



Request for Information

Request for Information: High Consequence Pathogen Transport (HCPT)

Issue Date: April 17, 2023

Brief Description of Requirement:

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) is seeking information regarding High Consequence Pathogen Transport (HCPT) staffing and transport vehicle(s) capable of providing 24/7 response across the State throughout the year. The goal of this solution is to enable Oklahoma agencies to procure from a select set of 10 skill sets using a pre-buy of points for a 24-month period.

Direct response submissions and clarifying questions to:

Name: Amanda Jenkins

Email: amanda.jenkins@health.ok.gov

Clarification Questions Due Date: April 24, 2023 **Time:** 3:00 CST

Response Due Date: May 1, 2023 **Time:** 3:00 pm CST

Responses should include the responders contact information.

Issued By: The Oklahoma State Department of Health

To: All Interested Suppliers

Re: Request for Information (This is not a solicitation)

The State of Oklahoma, is requesting information regarding High Consequence Pathogen Transport (HCPT).

The State of Oklahoma invites all interested parties to submit a written response to this Request for Information (RFI). This RFI is being sought strictly for the purpose of gaining knowledge of services available with an estimate of their corresponding costs and **should not be construed as intent, commitment, or promise to acquire services, supplies, or solutions offered. No contract will result from any response to this RFI.**

Information submitted in response to this RFI will become the property of the State of Oklahoma. The State of Oklahoma will not pay for any information herein requested nor is it liable for any cost incurred by the vendor.

RFI responses must be received no later than 3:00pm CST, **May 1, 2023**, by e-mail delivery to:

Name: Amanda Jenkins

Address: 123 Robert S. Kerr

Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Email: Amanda.jenkins@health.ok.gov

Clarifying questions may also be directed to Amanda Jenkins. Clarification questions will only be accepted until 3:00 p.m. CST, April 24, 2023.

We appreciate your response to this request.

Purpose and Objectives

Section A. The Oklahoma State Department of Health – Emergency Preparedness and Response Services is seeking information from suppliers regarding the identification and maintenance of High Consequence Pathogen Transport staffing and transport vehicle(s) capable of providing 24/7 response across the state throughout the year.

The goal of this solution is to enable Oklahoma agencies to procure from a select set of 10 skill sets using a pre-buy of points for a 24-month period.

Section B. This is a Request for Information (RFI) only. This RFI is being issued solely for information and planning purposes; it does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a promise to issue an RFP in the future. This RFI does not commit the State of Oklahoma or the Oklahoma State Department of Health to contract for any supply or service whatsoever. Further, the State of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State Department of Health are not at this time seeking proposals and will not accept unsolicited proposals. The State of Oklahoma is unable to fund any unbudgeted liability. Responders are advised that the State of Oklahoma and OSDH will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI; all costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the responder's expense. If a solicitation is released, it will be released by the Office of Management and Enterprise Services/ISD Procurement, as required by state law, on their website:

Supplier Portal (oklahoma.gov)

It is the responsibility of potential Vendors to monitor the Office of Management and Enterprise Services/ Procurement website for additional information, should OSDH proceed with an RFP.

Section C. Contracts from the State of Oklahoma are governed by this statement: TO THE EXTENT ANY LIMITATION OF LIABILITY CONTAINED HEREIN IS CONSTRUED BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION TO BE A LIMITATION OF LIABILITY IN VIOLATION OF OKLAHOMA LAW, SUCH LIMITATION OF LIABILITY SHALL BE VOID.

Section D. Potential Scope

- Identify and maintain Highly Consequence Pathogen Transport (HCPT) staffing and transport vehicle(s) capable of providing 24/7 response across the state throughout the year.
- Collaborate with EMS systems and agencies to develop processes for obtaining information when requested to respond for a Person Under Investigation (PUI) for suspected HCP contact. Call takers will receive or will have information alerting them to a PUI, and notify responding HCPT team of the potential for a patient with possible exposure/signs and symptoms of HCP virus before responders arrive on scene. This will enable EMS clinicians to select and correctly put on PPE following the principles described in CDC's [Identify, Isolate, Inform: Emergency Department Evaluation and Management for Patients Under Investigation \(PUIs\) for Ebola Virus Disease \(EVD\) | Emergency Services | Clinicians | Ebola \(Ebola Virus Disease\) | CDC](#) and [Guidance on Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) | Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) | Public Health Planners | Ebola \(Ebola Virus Disease\) | CDC](#)
- All personnel should be educated, trained and demonstrate competency in all Ebola-related infection control practices and procedures, specifically donning and doffing proper PPE consistent with their response role

- Catalog of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Coordination with each of the eight Regional Medical Response System Coordinators (RMRS directors) to develop a comprehensive inventory PPE and other items that would be used in HCPT event
- Must have established protocols in place for responding HCPT teams arriving on scene to immediately check for symptoms and risk factors for HCP viruses and don appropriate PPE.
- Must have procedures in place to notify the appropriate RMRS Director and receiving healthcare facility in advance so that proper infection control precautions are ready to be implemented at the healthcare facility before arrival.
- Comply with established protocols for cleaning and disinfecting of the ambulance and equipment as well as disposing of medical waste consistent with Center for Disease Control Guidance [Ebola-Associated Waste Management | Cleaning and Disinfecting | Clinicians | Ebola \(Ebola Virus Disease\) | CDC](#) after each HCP transport. This includes but is not limited to patient-care surfaces, stretcher wheels, brackets and other areas exposed to patient care.
- Procedures in place to have medical waste transported in accordance with HMR 49 C.F.R., Parts 171-180. Any item transported for disposal that is contaminated or suspected of being contaminated with a Category A infectious substance must be packaged and transported in accordance with the HMR. This includes: disposable medical equipment; sharps; linens; and used healthcare products such as soiled absorbent pads or dressings, emesis pans, portable toilets; used PPE such as, gowns or coveralls, masks, gloves, goggles, face shields, respirators, and booties; and contaminated waste from cleaning.
- Must establish HCPT team composition that allows for patient care in full PPE in the back of the ambulance while the driver does not assist with patient care.
- Means to isolate the driver from the patient compartment and provide appropriate disinfectant during transport from EPA registered hospital disinfectant [List L: Disinfectants for Use Against Ebola Virus | US EPA](#) ; [Disinfectants for Emerging Viral Pathogens \(EVPs\): List Q | US EPA](#) ; [Interim Guidance for Environmental Infection Control in Hospitals for Ebola Virus | Cleaning and Disinfecting | Clinicians | Ebola \(Ebola Virus Disease\) | CDC](#)
- Must document all patient HCP PUI transports and care. Documentation to be provided to OSDH upon request.
- Procedures to remove and keep nonessential equipment away from the patient on the scene and in the ambulance to minimize contamination.
- Capability and resources to cover porous surfaces not designated for single use such as covering the stretcher with an impermeable material.
- Procedures in place for transport of pediatric HCP PUIs to include addressing caregiver accompaniment for children and utilization of PPE.
- Procedures and policies in place to monitor and manage EMS personnel potentially exposed to HCP virus. This includes policies for self-monitoring for a period of 21 days after the last known exposure.
- Employees are not entitled to any of the benefits that OSDH provides for its employees
- OSDH will not have the right or authority to represent the bid agency in any capacity or to incur any obligation nor will the bid agency reserve the right to represent OSDH in any capacity
- Agency is expected to have systems, policies and procedures in place by which they manage grant funds and grant supported activities. May use their existing systems for this purpose as long as organizational policies are consistently applied regardless of the source of funds and systems meet the standards and requirements set forth in 2 CFR Part 215, 45 CFR Part 74, 45 CFR Part 92, or 7 CFR Part 3016, or as determined by the applicable Federal program guidance.
- Must comply with federal and state laws, rules and regulations related to information technology accessibility, as applicable

- Must be able to comply with the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (“HITECH”) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as codified at 42 U.S.C. §1320d (“HIPAA”)
- Request reimbursement of costs from OSDH only when those costs comply with the applicable Federal Cost Principles 2 CFR Part 220, 2 CFR Part 225, 2 CFR Part 230, FAR 31.2, or as determined by the applicable Federal program guidance.

The State is asking all interested parties to submit a response containing the following information:

- Your interest in providing the services/products.
- A brief description of past experience providing similar services/products
- Potential price for similar services/products
- Your opinion, based on your past experience, on whether the State has identified all the major components necessary to offer this service as part of a contract? If not, please provide information on other necessary components.
- Discuss how your solution can help OSDH fulfill the goal of the RFI.
- A list of potential problems/risks that the State may encounter, and any ideas or suggestions about how such problems/risks should be addressed in a solicitation.
- Estimated point values and staffing timelines for a typical agency staffing request.