

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Child and Family Services Agency



**DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS
FOR A
SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

CONTRACT NO: DCRL-2015-C-0056
CAPTION: CFSA Differential Response System Evaluation
PROPOSED CONTRACTOR: The Institute for Applied Research
PROGRAM AGENCY: DC Child and Family Services Agency

FINDINGS

1. AUTHORIZATION:

27 DCMR 1702

2. MINIMUM NEED:

The District of Columbia CFSA is in need of an evaluator that shall conduct an evaluation of its Differential Response System. The evaluation shall serve as an extended focus on demonstrating measurable safety outcomes for children who are served through CFSA's Child Protection Services' (CPS) Investigative and Family Assessment. This report is needed by December 2015 and timeliness is of the essence.

3. ESTIMATED REASONABLE PRICE:

\$250,000.00

4. FACTS THAT JUSTIFY SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:

The Differential Response also referred to, as "dual track," "multiple track or alternative response," is an approach that allows child protective services to respond in multiple ways to abuse and neglect allegations. It is an alternative way of responding to reports of abuse and neglect, instead of solely relying on the traditional investigative methodology. In 2009, The Institute for Applied Research began working with CFSA to embark upon the planning and design phase for instituting the Differential Response System in the District of Columbia. As a result of their work, the first Assessment Direct Service Unit was developed in 2011. In 2012, a second unit was implemented; and by August 2013, the Family Assessment Administration was expanded to nine direct service units. During this period, there were modifications to the referral

screening process, practices, and the number of allegations eligible for the Family Assessment Program increased significantly.

As we approach the fourth year of utilizing the Differential Response Approach, it is essential that we evaluate our work using expertise of The Institute for Applied Research to ensure that the courts, our staff, families, and other stakeholders are fully satisfied with this service model, consistency with our practice approach when working with families, and most importantly, that children are safe or just as safe as those children being served by Investigations. They are very familiar with this system since they were instrumental in setting up this program from its inception. Moving forward to the fourth phase with The Institute for Applied Research will reduce the learning curve for a new contractor as well as to greatly enhance the Agency's ability to respond rapidly to the need of the children and families in the District of Columbia.

5. CERTIFICATION BY AGENCY HEAD:

I hereby certify that the above findings are true, correct and complete.

Date

Director, CFSA

6. CERTIFICATION BY CONTRACTING OFFICER:

I have reviewed the above findings and certify that they are sufficient to justify the use of the sole source method of procurement under the cited authority. I certify that the notice of intent to award a sole source contract was published in accordance with 27 DCMR 1304 and that no response was received. I recommend that the Chief Procurement Officer approve the use of the sole source procurement method for this proposed contract.

Date

Agency Contracting Officer

7. DETERMINATION:

Based on the above findings and in accordance with the cited authority, I hereby determine that it is not feasible or practical to invoke the competitive solicitation process under either Section 402 or 403 of the District of Columbia Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-371; D.C. Official Code § 2-354.02 or 2-354.03). Accordingly, I determine that the District is justified in using the sole source method of procurement.

Date

Agency Contracting Officer