

Proposed Sole Source Purchases – Document 2025-04

- ***Homeless Veterans Support; for staff, materials and supplies to provide service-intensive case management to remove barriers that lead to homelessness among United States military veterans in the city of Albuquerque; this may include coordinating health care, a monthly income, employment assistance, transportation and life skills training.***

The Mid-Region Council of Governments intends to make a purchase for which it believes there is no competition. MRCOG issued RFP2025-07 and received no responses. This will be a "Sole Source" purchase made in accordance with State of New Mexico 13-1-126 NMSA 1978. The purpose of this notice is to attempt to identify possible alternatives.

How to Comment/Respond

Any potential vendor who does not agree that this product or service is available only from the intended source must contact this office within thirty (30) calendar days from the date posted.

Your response must be in writing and a description of the product or service you are offering as an equivalent must be included.

Please send your response, via e-mail by sending an email to ppino@mrcog-nm.gov. Please reference the Document Number of the Sole Source/Emergency Procurement you have interest in.

A sole source **determination** is not effective until the **sole source request for determination** has been posted for thirty (30) calendar days without challenge, and subsequently approved in writing by the MRCOG Chief Procurement Officer.

- I. Name of Agency: Mid-Region Council of Government

Agency Chief Procurement Officer: Phil Pino

Telephone Number: 505-247-1750

- II. Name of prospective Contractor: Veterans Integration Centers

Address of prospective Contractor: 2701 Mulberry St. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106

Amount of prospective contract: \$160,000.00

Term of prospective contract: For staff, materials and supplies to provide service-intensive case management to remove barriers that lead to homelessness among United States military veterans in the city of Albuquerque; this may include coordinating health care, a monthly income, employment assistance, transportation and life skills training.

- III. Please thoroughly list the services (scope of work), construction or items of tangible personal property of the prospective contract:

Response – For staff, materials and supplies to provide service-intensive case management to remove barriers that lead to homelessness among United States military veterans in the city of Albuquerque; this may include coordinating health care, a monthly income, employment assistance, transportation and life skills training.

- IV. Provide a detailed, sufficient explanation of the reasons, qualifications, proprietary rights or unique capabilities of the prospective contractor that makes the prospective contractor **the one source** capable of providing the required professional service, service, construction or item(s) of tangible personal property. (Please do not state the source is the “best” source or the “least costly” source. Those factors do not justify a “sole source.”)

Response – MRCOG publicly solicited the appropriation in RFP No. 2025-07. The RFP was posted on the MRCOG and Rio Metro website on September 11th, 2024, and closed October 11th, 2024. The RFP was advertised in the Albuquerque Journal, Valencia County Bulletin, and Rio Rancho Observer. The appropriation received zero responses. MRCOG reached out to the sponsor of the appropriation and was informed of the intent of the appropriation. Due to the lack of responses to the RFP, legislative language listed in Section III, and after discussion with the Legislator on their intention of the appropriation, it has been concluded that the funds should be directed to Veterans Integration Center, which has the capacity and expertise to fulfill the duties of the appropriation.

- V. Provide a detailed, sufficient explanation of how the professional service, service, construction or

item(s) of tangible personal property is/are **unique and how this uniqueness is substantially related to the intended purpose of the contract.**

Response – Due to the legislative language listed in Section III and after discussion with the Legislator on their intention of the appropriation, it has been concluded that the funds should be directed to the Veterans Integration Center.

VI. Explain why other similar professional services, services, construction or item(s) of tangible personal property **cannot** meet the intended purpose of the contract.

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VII. Provide a narrative description of the agency’s due diligence in determining the basis for the procurement, including procedures used by the agency to conduct a review of available sources such as researching trade publications, industry newsletters and the internet; reviewing telephone books and other advertisements; contacting similar service providers; and reviewing the State Purchasing Agent’s vendor list. Include a list of businesses contacted (**do not state that no other businesses were contacted**), date of contact, method of contact (telephone, mail, e-mail, other), and documentation demonstrating an explanation of why those businesses could not or would not, under any circumstances, perform the contract; or an explanation of why the agency has determined that no businesses other than the prospective contractor can perform the contract.

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Certified by:

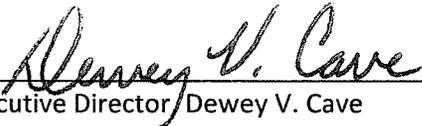
Date: 11-1-2024



Chief Procurement Officer

Agency Approval by:

Date: 11-1-2024



Executive Director Dewey V. Cave



*Supporting Veteran Families
"Beyond the Battlefield"
Since 2005*

October 22, 2024

To: Mid-Region Council of Governments
809 Copper Ave NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Re: Sole source justification for the Veterans Integration Centers

Dear Mid-Region Council of Governments:

We greatly appreciate the work you do and for stepping up to act as a fiscal agent for the new GRO Fund process established by New Mexico Legislature. It was the full intent of the Veterans Integration Centers to submit for the RFP that was previously released, as these were funds that we advocated for during the 2024 Legislative session. However, due to some confusion on our end, we inadvertently missed the deadline for submission.

We believe that the VIC should be considered as a sole source provider for the funds outlined in the appropriation: **For staff, materials and supplies to provide service-intensive case management to remove barriers that lead to homelessness among United States military veterans in the city of Albuquerque; this may include coordinating health care, a monthly income, employment assistance, transportation and life skills training.**

The Veterans Integration Center's Mission is "To enable Veterans and their families to achieve stable housing, financial security, and a renewed sense of community." The Veterans Integration Centers (VIC) has been providing Veterans and their family members housing and reintegration services since 2005 in Bernalillo County.

There is no other organization within the State of New Mexico that is currently providing Transitional Housing to Homeless Veterans and their families. The VIC is the only company in New Mexico that provides both transitional housing services and wrap around services to Veterans and their family members. The VIC is one of the few agencies in the United States that operates under two major VA grants: The Grant Per Diem (GPD) program which supports the VIC's transitional housing program, and the Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families (SSVF) program which provides Service Intensive Case Management, Outreach, Homeless Prevention, Rapid Rehousing and Emergency Housing.

The VIC also offers behavioral health, substance abuse service, employment assistance, educational support, transportation and life skills support to the Veterans and families in our care. In addition, the VIC operates a food pantry and a donation center. All of these services combined are considered "wrap around services".

Headquarters
1301-1 Ortiz Drive SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108
P: 505-269-0800
F: 505-266-2609

Central Office
13032 Central Avenue SE
Albuquerque, NM 87123
P: 505-296-0800
F: 505-266-2609

Brandon Tree Office
1335-3 Ortiz Drive SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108
P: 505-265-0512
F: 505-332-8092

Alamogordo Office
1900 23rd Street
Alamogordo, NM 88310
P: 575-551-6659
F: 505-266-2609



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Due to the VIC's nearly 20 years of experience in the field, the VA and the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services considers the VIC to be the leading expert within the State of New Mexico when it comes to providing services to the homeless Veteran population. The New Mexico Legislature, Bernalillo County and the City of Albuquerque have also recognized the VIC as the premier provider of Veteran services and have relied on the VIC to provide the services outlined in the Legislative appropriation listed above.

The GPD Transitional Housing Program has just opened a new state of the art Veteran Campus which offers 42 individual Veteran housing units (with the capacity to serve up to 6 Veteran families). An 8,000 Sq. ft. addition will be completed in the Spring of 2025 which will bring our Supportive Services onto the new Campus. This facility will allow us to expand the services we currently offer to drive better treatment outcomes. The interventions provided by the VIC fill several gaps in the current system including in the area behavioral health continuum of care. All of these specific interventions allow the VIC the ability to build a supportive housing center and community-like campus for Veterans and their families, assisting them to move from the street to transitional housing and eventually to permanent housing with on-site wrap around services for a one stop shop model.

The VIC employs several Case Managers, along with a Licensed Clinician, who are accustomed to working with the homeless Veteran population. We also have a supportive staff, with 24-hour coverage, 7-days out of the week. With the inputs from the Veterans themselves, the VIC Case Management creates unique Individual Service Plans (ISPs) with each client. The ISP is a living document that is used to track the progression of each of the clients who are participating in a VIC housing program.

For all the reasons cited above, we strongly believe that the VIC should qualify as a sole source for this funding from the Legislature through the Midwest Region Council of Governments.

Please let us know if there is any other information we can provide to assist in this funding decision. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brock Wolff, JD
Chief Executive Officer
Veterans Integration Centers (VIC)
2115 Wyoming Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112
P: 505-296-0800
brock.wolff@nmvic.us
www.nmvic.org

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1301-1 Ortiz Drive SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108
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