

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
SOLE SOURCE ADVERTISEMENT**

The Office of Financial Management contemplates awarding a sole source contract to Joplin Consulting for a period commencing upon signing and through December 31, 2016. This contract would use Joplin Consulting to study the status of jail diversion opportunities for individuals with mental illness in Washington State. Specifically, the consultant will assess:

- What jail diversion programs are in place in Washington State to divert individuals with mental illness from jails?
- What jail diversion models are in place nationally to divert individuals with mental illness from jails?
- What is the evidence regarding the effectiveness of these jail diversion models in terms of decreasing justice system involvement and/or hospital stays?
- What are the legal, financial, or other barriers that affect the ability of Washington State, its local government agencies (law enforcement, jails, probation, etc.), and its mental health systems to divert individuals with mental illness from jails?
- How do Washington State's approved and/or pending Medicaid waivers and other Medicaid rules affect local jurisdictions' ability to leverage Medicaid funding for jail diversion programs?
- What policies and practices have other states put into place to leverage Medicaid funding for jail diversion programs?
- What changes would support enhanced Medicaid funding for the diversion of individuals with mental illness from jails in Washington State?

The Office of Financial Management and the Governor's Office oversee the internal and external contracting agencies that now deliver mental health services for Medicaid and other targeted populations. The 2010 implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has implications for justice-involved individuals who have a mental illness. Specifically, the ACA included provisions for the expansion of the Medicaid-eligible population to include all adults below a specified income threshold, and it required that insurance plans treat mental health and substance use disorder benefits on equal

footing as medical and surgical benefits (i.e., with parity). This made many individuals involved with the criminal justice system eligible for Medicaid coverage for the first time, such that, in theory, their behavioral health needs could be treated. In fact, in Washington State, the number of people entering jail who are, or recently have been, enrolled in Medicaid increased from 31 percent in 2013 to 58 percent through September 2014, and this trend is expected to continue.

Still, six years after implementation of the ACA, despite funding availability, there continue to be structural, capacity, and system inefficiencies that serve as major barriers to delivering behavioral health treatment to people in jail who have mental health treatment needs. Reducing such barriers could expand opportunities to divert individuals with mental illness from the criminal justice system.

The state believes that Joplin Consulting has unique skills to assess and recommend how best to reduce barriers and divert individuals with mental illness from the criminal justice system for the following reasons:

- Joplin Consulting employs a staff person who possesses over twenty years of experience managing complex projects and facilitating collaborative mapping and planning processes. Specifically, this staff person has served as Director of Programs at the Center for Evidence-based Policy at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) where she had a lead role in the Medicaid Evidence-based Decisions Project and the Drug Effectiveness Review Project. Prior to OHSU, she served as National Director of Policy and Planning at the Crime and Justice Institute where the focus was on implementing evidence-based practices in state and local criminal justice systems. Having both a state and local criminal justice system expertise coupled with Medicaid funding expertise demonstrates that Joplin Consulting has both the breadth and depth needed to understand how to reduce unnecessary jail utilization in Washington State.
- The nexus between mental health and jails is an environment of very complex laws, rules, and administrative units. Immediate attention is required to address increasing mental health needs and the impact on the criminal justice system. Joplin Consulting has the experience and knowledge needed to immediately assess the system and make recommendations in short order.

The Contract will be issued on or about August 24, 2016.

Vendors who believe they possess the same experience and capabilities, and meet the same requirements as Joplin Consulted, are required to submit capability statements detailing their ability to meet the state's requirements within five (5) business days of this announcement. In the absence of other qualified sources, it is the state's intent to make a sole source award of the contract.

For more information, contact:

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