May 17, 2022

The Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC), contemplates awarding a sole source contract to PLHARDYMAN, LLC to update, design and develop four classification models for DOC.

DOC currently classifies incarcerated adult felons on a model that was initiated in 1982 and most recently updated in 1989. This model, originally designed and implemented under a grant from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), is now 33 years old and is sorely out of date. It was designed for incarcerated male felons and requires the use of manual custody overrides to keep pace with the radical change in the field of corrections over the decades. The model also scores incarcerated adult females the same as males, despite an immense body of research indicating that females should be classified on a gender responsive/specific model due to their specific needs and risks, as well as the unique characteristics surrounding their involvement in the criminal justice system.

DOC has known for nearly two decades that incarcerated females are over-classified, a fact validated by expert consultants, which results in females being classified and housed in appropriately higher custody levels, thereby neglecting their unique and specific needs for gender-responsive treatment and programming to effectively meet their needs toward DOC’s mission of reducing recidivism.

DOC is requesting to provide a sole source contract to PLHARDYMAN, LLC, the business of Dr. Patricia Hardyman, a nationally recognized expert, to evaluate, validate and make recommendations for revising the current model and for the development of a new classification model specific to the unique attributes of female prison population, the Washington State’s correctional system and DOC’s mission to increase public safety and reduce recidivism. Dr. Hardyman has authored both prison classification model volumes through NIC for prison and jail systems to follow. She has evaluated, validated, designed or developed adult male and female, as well as juvenile, models in 28 states, the U.S. Navy, and 6 of the nation’s largest county or city jail systems. Dr. Hardyman is a national expert in the extremely specialized field of evaluating current prison classification models, and designing and validating new models. She specializes in designing gender-responsive classification models. She has a significant familiarity with DOC and evaluated DOC’s classification model in 2017.

DOC will enter into a ONE (1) YEAR contract with PLHARDYMAN, LLC. The contract will be issued on or after June 1, 2022 and will continue for ONE (1) YEAR as initial term. The cost of this ONE (1) year contract is $134,994.

By 5 PM PST May 25, 2022, vendors contemplating the above needs and requirements must submit a capability statement. The following must be included in the vendor’s capability statement:
(1) Vendor qualifications and experience including a list of current and past clients;

(2) Experience, if any, working with state agencies to evaluate current prison classification models, and design and validate new models, including designing, developing and updating gender-responsive classification models; and

(3) Cost estimates.

In the absence of other qualified sources, it is the state’s intent to make a sole source award of the contract. To submit a capability statement or for questions, contact:

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