



State of Oklahoma
Office of Management and Enterprise Services
Central Purchasing Division

Solicitation

1. Solicitation #:

2. Solicitation Issue Date:

3. Brief Description of Requirement:

4. Response Due Date¹:

Time: 3:00 PM CST/CDT

5. Issued By and RETURN SEALED BID TO:

Personal or Common Carrier Delivery:

Office of Management and Enterprise Services
Central Purchasing Division
Will Rogers Building
2401 N. Lincoln Blvd, Suite 116,
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

U.S. Postal Delivery:

Office of Management and Enterprise Services
Central Purchasing Division
P.O. Box 528803,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152-8803

6. Solicitation Type (check one below):

- ☐ Invitation to Bid
☐ Request for Proposal
☐ Request for Quote

7. Requesting Agency:

8. Contracting Officer:

Name:

Phone: (405)

Email:

¹ Amendments to solicitation may change the Response Due Date (read CP GENERAL PROVISIONS, section 3, "Solicitation Amendments")



State of Oklahoma
Office of Management and Enterprise Services
Central Purchasing Division

Responding Bidder Information

"Certification for Competitive Bid and Contract" **MUST** be submitted along with the response to the Solicitation.

1. RE: Solicitation # _____

2. Bidder General Information:

FEI / SSN : _____

VEN ID: _____

Company Name: _____

3. Bidder Contact Information:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Title: _____

Phone #: _____ FAX#: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

4. Oklahoma Sales Tax Permit²:

☐ YES – Permit #: _____

☐ NO – Exempt pursuant to Oklahoma Laws or Rules

5. Registration with the Oklahoma Secretary of State:

☐ YES - Filing Number: _____

☐ NO - Prior to the contract award, the successful bidder will be required to register with the Secretary of State or must attach a signed statement that provides specific details supporting the exemption the supplier is claiming (www.sos.ok.gov or 405-521-3911).

6. Workers' Compensation Insurance Coverage:

Bidder is required to provide with the bid a certificate of insurance showing proof of compliance with the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Act.

☐ YES – include a certificate of insurance with the bid

☐ NO - attach a signed statement that provides specific details supporting the exemption you are claiming from the Workers' Compensation Act (Note: Pursuant to Attorney General Opinion #07-8, the exemption from 85 O.S. 2011, § 311 applies only to employers who are natural persons, such as sole proprietors, and does not apply to employers who are entities created by law, including but not limited to corporations, partnerships and limited liability companies.)³

Authorized Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title

² For frequently asked questions concerning Oklahoma Sales Tax Permit, see <http://www.tax.ok.gov/faq/faqbussales.html>

³ For frequently asked questions concerning workers' compensation insurance, see <http://www.ok.gov/oid/faqs.html#c221>



**State of Oklahoma
Office of Management and Enterprise Services
Central Purchasing Division**

**Certification for Competitive
Bid and/or Contract
(Non-Collusion Certification)**

NOTE: A certification shall be included with any competitive bid and/or contract exceeding \$5,000.00 submitted to the State for goods or services.

Solicitation or Purchase Order #: _____

Supplier Legal Name: _____

SECTION I [74 O.S. § 85.22]:

A. For purposes of competitive bid,

1. I am the duly authorized agent of the above named bidder submitting the competitive bid herewith, for the purpose of certifying the facts pertaining to the existence of collusion among bidders and between bidders and state officials or employees, as well as facts pertaining to the giving or offering of things of value to government personnel in return for special consideration in the letting of any contract pursuant to said bid;
2. I am fully aware of the facts and circumstances surrounding the making of the bid to which this statement is attached and have been personally and directly involved in the proceedings leading to the submission of such bid; and
3. Neither the bidder nor anyone subject to the bidder's direction or control has been a party:
 - a. to any collusion among bidders in restraint of freedom of competition by agreement to bid at a fixed price or to refrain from bidding,
 - b. to any collusion with any state official or employee as to quantity, quality or price in the prospective contract, or as to any other terms of such prospective contract, nor
 - c. in any discussions between bidders and any state official concerning exchange of money or other thing of value for special consideration in the letting of a contract, nor
 - d. to any efforts or offers with state agency or political subdivision officials or others to create a sole brand acquisition or a sole source acquisition in contradiction to 74 O.S. 85.45j.1.

B. I certify, if awarded the contract, whether competitively bid or not, neither the contractor nor anyone subject to the contractor's direction or control has paid, given or donated or agreed to pay, give or donate to any officer or employee of the State of Oklahoma any money or other thing of value, either directly or indirectly, in procuring this contract herein.

SECTION II [74 O.S. § 85.42]:

For the purpose of a contract for services, the supplier also certifies that no person who has been involved in any manner in the development of this contract while employed by the State of Oklahoma shall be employed by the supplier to fulfill any of the services provided for under said contract.

The undersigned, duly authorized agent for the above named supplier, by signing below acknowledges this certification statement is executed for the purposes of:

☐ the competitive bid attached herewith and contract, if awarded to said supplier;

OR

☐ the contract attached herewith, which was not competitively bid and awarded by the agency pursuant to applicable Oklahoma statutes.

Supplier Authorized Signature

Certified This Date

Printed Name

Title

Phone Number

Email

Fax Number

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A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A.1. Definitions

As used herein, the following terms shall have the following meaning unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- A.1.1. "Acquisition" means items, products, materials, supplies, services, and equipment a state agency acquires by purchase, lease purchase, lease with option to purchase, or rental pursuant to the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act;
- A.1.2. "Bid" means an offer in the form of a bid, proposal, or quote a bidder submits in response to a solicitation;
- A.1.3. "Bidder" means an individual or business entity that submits a bid in response to a solicitation;
- A.1.4. "Solicitation" means a request or invitation by the State Purchasing Director or a state agency for a supplier to submit a priced offer to sell acquisitions to the state. A solicitation may be an invitation to bid, request for proposal, or a request for quotation; and
- A.1.5. "Supplier" or "vendor" means an individual or business entity that sells or desires to sell acquisitions to state agencies.

A.2. Bid Submission

- A.2.1. Submitted bids shall be in strict conformity with the instructions to bidders and shall be submitted with a completed Responding Bidder Information, OMES-FORM-CP-076, and any other forms required by the solicitation.
- A.2.2. Bids shall be submitted to the Central Purchasing Division in a single envelope, package, or container and shall be sealed, unless otherwise detailed in the solicitation. The name and address of the bidder shall be inserted in the upper left corner of the single envelope, package, or container. SOLICITATION NUMBER AND SOLICITATION RESPONSE DUE DATE AND TIME MUST APPEAR ON THE FACE OF THE SINGLE ENVELOPE, PACKAGE, OR CONTAINER.
- A.2.3. The required certification statement, "Certification for Competitive Bid and/or Contract (Non-Collusion Certification)", OMES-FORM-CP-004, must be made out in the name of the bidder and must be properly executed by an authorized person, with full knowledge and acceptance of all its provisions.
- A.2.4. All bids shall be legible and completed in ink or with electronic printer or other similar office equipment. Any corrections to bids shall be identified and initialed in ink by the bidder. Penciled bids and penciled corrections shall NOT be accepted and will be rejected as non-responsive. In addition to a hard copy submittal, the bidder will also be required to submit an electronic copy. Electronic responses must be submitted in the identical format contained in the solicitation (for example Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, but not Adobe PDF). In the event the hard copy of the price worksheets and electronic copy of the price worksheets do not agree, the electronic copy will prevail.
- A.2.5. All bids submitted shall be subject to the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act, Central Purchasing Rules, and other statutory regulations as applicable, these General Provisions, any Special Provisions, solicitation specifications, required certification statement, and all other terms and conditions listed or attached herein—all of which are made part of this solicitation.

A.3. Solicitation Amendments

- A.3.1. If an "Amendment of Solicitation", OMES-FORM-CP-011, is issued, the bidder shall acknowledge receipt of any/all amendment(s) to solicitations by signing and returning the solicitation amendment(s). Amendment acknowledgement(s) may be submitted with the bid or may be forwarded separately. If forwarded separately, amendment acknowledgement(s) must contain the solicitation number and response due date and time on the front of the envelope. The Central Purchasing Division must receive the amendment acknowledgement(s) by the response due date and time specified for receipt of bids for the bid to be deemed responsive. Failure to acknowledge solicitation amendments may be grounds for rejection.
- A.3.2. No oral statement of any person shall modify or otherwise affect the terms, conditions, or specifications stated in the solicitation. All amendments to the solicitation shall be made in writing by the Central Purchasing Division.
- A.3.3. It is the Bidder's responsibility to check the OMES/Central Purchasing Division website frequently for any possible amendments that may be issued. The Central Purchasing Division is not responsible for a bidder's failure to download any amendment documents required to complete a solicitation.

A.4. Bid Change

If the bidder needs to change a bid prior to the solicitation response due date, a new bid shall be submitted to the Central Purchasing Division with the following statement "This bid supersedes the bid previously submitted" in a single envelope, package, or container and shall be sealed, unless otherwise detailed in the solicitation. The name and address of the bidder shall be inserted in the upper left corner of the single envelope, package, or container. SOLICITATION NUMBER AND SOLICITATION RESPONSE DUE DATE AND TIME MUST APPEAR ON THE FACE OF THE SINGLE ENVELOPE, PACKAGE, OR CONTAINER.

A.5. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters

By submitting a response to this solicitation:

- A.5.1. The prospective primary participant and any subcontractor certifies to the best of their knowledge and belief, that they and their principals or participants:
 - A.5.1.1. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by any Federal, State or local department or agency;
 - A.5.1.2. Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or pled guilty or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) contract; or for violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - A.5.1.3. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State, or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph A.5.1.2. of this certification; and
 - A.5.1.4. Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public (Federal, State, or local) contracts terminated for cause or default.
- A.5.2. Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to its solicitation response.

A.6. Bid Opening

Sealed bids shall be opened by the Central Purchasing Division at the Will Rogers Building, 2401 N. Lincoln Blvd. First Floor, Suite 116, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73105 at the time and date specified in the solicitation as Response Due Date and Time.

A.7. Open Bid / Open Record

Pursuant to the Oklahoma Public Open Records Act, a public bid opening does not make the bid(s) immediately accessible to the public. The procurement or contracting agency shall keep the bid(s) confidential, and provide prompt and reasonable access to the records only after a contract is awarded or the solicitation is cancelled. This practice protects the integrity of the competitive bid process and prevents excessive disruption to the procurement process. The interest of achieving the best value for the State of Oklahoma outweighs the interest of vendors immediately knowing the contents of competitor's bids. [51 O.S. § 24A.5(5)]

Additionally, financial or proprietary information submitted by a bidder may be designated by the Purchasing Director as confidential and the procurement entity may reject all requests to disclose information designated as confidential pursuant to 62 O.S. (2012) § 34.11.1(H)(2) and 74 O.S. (2011) § 85.10. Bidders claiming any portion of their bid as proprietary or confidential must specifically identify what documents or portions of documents they consider confidential and identify applicable law supporting their claim of confidentiality. The State Purchasing Director shall make the final decision as to whether the documentation or information is confidential pursuant to 74 O.S. § 85.10. Otherwise, documents and information a bidder submits as part of or in connection with a bid are public records and subject to disclosure after contract award or the solicitation is cancelled.

A.8. Late Bids

Bids received by the Central Purchasing Division after the response due date and time shall be deemed non-responsive and shall NOT be considered for any resultant award.

A.9. Legal Contract

- A.9.1. Submitted bids are rendered as a legal offer and any bid, when accepted by the Central Purchasing Division, shall constitute a contract.
- A.9.2. The Contract resulting from this solicitation may consist of the following documents in order of preference:
 - A.9.2.1. Purchase order, as amended by Change Order (if applicable);
 - A.9.2.2. Solicitation, as amended (if applicable); and
 - A.9.2.3. Successful bid (including required certifications), to the extent the bid does not conflict with the requirements of the solicitation or applicable law.

A.9.3. Any contract(s) awarded pursuant to the solicitation shall be legibly written or typed.

A.10. Pricing

A.10.1. Bids shall remain firm for a minimum of sixty (60) days from the solicitation closing date.

A.10.2. Bidders guarantee unit prices to be correct.

A.10.3. In accordance with 74 O.S. §85.40, ALL travel expenses to be incurred by the supplier in performance of the Contract shall be included in the total bid price/contract amount.

A.11. Manufacturers' Name and Approved Equivalents

Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation, manufacturers' names, brand names, information and/or catalog numbers listed in a specification are for information and not intended to limit competition. Bidder may offer any brand for which they are an authorized representative, and which meets or exceeds the specification for any item(s). However, if bids are based on equivalent products, indicate on the bid form the manufacturer's name and number. Bidder shall submit sketches, descriptive literature, and/or complete specifications with their bid. Reference to literature submitted with a previous bid will not satisfy this provision. The bidder shall also explain in detail the reason(s) why the proposed equivalent will meet the specifications and not be considered an exception thereto. Bids that do not comply with these requirements are subject to rejection.

A.12. Clarification of Solicitation

A.12.1. Clarification pertaining to the contents of this solicitation shall be directed in writing to the Central Purchasing Contracting Officer specified in the solicitation.

A.12.2. If a bidder fails to notify the State of an error, ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission or other error in the SOLICITATION, known to the bidder, or that reasonably should have been known by the bidder, the bidder shall submit a bid at its own risk; and if awarded the contract, the bidder shall not be entitled to additional compensation, relief, or time, by reason of the error or its later correction. If a bidder takes exception to any requirement or specification contained in the SOLICITATION, these exceptions must be clearly and prominently stated in their response.

A.12.3. Bidders who believe proposal requirements or specifications are unnecessarily restrictive or limit competition may submit a written request for administrative review to the State prior to the closing date.

A.13. Rejection of Bid

The State reserves the right to reject any bids that do not comply with the requirements and specifications of the solicitation. A bid may be rejected when the bidder imposes terms or conditions that would modify requirements of the solicitation or limit the bidder's liability to the State. Other possible reasons for rejection of bids are listed in OAC 580:16-7-32.

A.14. Award of Contract

A.14.1. The State Purchasing Director may award the Contract to more than one bidder by awarding the Contract(s) by item or groups of items, or may award the Contract on an ALL OR NONE basis, whichever is deemed by the State Purchasing Director to be in the best interest of the State of Oklahoma.

A.14.2. Contract awards will be made to the lowest and best bidder(s) unless the solicitation specifies that best value criteria is being used.

A.14.3. In order to receive an award or payments from the State of Oklahoma, suppliers must be registered. The vendor registration process can be completed electronically through the OMES website at the following link: <https://www.ok.gov/dcs/vendors/index.php>.

A.15. Contract Modification

A.15.1. The Contract is issued under the authority of the State Purchasing Director who signs the Contract. The Contract may be modified only through a written Contract Modification, signed by the State Purchasing Director.

A.15.2. Any change to the Contract, including but not limited to the addition of work or materials, the revision of payment terms, or the substitution of work or materials, directed by a person who is not specifically authorized by the Central Purchasing Division in writing, or made unilaterally by the supplier, is a breach of the Contract. Unless otherwise specified by applicable law or rules, such changes, including unauthorized written Contract Modifications, shall be void and without effect, and the supplier shall not be entitled to any claim under this Contract based on those changes. No oral statement of any person shall modify or otherwise affect the terms, conditions, or specifications stated in the resultant Contract.

A.16. Delivery, Inspection and Acceptance

A.16.1. Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation or awarding documents, all deliveries shall be F.O.B. Destination. The bidder(s) awarded the Contract shall prepay all packaging, handling, shipping and delivery charges and firm

prices quoted in the bid shall include all such charges. All products and/or services to be delivered pursuant to the Contract shall be subject to final inspection and acceptance by the State at destination. "Destination" shall mean delivered to the receiving dock or other point specified in the purchase order. The State assumes no responsibility for goods until accepted by the State at the receiving point in good condition. Title and risk of loss or damage to all items shall be the responsibility of the supplier until accepted by the receiving agency. The supplier(s) awarded the Contract shall be responsible for filing, processing, and collecting any and all damage claims accruing prior to acceptance.

- A.16.2. Supplier(s) awarded the Contract shall be required to deliver products and services as bid on or before the required date. Deviations, substitutions or changes in products and services shall not be made unless expressly authorized in writing by the Central Purchasing Division.

A.17. Invoicing and Payment

- A.17.1. Pursuant to 74 O.S. §85.44(B), invoices will be paid in arrears after products have been delivered or services provided.

- A.17.2. Interest on late payments made by the State of Oklahoma is governed by 62 O.S. §34.71 and 62 O.S. §34.72.

A.18. Tax Exemption

State agency acquisitions are exempt from sales taxes and federal excise taxes. Bidders shall not include these taxes in price quotes.

A.19. Audit and Records Clause

- A.19.1. As used in this clause, "records" includes books, documents, accounting procedures and practices, and other data, regardless of type and regardless of whether such items are in written form, in the form of computer data, or in any other form. In accepting any Contract with the State, the successful bidder(s) agree any pertinent State or Federal agency will have the right to examine and audit all records relevant to execution and performance of the resultant Contract.

- A.19.2. The successful bidder(s) awarded the Contract(s) is required to retain records relative to the Contract for the duration of the Contract and for a period of seven (7) years following completion and/or termination of the Contract. If an audit, litigation, or other action involving such records is started before the end of the seven (7) year period, the records are required to be maintained for two (2) years from the date that all issues arising out of the action are resolved, or until the end of the seven (7) year retention period, whichever is later.

A.20. Non-Appropriation Clause

The terms of any Contract resulting from the solicitation and any Purchase Order issued for multiple years under the Contract are contingent upon sufficient appropriations being made by the Legislature or other appropriate government entity. Notwithstanding any language to the contrary in the solicitation, purchase order, or any other Contract document, the procuring agency may terminate its obligations under the Contract if sufficient appropriations are not made by the Legislature or other appropriate governing entity to pay amounts due for multiple year agreements. The Requesting (procuring) Agency's decisions as to whether sufficient appropriations are available shall be accepted by the supplier and shall be final and binding.

A.21. Choice of Law

Any claims, disputes, or litigation relating to the solicitation, or the execution, interpretation, performance, or enforcement of the Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Oklahoma.

A.22. Choice of Venue

Venue for any action, claim, dispute or litigation relating in any way to the Contract shall be in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma.

A.23. Termination for Cause

- A.23.1. The supplier may terminate the Contract for default or other just cause with a 30-day written request and upon written approval from the Central Purchasing Division. The State may terminate the Contract for default or any other just cause upon a 30-day written notification to the supplier.
- A.23.2. The State may terminate the Contract immediately, without a 30-day written notice to the supplier, when violations are found to be an impediment to the function of an agency and detrimental to its cause, when conditions preclude the 30-day notice, or when the State Purchasing Director determines that an administrative error occurred prior to Contract performance.
- A.23.3. If the Contract is terminated, the State shall be liable only for payment for products and/or services delivered and accepted.

A.24. Termination for Convenience

- A.24.1. The State may terminate the Contract, in whole or in part, for convenience if the State Purchasing Director determines that termination is in the State's best interest. The State Purchasing Director shall terminate the Contract by delivering to the supplier a Notice of Termination for Convenience specifying the terms and effective date of Contract termination. The Contract termination date shall be a minimum of 60 days from the date the Notice of Termination for Convenience is issued by the State Purchasing Director.
- A.24.2. If the Contract is terminated, the State shall be liable only for products and/or services delivered and accepted, and for costs and expenses (exclusive of profit) reasonably incurred prior to the date upon which the Notice of Termination for Convenience was received by the supplier.

A.25. Insurance

The successful bidder(s) awarded the Contract shall obtain and retain insurance, including workers' compensation, automobile insurance, medical malpractice, and general liability, as applicable, or as required by State or Federal law, prior to commencement of any work in connection with the Contract. The supplier awarded the Contract shall timely renew the policies to be carried pursuant to this section throughout the term of the Contract and shall provide the Central Purchasing Division and the procuring agency with evidence of such insurance and renewals.

A.26. Employment Relationship

The Contract does not create an employment relationship. Individuals performing services required by this Contract are not employees of the State of Oklahoma or the procuring agency. The supplier's employees shall not be considered employees of the State of Oklahoma nor of the procuring agency for any purpose, and accordingly shall not be eligible for rights or benefits accruing to state employees.

A.27. Compliance with the Oklahoma Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act of 2007

By submitting a bid for services, the bidder certifies that they, and any proposed subcontractors, are in compliance with 25 O.S. §1313 and participate in the Status Verification System. The Status Verification System is defined in 25 O.S. §1312 and includes but is not limited to the free Employment Verification Program (E-Verify) through the Department of Homeland Security and available at www.dhs.gov/E-Verify.

A.28. Compliance with Applicable Laws

The products and services supplied under the Contract shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, and the supplier shall maintain all applicable licenses and permit requirements.

A.29. Special Provisions

Special Provisions set forth in SECTION B apply with the same force and effect as these General Provisions. However, conflicts or inconsistencies shall be resolved in favor of the Special Provisions.

B. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

B.1. CONTRACT PERIOD

B.1.1. The Contract Period is the Date of Award through January 31st, 2014.

B.2. TYPE OF CONTRACT

B.2.1. This is a firm fixed price contract for indefinite delivery and indefinite quantity for the supplies/services specified.

B.3. EXTENSION OF CONTRACT

B.3.1. The State may extend the term of this contract for up to 90 day intervals if mutually agreed upon by both parties in writing.

B.4. STATE AND FEDERAL TAXES

B.4.1. Purchases by the State of Oklahoma are not subject to any sales tax or Federal Excise tax. Exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.

B.5. ORAL AGREEMENTS

B.5.1. No oral statement of any person shall modify or otherwise affect the terms, conditions, or specifications stated in the RFP or the resultant contract. All modifications to the contract must be made in writing by the Central Purchasing Division.

B.6. CLARIFICATION OF SOLICITATION

B.6.1. Clarification pertaining to the contents of this solicitation shall be directed in writing to the Central Purchasing

B.6.2. Contracting Officer specified in the solicitation and must be prior to the closing date of the solicitation.

B.6.3. If a bidder fails to notify the State of an error, ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission or other error in the SOLICITATION, known to the bidder, or an error that reasonably should have been known by the bidder, the bidder shall submit a bid at its own risk; and if awarded the contract, the bidder shall not be entitled to additional compensation, relief, or time, by reason of the error or its later correction. If a bidder takes exception to any requirement or specification contained in the SOLICITATION, these exceptions must be clearly and prominently stated in their response.

B.6.4. Bidders who believe proposal requirements or specifications are unnecessarily restrictive or limit competition may submit a request for administrative review, in writing, to the Central Purchasing Contracting Officer listed on the solicitation. This request must be made prior to the closing date of the solicitation.

B.7. MINOR DEFICIENCIES OR MINOR INFORMALITIES

B.7.1. "Minor deficiency" or "minor informality" means an immaterial defect in a bid or variation in a bid from the exact requirements of a solicitation that may be corrected or waived without prejudice to other bidders. A minor deficiency or informality does not affect the price, quantity, quality, delivery or conformance to specifications and is negligible in comparison to the total cost or scope of the acquisition.

B.7.2. The State Purchasing Director may waive minor deficiencies or informalities in a bid if the State Purchasing Director determines the deficiencies or informalities do not prejudice the rights of other bidders, or are not a cause for bid rejection.

B.8. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

All submissions should be submitted to Central Purchasing on electronic media in accordance with **Section E.X** of the RFP. Submissions will not be accepted via email or hard copy. This term overrides any terms in Section A requiring submission of hard-copy.

B.9. DEFINITIONS

B.9.1. Child Protective Services - a child welfare services provision that focuses on preventing, identifying, and treating child abuse and neglect and ensuring child safety. Efforts are made to maintain and protect the child in the child's own home when safety threats can be managed and controlled. The primary purpose of CPS intervention is to: (1) protect the child; (2) assess family strengths and needs; and (3) provide services to remedy the conditions and behaviors that cause abuse, neglect, or safety threats.

B.9.2. Child Protective Services Backlog – CPS policy requires all investigations and assessments to be completed within 60 days. If a case extends beyond this timeframe, the case is considered in backlog status.

C. SOLICITATION SPECIFICATIONS

C.1. BACKGROUND

The State of Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) is responsible to ensure safety of children when abuse or neglect is alleged. Offices are located in all 77 counties and services are provided statewide. Approximately 65,000 reports are received annually impacting over 120,000 children. Approximately 20% of the cases accepted for investigation are substantiated for abuse or neglect, and a significant percentage of these children enter the foster care system. Many families are offered services and the cases closed without further intervention; however, documentation of all investigations, results and data is both a state and federal requirement. Careful documentation of the investigation is critical in the event any future reports are made which could indicate a pattern of problems in the family and/or declining family functioning.

C.2. EXPECTED OUTCOMES/DELIVERABLES

The State of Oklahoma Department of Human Services is soliciting vendors to propose and provide resolution of Child Protective Services cases. As of 9/5/13, approximately 3200 cases are backlogged, meaning the case is pending after 60 days (See Attachment A). OKDHS is working aggressively to address the backlog and this number is expected to drop, but the vendor can anticipate that there will be a minimum of 2000 cases still requiring closure, for the purpose of this solicitation. For the most part, these cases have been initiated, children have been interviewed, and an initial safety decision was made by CPS staff; however, the case has not been documented and closed per OKDHS policy.

OKDHS will partner with the successful bidders to close all CPS backlog cases within 120 days of award date or no later than January 31, 2014. It is required that each of the vendor's staff will be able to complete a minimum of 15 cases per 30 days.

The services to be provided by the vendor will include the following.

- conduct a home visit to the child's home,
- observe and interview all child victims and siblings,
- interview alleged perpetrators and persons responsible for the child, regarding allegation and concerns
- contact other individuals as necessary to gain a clear understanding of the family functioning,
- assess safety of the children and;
- document the results in the approved OKDHS format.

After completion of the home visit and assessment, the case is documented and the vendor will provide a process that ensures that their supervisory staff have reviewed and signed off on the case. The case and documentation are then provided to a CPS Supervisor or other OKDHS officials for review and final closure. The case is not considered closed until this final review by OKDHS officials. The vendor staff, who completed the work on the investigation, must be available should the OKDHS officials have questions concerning the cases being reviewed. If additional information is needed, the vendor arranges a meeting with the person completing the home visit and assessment, his/her supervisor, and the OKDHS CPS Supervisor.

The vendor's staff providing the above services must have the following minimum qualifications.

- Bachelor's Degree and experience in Child Welfare or a closely related field,
- have experience in gathering a social history, interviewing children and families, and assessing safety of children in their home environment and;
- clear background check, as per OKDHS policy, after the award date. See Note 1 below.

OKDHS will provide training to vendor's staff to include Oklahoma State Statute (see Note 2 below) regarding child abuse investigations, OKDHS CPS policy (see Note 3 below), procedures, and best practice related to child abuse investigations, and training on the documentation in the Child Welfare Services information system. This training will be provided in the Oklahoma City metro area in a one week timeframe and will consist of approximately 50 hours of classroom and computer labs. Some evening sessions will be required. The vendor will ensure that all of their staff, providing the direct services, successfully completes this training, as determined by OKDHS, prior to taking cases.

During a home visit, if a child is found to be in an unsafe situation, and present danger is identified, an immediate call for emergency services to the OKDHS Abuse and Neglect Hotline is required. If this occurs, OKDHS will immediately dispatch an OKDHS CPS worker to assume responsibility for the investigation. The vendor is to remain at the scene to ensure all information is shared during case transition. The OKDHS CPS worker will determine what course of action is to be taken and if an immediate protective action plan or removal is warranted, this will be done by the OKDHS CPS worker. If services are needed, the vendor completes referrals and documents the services offered. Those cases transferred back to OKDHS, prior to closure, will be considered partial cases and will be paid to the vendor at a partial case rate.

Additional Notes:

1. OKDHS background check policy <http://www.okdhs.org/library/policy/dhs/002/01/0320000.htm>
2. Oklahoma Statutes are available on line at:
3. <http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/index.asp?ftdb=STOKST&level=1>
4. CPS Policy is available online at <http://www.okdhs.org/library/policy/oac340/075/03/>

D. EVALUATION

D.1. Best Value Criteria

- D.1.1.** The State intends to award to multiple Suppliers as a result of this Request for Proposal (RFP). Said contract will be awarded to the responsible Suppliers whose response, conforming to the RFP, is deemed best value.
- D.1.2.** Upon receipt of all responses, each response will be evaluated to determine which Suppliers meet all minimum mandatory pre-requisites as set forth in Section C.2. Mandatory Supplier Qualifications. Those proposals which met the minimum mandatory pre-requisites will enter the technical phase of evaluation. Proposals which do not meet the minimum mandatory pre-requisites will be deemed non-responsive at this point and will receive no further consideration.

D.2. Evaluation Team

- D.2.1.** An evaluation team will conduct evaluation of responses and prices received in response to this solicitation according to these criteria: expertise, proposed methodology and price.

D.3. Competitive Negotiations of Proposals

In accordance with Oklahoma Statutes, Title 74 subsections 85.5, the State of Oklahoma reserves the right to negotiate with one, selected, all or none of the Bidders responding to this solicitation to obtain the best value for the State. Negotiations could entail discussions on products, services, pricing, contract terminology or any other issue that mitigate the State's risks. The State will consider all issues negotiable and not artificially constrained by internal corporate policies. Negotiation may be with one or more Bidders, for any and all items in the Bidder's proposal.

Firms that contend that they lack flexibility because of their corporate policy on a particular negotiation item will face a significant disadvantage and may not be considered. If such negotiations are conducted, the following conditions shall apply:

- D.3.1.** Negotiations may be conducted in person, in writing, or by telephone.
- D.3.2.** Negotiations will only be conducted with potentially acceptable proposals. The State reserves the right to limit negotiations to those proposals that received the highest rankings during the initial evaluation phase.
- D.3.3.** Terms, conditions, prices, methodology, or other features of the Bidder's proposal may be subject to negotiations and subsequent revision. As part of the negotiations, the Bidder may be required to submit supporting financial, pricing, and other data in order to allow a detailed evaluation of the feasibility, reasonableness, and acceptability of the proposal.
- D.3.4.** The mandatory requirements of the Request for Proposal shall not be negotiable and shall remain unchanged unless the State determines that a change in such requirements is in the best interest of the State Of Oklahoma.
- D.3.5.** BEST and FINAL – The state may request best and final offers if deemed necessary, and will determine the scope and subject of any best and final request. However, the Bidder should not expect that the state will ask for best and finals to give the Bidder an opportunity to strengthen your proposal. Therefore, the Bidder must submit your best offer based on the terms and condition set forth in this solicitation.

E. INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPLIER

E.1. Introduction

Prospective Bidders are urged to read this solicitation carefully. Failure to do so will be at the Bidder's risk. Provisions, terms, and conditions may be stated or phrased differently than in previous solicitations. Irrespective of past interpretations, practices or customs, proposals will be evaluated and any resultant contract(s) will be administered in strict accordance with the plain meaning of the contents hereof. The Bidder is cautioned that the requirements of this solicitation can be altered only by written amendment approved by the state and that verbal communications from whatever source are of no effect. In no event shall the Bidder's failure to read and understand any term or condition in this solicitation constitute grounds for a claim after contract award.

E.1.1. MANDATORY AND NON-MANDATORY TERMS

- E.1.1.1.** Whenever the terms "shall", "must", "will", or "is required" are used in this RFP, the specification being referred to is a mandatory specification of this RFP. Failure to meet any mandatory specification may cause rejection of the Bidder's Proposal.
- E.1.1.2.** Whenever the terms "can", "may", or "should" are used in this RFP, the specification being referred to is a desirable item and failure to provide any item so termed will not be cause for rejection.

E.2. Mandatory Intent-to-Bid

All Suppliers intending to respond to the RFP MUST email the listed contracting officer no later than 3:00PM, Friday, September 13th indicating intent to respond to the RFP. The State reserves the right to preclude any Suppliers that did not clearly indicate their intent to respond by the listed deadline.

E.3. Pre-Bid Meeting

A non-mandatory pre-bid informational meeting will be held on Friday, September 13th at 9:00AM at 2401 N. Lincoln Blvd, Concourse Theater. We will be discussing approaches to the RFP...no discussion will be binding but an amendment to the RFP may result from the pre-bid meeting discussion.

E.4. Technical Questions

Technical questions concerning the RFP should be submitted in writing to the contracting officer listed on the front page of the solicitation no later than Friday, September 13th, 2013 at 11:59PM.

E.5. RFP Submission Requirements

E.5.1. Supplier should submit two (2) CDs or DVDs containing an electronic copy of the proposal which must be clearly marked with the Supplier's name, solicitation number and date of solicitation closing.

E.5.1.1. All electronic documents must be in one of the following software formats:

E.5.1.1.1. MS Word (.doc or .docx), MS Excel (.xls or .xlsx), or Adobe PDF (.pdf)

E.5.1.1.2. Graphic samples must be in tif, gif, jpeg or pdf

E.5.2. Each Supplier shall submit a complete proposal, and should clearly describe Supplier's ability to meet or exceed every requirement detailed in the Solicitation Request and this RFP.

E.6. Solicitation Submission

Supplier submissions should include the following documentation as separate sections of the RFP response. Failure to submit a complete response will be reflected in the evaluation of a Supplier's submittal.

E.6.1. Administrative Documents

Supplier should include all required administrative documents, as detailed in the RFP Terms.

E.6.2. Expertise Submittal / Past Experience and Performance

Responding Suppliers should include descriptions and verifiable performance information for their last five projects of similar size and scope, as well as customer contact information with which OKDHS can verify performance.

E.6.3. Methodology Submittal / Scope of Work

Supplier must submit a proposed methodology that addresses all objectives listed in section C.2 of the RFP. This submittal should not exceed ten pages but should adequately describe the methodology that will be used to achieve the contract objectives.

E.6.4. Cost Submittal

Supplier must submit a cost submittal outlining costs in accordance with Section G of the RFP.

F. ATTACHMENTS

F.1. ATTACHMENT A: CASELOAD SUMMARY

F.2. ATTACHMENT B: CPS POLICY

G. PRICE AND COST

Suppliers should provide a firm, fixed cost per closed case. This rate will be paid for all cases in which items in the services to be provided section are completed and the OKDHS has reviewed and signed the case. The cost per case should be all-inclusive of the cost for the contract. No additional costs or fees will be paid by OKDHS.