**Date:** 11/01/2024

**Re: Inclusive Housing First Evaluation**

Solace is excited to invite bidders to quote for the evaluation of our expanded Inclusive Housing First model, as described in the service requirements and outline below.

**Contract Value:**

* Up to £10,000

 **Indicative timetable:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Indicative Deadline** |
| Close of Clarification Questions(please submit questions to *fundraising@solacewomensaid.org*) | 22/01/2024 |
| Clarifications Responded to | 24/01/2024 |
| **Submission Deadline****(please send completed quote to** [*r.goshawk@solacewomensaid.org*](http://r.goshawk@solacewomensaid.org) **)** | **26/01/2024** |
| Confirmation of Award | 02/02/2024 |
| **Contract Start Date** | **TBC - ASAP upon confirmation award** |

**Your quote should comprise the following documents:**

* Bidder’s Contact Details
* Completed Proposal
* Completed Budget
* Signed Form of Quotation
* Any other information that you consider necessary for us to appraise your quotation.

Solace Women’s Aid is not bound to accept the lowest or any quote submitted in response to this invitation. Solace also reserves the right to accept all or any part of an offer and, if necessary, establish trading arrangements with more than one supplier.

Your quote should remain open for acceptance for a period of 30 days from the closing date.

Applicants will be notified of the award decision as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Queries and responses will, if applicable, be circulated to all organisations acknowledging their intention to quote. The identity of the raiser will be withheld.

Regards,

**Rebecca Goshawk**

**Head of Partnerships and Public Affairs**

**Invitation to Quote for a bespoke evaluation of Solace and Hopscotch's Inclusive Housing First Project**

**1. Background**

**What is Solace's Housing First Project?**

Solace's award-winning (2021 London Homelessness Awards) Housing First project has been running successfully in Westminster and Islington since 2019, supporting the most vulnerable women in London experiencing multiple disadvantage (including rough sleeping, domestic abuse and substance misuse). We know domestic abuse can be a direct cause of homelessness, with survivors fleeing accommodation to find safety, compounded by other complex needs including mental health needs and substance misuse, creating further barriers to finding and sustaining accommodation. The Domestic Abuse Act has given automatic priority to survivors of domestic abuse making homelessness applications; however Solace research has highlighted that women still face 'gatekeeping' from housing officers, preventing survivors from accessing accommodation. This is further compounded by a lack of suitable properties and housing benefit lagging behind market rental rates.

To address this, Solace delivers a Housing First service, supporting women to access and maintain long-term secure accommodation through trauma-informed emotional, holistic, and practical support (e.g., legal services, finances, benefits). There are no conditions around 'housing readiness' prior to providing a home; rather, the principles of Housing First promote secure housing as a stable platform from which other issues can be addressed. With this in mind, Solace provides a package of move-on support which includes white goods, furniture and items for wellbeing when women secure a tenancy, increasing the likelihood of continued engagement of resettlement support and reducing the chances of relapse or return to street homelessness.

**Rationale for Research**

Whilst Housing First has the potential to significantly address homelessness in survivors, it has disproportionately supported white people. Solace’s Westminster service data indicates 80% of service users are white, while nationally 89% of service users accessing Housing First services are white. This highlights the need for more evidence and understanding of Black and minoritised women’s experiences of long-term homelessness and the barriers they face to accessing Housing First. It is likely that systemic discrimination alongside additional complex needs, including no recourse to public funds / insecure immigration status, contribute to housing challenges.

Additional funding was secured in November 2023 through the Oak Foundation to expand our Housing First project in partnership with Hopscotch to enable targeted outreach to Black and minoritised women who are currently underserved by the existing provision.

The evaluation will analyse the new inclusive model to assess performance, process, and impact.

**2. Service Requirements & Methodology**

We seek an academic or consultancy partner to deliver an evaluation of our Inclusive Housing First Project. The evaluation will take place alongside the project delivery, **starting in February/March 2024**. A mixed method evaluation is required utilising both quantitative and qualitative data. Expected reporting will include:

* An Interim Report, completed within 6 months of project start.
* Annual reports.
* A Final Report, completed after the project term (36 months).

The main aims of the research are to provide insight into:

* The delivery model.
* How our approach addresses the particular needs of Black and minoritised women within the context of homelessness and the Housing First model.
* How service users move through the service and how outcomes are met.
* Process: How has the service been implemented? Is the service operating as intended? What are the views of those who use or deliver the service? Key learning and good practice, the strength of partnership working with Hopscotch, challenges experienced and suggestions for improvement.
* Performance and impact: What has the service delivered and to whom? How effective is the service and are the service standards being met? Is the service delivering its intended outcomes?
* What added value does the Inclusive Housing First project bring to the partnership and how is this demonstrated?

Solace will provide the awarded contractor with a list of key contacts and information to facilitate this research.

**3. Equality Statement**

Solace Women’s Aid values diversity, promotes equality and challenges discrimination. We encourage and welcome applications from people of all backgrounds. We particularly welcome applicants from black minority and ethnic, disabled and LBT evaluators. This service is run by women for women and therefore we will only consider female applicants under the Equality Act 2010, Schedule 9, and Part 1. Section 7(2) e of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 applies.

**4. Proposal Requirements & Budget**

Please outline your proposal in an attached word document. This should include:

* Demonstrating your understanding of the project at hand and your experience in delivering similar projects.
* Outlining your proposed evaluation model, including quantitative and qualitative research approaches.
* Associated timeframes, in-line with project requirements and timeframes.
* A proposed budget including day rates and any other associated non-staff costs.

**Please keep the proposal to a maximum of 4 sides of A4 (including budget), with no embedded documents.**

**5. Evaluation Criteria**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  **Criteria** | **Section score (maximum available) as %** |
| Value for Money | 20 |
| Quality | 80 |

The evaluation will be carried out by an evaluation panel, assessing the bidder's ability to deliver the project for the indicative budget, and within the proposed timeframes, whilst demonstrating the greatest value for money and appropriate evaluation approach(es).

**FORM OF QUOTATION**

**Bidder’s Contact Details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Contact name |  |
| Contact's position |  |
| Contact's telephone number |  |
| Contact’s email address |  |
| Are you aware of any potential conflict of interest |  |
| If yes, please explain |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Signature**  | **Date** |
| **Print Name**  | **Position** |
| **Organisation Name**  |  |

**If this form is not returned, your submission may not be put forward for evaluation.**