

From: Sheets, Mike - Purchasing
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:15 PM
To: Rosen, Bryan D <Bryan.D.Rosen@wv.gov>; Whittaker, Frank M <Frank.M.Whittaker@wv.gov>
Cc: Wagner, Roberta A <Roberta.A.Wagner@wv.gov>; Dorsey, Theresa J <Theresa.J.Dorsey@wv.gov>; Price, Robert L <Robert.L.Price@wv.gov>
Subject: RE: Emergency Purchase Letter

Bryan,

Your emergency request is approved for a period of six months. Please follow emergency purchasing procedures as found in the Handbook and follow up with documentation within 30 days.

Regards,
Mike

W. Michael Sheets
Director
WV Purchasing Division
2019 Washington Street, East
Charleston, WV 25305

Phone: (304) 558-0492
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From: Rosen, Bryan D <Bryan.D.Rosen@wv.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 11:36 AM
To: Sheets, Mike - Purchasing <William.M.Sheets@wv.gov>; Whittaker, Frank M <Frank.M.Whittaker@wv.gov>
Cc: Wagner, Roberta A <Roberta.A.Wagner@wv.gov>; Dorsey, Theresa J <Theresa.J.Dorsey@wv.gov>; Price, Robert L <Robert.L.Price@wv.gov>
Subject: FW: Emergency Purchase Letter

Mike/Frank, please see the attached emergency purchase request for a statewide ride-sharing transportation system and a ride-booking platform. The State is experiencing an opioid epidemic. The services will be used to get clients treatment and training in conjunction with a program initiated by WorkForce WV. We are requesting a 6 month emergency purchase so that these vital services can begin while we solicit for a formal long term contract. The maximum annual budget is \$4M.

I encourage your approval of this request.

Bryan



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Bill J. Crouch
Cabinet Secretary

Robert H. Hansen
Director

July 11, 2019

Bryan Rosen
Director of Purchasing
DHHR Deputy Secretary Director of Administration
One Davis Square, Suite 100, East
Charleston, WV 25301

Re: *Verification for Emergency Purchase*

Mr. Rosen,

The purpose of this letter is to substantiate cause for the emergency purchase of a statewide ride-sharing transportation system and a ride-booking platform that will be needed by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) to serve participants of the Governor's initiative, Jobs and Hope WV.

Our state is in crisis and hope for the future is a key factor to stemming the cycle of substance use disorders. In January of 2019, Governor Jim Justice announced in the State of the State address, his strategy to make a positive impact on the state's problem with substance use disorders in a plan titled, Jim's Dream. This initiative is now called Jobs and Hope WV and is quickly becoming a reality. This is a beginning-to-end program that allows an individual who has received substance use disorder treatment and recovery services to also receive free vocational training and career and technical education. All West Virginians are eligible to receive free additional training and certification whether they have a substance use disorder or not.

The ODCP has been tasked with the implementation of this initiative, in partnership with the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) and Workforce WV. The WVDE has recently hired 11 Transition Agents as liaisons to work with treatment and recovery providers on referring participants and linking them to education and career employment. These Transition Agents have already completed initial training and are now "boots on the ground" as of July 15, 2019 in all seven WorkForce WV regions. They have received 20 referrals to date.

The population of WV is about 1.8M but our current labor participation rate is staggeringly low at 754,000 (WorkForce WV, June 2019). It is the strong belief, this is due to the numerous barriers that West Virginians face when seeking employment. The ODCP's priority lies in eliminating the existing barriers to education and employment. One of the identified and more daunting obstacles

is transportation, particularly for people living in rural areas where public transportation does not exist. With more than half of our state's population living in rural areas, transportation is a cross-cutting issue for many initiatives, including Jobs and Hope WV. Since Transition Agents have begun working, we anticipate they will require transportation services for participants as soon as possible. By having a contract in place no later than August 1, 2019, we anticipate that transportation services could then begin on September 1, 2019.

In the event that Transition Agents do not have these critical services available, the program will be inoperable in any area where transportation is required yet unavailable. Participants of the Jobs and Hope WV program must be able to get to WorkForce WV offices, vocational training, community and technical colleges, and most importantly, career employment which is the overarching goal of the entire program. This is the foundation of the Jobs and Hope WV program outlined by Governor Justice in his state of the state address.

Given that it is such a short time frame and pursuant of an aggressive launch date, an emergency purchase is not only necessary but the failure to provide these services is a failure to carry out the program as outlined in Jim's Dream. The ODCP has set aside \$4 Million for the transportation line item in the budget for Jobs and Hope WV. This is a vital service that must occur for West Virginians to be successful and that is reflected in the generous budget.

In conclusion, ODCP is the requesting a source who can immediately begin serving the Jobs and Hope WV participants. This project is time sensitive and a passion of the Governor of our great state. It is in the best interest of our state and its people to begin serving people and provide the hope that has been missing and so desperately needed.

Should you have any questions or need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Hansen
Director