

Description of Intended Single Source Purchase

AGENCY: Florida Housing Finance Corporation

TITLE: Oversight of Cost/Benefit Research on High Needs/High Cost Developments

CONTACT: Contract Administrator
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Date Posted: October 17, 2017

Time Posted: 9:45 a.m.

Term: January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Performance and/or Design Requirements: Florida Housing has issued grants to three pilot developments to develop and provide up to 50 units of rental housing to serve “high needs/high cost” chronically homeless residents in permanent supportive housing. Each developer committed to hire a research team to carry out cost-benefit and personal outcome evaluations of how well this model works to evaluate the Florida-specific of public services/housing and residents’ personal outcomes, compared to when the residents were still homeless. While evaluations of this sort have occurred in other states, our staff and stakeholders in Florida have found that Florida policymakers want to know how well such a model works in this state. The data collection will start as residents are moving in to the units and will continue for 24 months, at which point the final reports will be written. The data collection started as residents moved in to the units and will continue for 24 months, at which point the final reports will be written. Each organization is responsible for its own data collection, analysis and report.

The vendor will be required to:

- A. Assist Florida Housing in developing award terms for the grant agreements with the three property owners to ensure that adequate oversight is provided by Florida Housing;
- B. Carry out a screening meeting with each of the three research teams to meet and learn about the teams’ approaches;
- C. Review draft and final research methodologies and any other available information from each of the three research teams and provide comments to Florida Housing, the property owners or research teams as needed; and

- D. Work with Florida Housing to carry out regularly scheduled telephone or webinar calls with each of the research teams (calls may be combined if appropriate), and special calls as needed, to monitor research progress and that the methodologies are being followed as approved. The expected approach is one call every two months unless special circumstances/problems arise.
1. Advise Florida Housing, the participating state agencies, and the three research teams on widely recognized and related cost/benefit study approaches and methodology, and questions/issues as they arise;
 2. Assist in trouble shooting as the research teams report to Florida Housing on progress. This assistance would help head off potential problems as they arise, helping to ensure that the final reports are high quality and therefore useful for discussions with policymakers; and
 3. If data access problems arise, advise Florida Housing on best approaches to assist in helping the teams access needed data.

Intended Source: Corporation for Supportive Housing, Inc.

Estimated Dollar Amount: \$20,000

Justification for Single Source Acquisition: CSH is the only firm nationally that specializes in this type of research. Florida Housing's High Need/High Cost Pilot is similar to a CSH's signature initiative, FUSE (Frequent Users Systems Engagement), which has been implemented in approximately 30 communities nationwide – including Orlando. The CSH program has its origins 10 years ago as a pilot experiment in New York City to develop an enhanced supportive housing model to target individuals with established patterns of cycling between jail and shelters in the city. This month, the most recent evaluation was released demonstrating the benefits of this approach – MeckFUSE, in North Carolina, announced significantly reduced arrests, ambulance and hospital usage, along with a two-year 90% housing retention rate.

Also this month, CSH and the national Center for Budget and Policy Priorities convened a group of researchers, policymakers and stakeholders from the academic, federal and provider community to discuss the future of national research on supportive housing, identify what gaps exist in the current research, and engage the field in next steps towards further demonstrating evidence around the model's implementation for different populations. The discussion from this convening will drive CSH's national research agenda and policy documents developed by both CSH and Center for Budget and Policy Priorities around supportive housing – and this will greatly inform the evaluations being conducted in the three High Need/High Cost sites in Florida.

No other technical assistance provider has the depth and breadth of experience CSH does with frequent user/high utilizer supportive housing initiatives generally, and Florida Housing is not aware of any that have tried to provide technical assistance particularly targeted to the type of pilot we are implementing.

Approved By: Florida Housing Finance Corporation's Executive Director, Harold L. Price, III.

This Description of Intended Single Source Purchases is posted in accordance with Rule 67-49.0031, Florida Administrative Code. Prospective vendors are requested to provide information regarding their ability to supply the commodities or contractual services described. If the Executive Director, after reviewing any information received from prospective vendors, determines that the commodities or contractual services are practically available from a single source, the Corporation shall provide notice of its intended decision to enter into a single-source purchase contract in the manner specified in Section 120.57(3), Fla. Stat.