

1. Has this item(s) already been purchased?

No

2. Has the vendor ever been an employee of the State of Iowa?

No

3. What is the item, and what function does it serve?

Computer programming to support data exchange of mental health diagnoses and medications between Eyerly Ball Community Mental Health Services and Iowa Department of Corrections Health Services.

4. Explain why the recommended vendor is the only one qualified to provide the requested item(s) at the exclusion of all others, i.e. what makes this vendor uniquely qualified?

Eyerly Ball Community Mental Health Services worked in partnership with the Iowa Department of Corrections on the grant application for this project. They are the number one mental health provider of offenders under supervision by the district departments of correctional services, and is the number one mental health provider of offenders, exiting prison to supervision. Eyerly Ball Community Mental Health Services serves 22% of exiting state prisoners receiving supervision and mental health treatment in Des Moines. Eyerly Ball Community Mental Health Services has also participated in a statewide, interagency Reentry Information Sharing Implementation group hosted by the IJIS Institute and National Governors Association; membership on that group includes representatives from the governor's office, attorney general's office, state legislature and department of human services. Eyerly Ball has voluntarily come to the table to express interest in improving data sharing of mental health information between providers and incarcerated populations to improve coordination of reentry services for mentally ill offenders both entering and exiting the prison system. They have been uniquely willing to wade through regulations including HIPPA, 42 CFR Part 2 Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Information, and Iowa Code 228 Disclosure of Mental Health and Psychological Information. There is a current practice between this vendor and the Iowa Department of Corrections to share this information through the mail. This vendor shares the vision of more efficiently providing this information exchange technologically. This vendor also has a data provider willing to develop new protocols between provider and non-provider (Department of Corrections) databases that do not currently interface or exchange data. This vendor's data provider is also qualified and interested to develop new forms and formats for this exchange (whether it be XML or some other format to be chosen); this format does not currently have an industry standard. Given the unique and challenging issues of implementing a completely innovative process to exchange highly confidential and protected information, it would be extremely difficult to locate a mental health provider with the interest and means to participate.

5. Describe the research that has been completed to insure that no other competition exists. Provide names of vendors contacted who are unable to provide the item(s) or perform the service.

The Director of the Iowa Department of Corrections conducted his own reach-out campaign to local agencies to participate in the interagency Reentry Information Sharing Implementation group hosted by the IJIS Institute and National Governors Association. The director contacted officials with Blackhawk Grundy Mental Health in Waterloo, and Vera French Mental Health in Davenport. Blackhawk Grundy expressed interest in the project; however they were too busy to commit to the project. Vera French did not express interest in the project. Eyerly Ball Community Mental Health Services was the only provider to come to the table to discuss this project and participate in the grant application process. Please also note Eyerly Ball's data provider, Cerner, is also the data provider for most mental health providers in Iowa. Therefore, a pilot with Eyerly Ball enables a solution that may be readily replicated to share data with most mental health providers in the state.

6. Have you requested a contract with the vendor at any time during the past twelve months?

No

7. How did you determine that the vendor's price was reasonable?

The Iowa Department of Corrections, like Eyerly Ball Community Mental Health Services contracts with their own data provider for development activities. We have estimated resources required on our end to be about \$150,000. It is therefore reasonable to estimate a similar amount required for the data provider for the vendor.

8. Which of the following best describes this sole source procurement? You may select more than one.

- **One vendor is the only one qualified or eligible or is quite obviously the most qualified or eligible to provide the good.**

This vendor is not the only qualified or eligible vendor. However, it is the most qualified and eligible vendor, given their commitment to participate in this project, and the willingness of their data provider to work on innovative solutions and protocols to implement the goals of this project.

- **The procurement is of such a specialized nature or related to a specific geographic location that only a single source, by virtue of experience, expertise, proximity, or ownership of intellectual property rights, could most satisfactorily provide the good. (Must state how.)**
- **Applicable law requires, provides for, or permits use of a sole source procurement. (Must state restriction.)**
- **The federal government or other provider of funds for the goods being purchased (other than the state of Iowa) has imposed clear and specific restrictions on the use of the funds in a way that restricts the procurement to only one vendor. (Must state restriction.)**

While not specifically restricting the provider, the Federal government reviewed a grant application that included Eyerly Ball as a partner in the work to be accomplished under the grant. There remains an expectation from the Federal government that we work with this vendor.

- **The procurement is an information technology device that is systems software or an upgrade, or compatibility is the overriding consideration, or the procurement would prevent voidance or termination of a warranty, or the procurement would prevent default under a contract or other obligation. (Must state how.)**

9. Explain how this procurement fits the sole source situation(s) selected above.

This vendor shares the vision of more efficiently providing this information exchange technologically. This vendor also has a data provider willing to develop new protocols between provider and non-provider (Department of Corrections) databases that do not currently interface or exchange data. This vendor's data provider is also qualified and interested to develop new forms and formats for this exchange (whether it be XML or some other format to be chosen); this format does not currently have an industry standard. Given the unique and challenging issues of implementing a completely innovative process to exchange highly confidential and protected information, they were the only mental health provider with the interest, means and willingness to participate.

10. Please define financial impact of Approval:

\$150,000 to fund development of a data exchange between the vendor and Iowa Department of Corrections Health Services.

11. Please define financial impact of Denial:

The Iowa Department of Corrections would be unable to expend Federal funds to accomplish the goals of our grant. Doing so would jeopardize our ability to receive future grant awards. Additionally, we would be unable to carry out the expectations of the interagency Reentry Information Sharing Implementation group hosted by the IJIS Institute and National Governors Association. The nationally recognized hosts of this group have invested a significant amount of time and resources in this project, and to end this project now would mean they have lost their investment that could have been targeted to another state. These Federal entities have been searching for some time for a jurisdiction willing to tackle the difficult issues associated with this type of data sharing, as a model for how such exchanges could occur in other jurisdictions.