

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

**CONTRACT NO:** TBD

**CAPTION:** Academic Partnership for Epidemiological, Surveillance,  
and Public Health Science Support

**PROPOSED CONTRACTOR:** George Washington University

**PROGRAM AGENCY:** Department of Health (DC Health), HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis,  
STD & TB Administration (HAHSTA)

**FINDINGS**

**1. AUTHORIZATION:**

D.C. Official Code §2-354.04, 27 DCMR 1304, 1700 and 1701.

**2. MINIMUM NEED:**

The District of Columbia, Department of Health (DC Health) requires the Contractor to provide epidemiologic, surveillance and other public health science support; ongoing technical assistance for the District’s integrated HIV, STD, Hepatitis and TB surveillance system (hereinafter referred to as “integrated disease surveillance system”); implementation of the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) system; and other special studies.

The overall objectives of a public health/academic partnership (hereinafter referred to as “the Partnership”) are to:

- a. Enhance HIV, STD, hepatitis, and TB surveillance and epidemiology for the District of Columbia.
- b. Increase opportunities for advancing public health science, including health communications, social and behavioral studies, and other study areas.
- c. Expand, develop and implement research collaborations, including with the DC Partnership for AIDS Progress, NIH, CDC, and other funders.
- d. Implement the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) system.

It is the expectation of the Center for Disease Control, the grantor, that the Contractor be a school of public health with full accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health. The Contractor must be a member of the Association of Schools of Public Health. The academic degrees must include Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral programs and offer

practicum projects to students. The Contractor must also have a demonstrated research portfolio and research structure, such as organized research units.

**3. ESTIMATED REASONABLE PRICE:**

The estimated reasonable price is \$976,000.00

**4. FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:**

- A. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) awarded DC Health a grant in which George Washington University (GWU) was named in the grant to provide the services. GWU is the only school of public health in the District with full accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health.
- B. DC Health has maintained an academic research partnership with George Washington University School of Public Health (GWUSPH) for 13 years to receive core surveillance and comprehensive epidemiologic support, which has been rated satisfactory by the program on its performance evaluation. The partnership has benefited the District in enhancing its disease monitoring and tracking, improved the quality of the data collected, informed policies and programs for treatment and prevention of District residents, and advanced research initiatives for GWUSPH faculty and DC Health staff contributing to a more effective response to the District's epidemics.
- C. The partnership has afforded a tremendous opportunity for eligible HAHSTA staff to receive National Institutes of Health (NIH) research funding. HAHSTA partnered with GWUSPH and the other leading academic and medical institutions in the District to form the DC Center for AIDS Research (DC CFAR). The NIH funds CFARs to support early stage investigators in the field of HIV research, provides support (including pilots awards) for those researchers, and increase the level of research activity. In 2017, HAHSTA joined as a member of the DC CFAR – one of only three health departments in the nation that are members of CFARs – to participate and contribute to the strategic goals of the CFAR.
- D. This partnership/contract with GWUSPH remains essential for HAHSTA to fulfill public health responsibilities and obligations to federal funding sources. Further, the partnership/contract aims to increase the research opportunities between an accredited school of public health and the health department that will deepen the scientific knowledge of the diseases and contribute to the practical field of public health in policy and program application.
- E. A market survey was conducted and it was determined that GWU is the only school of public health in the District with full accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health.

**5. CERTIFICATION BY AGENCY HEAD:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
LaQuandra S. Nesbitt, MD, MPH  
Director, Department of Health

**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 recommend that the Chief Contracting Officer approve the use of the sole source procurement method for this proposed contract.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dorothy Hale  
Contracting Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wil Giles  
Chief Contracting Officer

**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

\_\_\_\_\_  
George A. Schutter  
Chief Procurement Officer