole source item, it is exempt from the provisions of the County Purchasing Act. Sole Source will be re-evaluated at time of new contract to ensure compliance with statute.
Fiscal Impact:	Fiscal Impact Historical

Fiscal Impact Projected

Funds are available in: SG-ARPLAN21-OPERATING EX COSG-7281-0002021-431-50-11000-0001-00000-600000-GARPLAN21-600000-601400-601430

Long Account Number: Amount:

Long Account Number: COSG-7281-0002021-431-50-11000-0001-00000-600000- Amount: \$200,000.00

Budget or Unbudgeted Match:

Recommendation:

Approve and authorize the Single Source purchase for a comprehensive evaluation of the El Paso County Sheriff's Crisis Internation Team (C.I.T) performed by Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute of San Antonio Texas in total amount of \$200,000. Funds are available in SG-ARPLAN21-OPERATING EX. Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 262.024 (a)(7)(A), as a single source item, it is exempt from the provisions of the County Purchasing Act. Single Source will be re-evaluated at the time of new contract to ensure compliance with statute.

Prior Action:

N/A

Strategic Plan:

Goal:

null

Objective:

Strategic Plan Information:

**Estimated Time Needed
For This Item:**

SINGLE / SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

Preparation Instructions:

The appropriate department representative must complete the single source form below and forward to their Department Head, or his designee, for approval. Upon approval, forward the sole source justification to the Purchasing Agent for review and final approval. Use additional sheets if necessary.

1. What unique features or capabilities does the product or service offer the County?

The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute conducted a major evaluation of the City's C.I.T. program and they are in the unique position to conduct this analysis with the same methods and do a direct comparison of the City and County analysis. EHN is not qualified to conduct the analysis since they are one of the agencies being analyzed.

2. Why are these unique features or characteristics essential and necessary to meet the County's needs?

The County is interested in ensuring a direct comparative analysis utilizing the same complex methods to evaluate the City's program. Another researcher would likely not be able to do this.

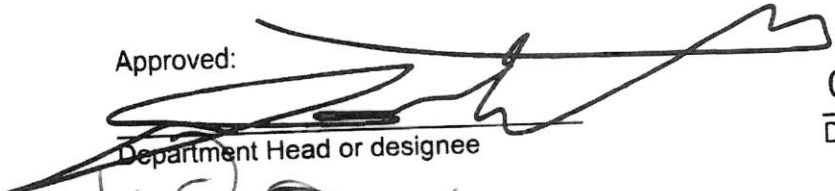
3. What research has been performed to ensure that no other source is capable of fulfilling the requirement? For instance, list other products or services tested our used and indicate why they are not acceptable.

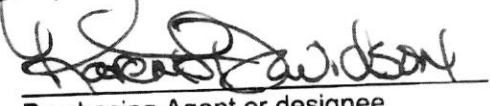
The research that was completed has been reviewed, and would likely be difficult to duplicate using the same methods from another provider.

4. What steps are being taken to foster competition in future purchases of this product or service?

We are looking to contract with a well-known, qualified, non-profit provider - Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute. This would be a research service agreement.

Approved:


Department Head or designee


Purchasing Agent or designee

03/19/2024

Date

6-3-2024

Date

MEADOWS
MENTAL HEALTH
POLICY INSTITUTE

May 28, 2024

Joel Bishop,
Executive Director of Justice and Community Support
El Paso County Administration
500 E. San Antonio Ave., Room 302A
El Paso, Texas 79901

Dear Mr. Bishop,

Thank you for your interest in allowing the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (Meadows Institute) to submit a proposal to perform an evaluation of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). As per recent conversations with our team members, the Meadows Institute has broad experience in design, implementation, and evaluation of similar projects including the City of El Paso's Crisis Intervention Team.

Our unique experience and a legally binding license enabling us to use the work products resulting from work with Emergency Health Network and the City of El Paso designing their CIT evaluation components allows us a robust ability to compare and contrast the findings from the City of El Paso CIT as well as other similar projects across the state of Texas.

Since its founding in 2014, the Meadows Institute has maintained active partnerships with El Paso health care delivery leaders, including previous projects with the County of El Paso to prevent inappropriate justice system involvement for individuals in need of mental health or addiction care and support.

We await your guidance on next steps toward development of a scope of work and submission of a proposal for CIT evaluation services.

Sincerely,



Andy Keller, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

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Joel Bishop,
Executive Director of Justice and Community Support
El Paso County Administration
500 E. San Antonio Ave., Room 302A
El Paso, Texas 79901

Thank you for your interest in allowing the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (Meadows Institute) to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office Crisis Intervention co-response Team (CIT). The Meadows Institute has broad experience in design, implementation, and evaluation of similar projects including the 2021 comprehensive evaluation of the City of El Paso's Crisis Intervention co-response Team. Details of costs associated with the proposed analysis can be found below.

We await your guidance on next steps toward development of a scope of work and submission of a proposal for CIT co-response evaluation services.

Project Component	Amount
Quantitative Data Analysis	\$100,000
We will prepare analyses of prevalence based on data that considers El Paso specific demographic and poverty data. Additionally, we will provide analyses for licensed psychiatric bed capacity and emergency department utilization for each hospital in the region including utilization rates over the past year; existing publicly funded mental health and substance use disorder programs and use; and costs associated with hospitalization and emergency department use for psychiatric disorders and, if available, costs associated with local community mental health programs.	
Qualitative Data Analysis	\$50,000
The primary on-site review will initiate focus groups and key informant stakeholder interviews to identify central themes associated with program operations, staff morale and performance, collaborations, access to care, availability of crisis and emergency services, and the impact of mental illness and unmet need across various service sectors. On-site reviews will include each of the project leads, joined by support staff to provide analysis of existing capacity, gaps in capacity, and opportunities to use program development, scaling, financing, and other strategies to meet the need. Additionally, a quality-of-life survey for people served by the program will be initiated to determine impact of daily life satisfaction and success rates for people served by the program. Themes emerging from the qualitative analysis will be included in the final report.	
Policy and Program Review and Final Report Development	\$50,000
Our criminal justice and adult policy teams, with support from clinical subject matter experts, will identify service gaps and needs focused particularly on strategies to increase care engagement and retention, increase criminal justice system diversion, decrease first responder systems engagement, decrease emergency system utilization for chronic health and behavioral health needs, and reduce jail and hospital recidivism for people living with serious mental illness or substance use disorders. A final report will be developed and presented to the County.	

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