

2016
Request for Waiver of Bid Procurement

- I. Program Description and Current Operations: Deaf / Hard of Hearing Services
- Name of Service Provider currently under contract: *Access to Independence*
- Name of Contract Manager: *Fran Genter/Beth Freeman*
- Division: *Adult Community Services*
- Current Contract Total: *\$37,711*

The county purchases from Access to Independence .60FTE position to provide specialized case management services to low-income Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals. The case manager is deaf and visually impaired. Access to Independence assigns her a sign language interpreter when she is visiting Deaf consumers in their own homes. The case management services offered include, but are not limited to information and assistance, assessment, care planning and on-going support. The average caseload size is 40 individuals. The case manager also organizes informational meetings, workshops and social opportunities for deaf individuals to interact with each other. The case manager is a member of the Madison Association for the Deaf, and she works cooperatively with public housing, the state's Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Visually Impaired, public schools and community health organizations.

- II. Chapter 25 of Dane County Ordinance codifies the County's purchasing and contracting process. Included in this chapter, 25.11(20) allows for exceptions to the competitive bidding process for a variety of reasons.

 X **Only one vendor possesses the unique and singularly available ability to meet the Department's requirements.**

- III. State your rationale for request for waiver. Please be specific.

Exemption requested for the following reasons:

1. Due to the communication barriers, people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing have trouble accessing basic services because most agencies and businesses do not readily have available sign language interpreters, do not have staff that are deaf or hard of hearing and are not familiar with Deaf culture. The county began purchasing case management services for this population from Access to Independence in the mid-1990s.
2. Deaf and Hard of Hearing case management services are an extremely unique service. Access to Independence is skilled in serving this vulnerable population. Deaf and Hard of Hearing consumers trust Access to Independence and its staff. To require consumers to transition to a new provider would be difficult and potentially traumatic for consumers who have established relationships.
3. Access to Independence's Deaf and Hard of Hearing program is a sole source provider. There are no other agencies in the county offering case management services specifically designed for Deaf adults.