

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Child and Family Services Agency



CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT ADMINISTRATION

DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS FOR
A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT

CONTRACT NO.: DCRL-2014-R-0049
CAPTION: Safe Families for Children Program
PROPOSED CONTRACTOR: Lydia Home Association

FINDINGS

1. **AUTHORIZATION:**

D.C. Official Code § 2-354.04, 27 DCMR 1304 and 1702

2. **MINIMUM NEED:**

The Government of the District of Columbia, Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA), has the following minimum need:

- (a) The Government of the District of Columbia, Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) has a need to provide community based child welfare services.
- (b) CFSA has an urgent need for child welfare services in order to assist CFSA in maintaining its compliance with the LaShawn A. v. Gray Implementation Plan

3. **ESTIMATED REASONABLE PRICE:**

\$147,000.00

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

- (a) The Child and Family Services Agency, as part of the ongoing *LaShawn A v. Gray* federal litigation, is required to provide services that will enable CFSA youth to successfully transition out of the child welfare system;

- (b) Safe Families for Children is a national and distinct model that expands the community safety net by providing parents with mentoring relationships and tangible support in times of crisis by using volunteers and in most cases without child welfare involvement. Safe Families for Children believes children can be safe and well-cared for in their families if they have a network of support. Safe Families for Children efforts (Lydia) are located in 65 cities in the United States and has served 12,000 families to date. Safe Families for Children has demonstrated the unique capability to recruit and engage large numbers of local churches and volunteers to offer their support and assistance to at-risk children and families; by 1) recruiting, training and certifying volunteers, 2) identifying and providing mentors to parents, 3) providing respite or serving as a host family experiencing a crisis and 4) developing and implementing a donation resource management-collection and distribution system using state of the art technology to provide families goods and services.
- (c) Volunteer families, prompted solely by compassion, build relationships with at-risk families and can act as a mentor or open their homes to children from at-risk families. This allows parents to have peer support and the time and space to work out their problems without losing custody of their children or becoming engaged in the child welfare or juvenile justice system.
- (d) Families who opt not to become mentors or host homes have the opportunity to contribute services and goods through the use of a local and national data base that captures donations and matches the donation to the needs of families involved in Safe Families for Children.
- (e) Churches are critical partners in this model as they serve as a source of recruitment and provide support to both the biological and volunteer families and Safe Families for Children has demonstrated a unique capacity to identify, engage and educate church groups to develop and implement the Safe Families for Children model in 65 communities. This sole source contract will afford the District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency the ability to initiate this model in Washington DC. This service is consistent with the District IV Pillars of 1) Narrowing the Front Door, 2) Temporary Safe Haven, 3) Well-Being and 4) Exits to Permanency. Specifically this resource will increase community based supports for children and families and reduce the trauma associated with abuse and/or neglect and placement in foster care.

5. CERTIFICATION BY AGENCY HEAD:

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

Date

Brenda Donald
Director

CERTIFICATION BY CONTRACTING OFFICER

- 6. 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

Tara Sigamoni
Agency 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 bidding process under either Section 402 or 403 of the District of Columbia Procurement Practice 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

Tara Sigamoni
Agency Chief Contracting Officer