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May 15, 2018

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
Administration Building
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

SUBJECT: APPROVE AND SIGN A FISCAL YEAR 2019 MASTER CONTRACT WITH INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$280,000 FOR PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED AFGHAN ETHNIC AND LANGUAGE POPULATIONS IN NORTH COUNTY

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Approve and sign the attached master contract with International Rescue Committee, Inc. (Principal: Karen Ferguson, Executive Director of IRC Northern California; Location: Oakland, CA; Master Contract No. 901099; Procurement Contract No. 16426,) to provide prevention and early intervention services to unserved and underserved Afghan ethnic and language populations in north Alameda County, for the contract period of 7/1/18 – 6/30/19, in the amount of \$280,000, which has been approved as to form by County Counsel, allowing for the option to renew every year thereafter; and
- B. Authorize the County Administrator to include the associated budget adjustment as a final budget adjustment subject to adoption of the Fiscal Year 2019 budget.

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY

Your Board's approval of this new contract award with International Rescue Committee (IRC) will provide culturally sensitive prevention and early intervention mental health services to accomplish the following goals: increase access to culturally responsive, strengths-based mental health outreach, education, preventive counseling, and treatment services; build individual, community and organizational capacity, knowledge, and skills that contribute to the prevention of mental health disorders; decrease stigma and discrimination toward individuals experiencing mental health issues; prevent mental illness from becoming severe and disabling; improve timely access to related information, services and supports; and increase collaboration with community stakeholders and organizations to serve Afghan communities.

Under this program, named Afghan Path Toward Wellness, IRC will provide low-intensity preventive counseling to 40 unique clients per year. In addition IRC will host 12 events that provide education about mental health and related community resources for support to individuals experiencing mental health challenges. IRC was founded in the 1940's to assist refugees in restoring their health, safety, education, and economic wellbeing to people devastated by conflict and disaster.

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) initiated prevention and early intervention (PEI) services for unserved and underserved ethnic and language populations (UELP) in fiscal year 2010, following an extensive community input process for Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) PEI funding and the convening of an Ethnic/Language Disparities workgroup to look specifically at how to support UELP around behavioral health as directed by the MHSA Oversight and Accountability Commission.

A more recent review and evaluation of existing BHCS-contracted PEI programs to support UELP, including an analysis of client responses from the 2015 Health and Wellness Survey, indicated an increased need for linkage and access to services. The data indicated that of 547 clients, only 18 percent had previously received services through the BHCS system. BHCS acknowledges the persisting and expanding need for services in Alameda County as UELP communities experience population growth and demographic changes.

As a result, BHCS released a Request for Information (RFI) No. 17-06 on April 17, 2017 and hosted two informational meetings on April 24, 2017 in Hayward and Tuesday April 25, 2017 in Oakland to solicit additional feedback and information from potential Bidders and community members about the needs of unserved and underserved groups. Data and information collected from the review and evaluation of demographic data, existing PEI UELP programs and the Informational Meetings was used to inform programmatic changes, such as a greater emphasis on linkage to behavioral health services, and identify existing and emerging priority populations to inform the Request for Proposal (RFP).

SELECTION CRITERIA

BHCS released RFP No. 17-09 on October 9, 2017 for the provision of PEI outreach and education, mental health consultation, and preventive counseling to families and individuals of all age groups. The RFP specified that services will be offered to members of identified UELP in Alameda County. Under this RFP, 11 separate competitive bidding processes were administered to serve various UELP. This award recommendation is specific to the competitive bidding process for Afghan populations in North County. The RFP was advertised using the General Services Agency (GSA) advertising guideline by posting on the BHCS and GSA websites. In addition, a courtesy email was sent to BHCS' contracted providers and other BHCS contacts via existing email distribution lists. BHCS held two Bidders' Conferences on October 16, 2017 and October 17, 2017 with representation from over fifteen agencies.

For the competitive bidding process for the Afghan population in North County, an Evaluation Panel consisting of four subject matter experts from BHCS, Santa Clara County, and City of Oakland was conducted on January 18, 2018. The evaluation panel determined that oral interviews were not needed for this procurement process. Bidders were notified via email and certified mail of the Evaluation Panel's recommendation on January 31, 2018.

The table below summarizes the results of this RFP and the Evaluation Panel's recommendations for contract award for the competitive bidding process for the Afghan population in North County.

Bidder	Certified Small, Local or Emerging	Score
<i>International Rescue Committee, Inc. (IRC)</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>366</i>
<i>League of Education of Afghan Development (LEAD)</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>210</i>

As a non-profit, community-based organization, this provider is exempt from the requirements under the Small, Local, and Emerging Business (SLEB) Program.

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May 15, 2018

Page 3 of 3

FINANCING

Funding for these contracts include 1991 Realignment, grants, CalWORKS, Measure A, and County General funds already included in the BHCS FY 2019 budget and additional funding is provided by the Mental Health Services Act, Medi-Cal, 2011 Realignment that will be included in final budget adjustments. There is no increase in net County cost.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Colleen', written in a cursive style.

Colleen Chawla, Director
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

CC:FB/rc/tc