

ADDENDUM 1 QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Date: February 9, 2020

To: All Bidders

From: Keith Roland & Jennifer Crouse, Buyers
Department of Health and Human Services

RE: Addendum for STD Testing Request for Proposals

Questions and Answers

Following are the questions submitted and answers provided for the above mentioned Request for Qualifications. The questions and answers are to be considered as part of the Request for Qualifications. It is the Bidder's responsibility to check the project information page for all addenda or amendments.

<u>Question Number</u>	<u>Question</u>	<u>State Response</u>
1.	[Redacted] is a sister agency to DHHS and as such does not require and RFP.	Bidders who are interested in providing STD Testing services to DHHS should submit a response to the RFP.
2.	We got this RFP for DHHS STD testing. Is your program going out for bid?	Yes, DHHS is soliciting bids for STD Testing services.
3.	Is RFP 6212-Z1 focused on vendors(bidders) who can perform the STD testing at the bidder's laboratory, ie. Quest, Lab Corp, ARUP, etc., or is the Nebraska PHL interested in performing the laboratory testing at one of their facilities?	DHHS is focused on bidders who can perform STD testing at the bidder's laboratory.
4.	Is it possible to get a copy of the current contract and utilization report per site?	See Addenda 2 and 3 for copies of the current contract and Amendment 1. Utilization data per site is not available.

5.	p. 3 item H: Submission of Proposals, is the signatory representing the vendor expected to sign/initial all boxes in the RFP?	The bidder should initial all the boxes within the RFP, and if necessary, provide notes or comments. The individual who signs the proposal on the Request for Proposal for Contractual Services Form can, but does not need to be, the same individual who initials the boxes within the RFP.
6.	For those items without a comment box, for example p. 19 item F Prices, can the vendor also provide notes and comments?	Items without a comment box cannot be negotiated.
7.	p. 6 item S: References and Credit Checks. Do the reference checks apply to those references submitted by the vendor to the RFP or is it the expectation that the State can contact all the vendors clients? If the later, how will the state identify all the vendors client base?	DHHS may contact the references provided by the bidder, clients discovered through its own research, or both.
8.	p. 28 item #4: ELR – Electronic Lab Reporting. Is the Nebraska DHHS's willing to work with the Vendor's ELR? Does Nebraska DHHS have its own ELR system? If so, what is the system?	DHHS will work with the Contractor to format the Contractor's messages so they can flow into NEDSS/NBS without error. DHHS receives ELR via Rhapsody to process the ELR and then DHHS uses NEDSS/NBS.
9.	Please clarify how turnaround time is determined and what are the expectations?	Turnaround time is determined by 173 NAC 1. https://www.nebraska.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/Rules/Health_and_Human_Services_System/Title-173/Chapter-01.pdf
10.	How are specimens currently delivered to the testing site today from the 89 STD testing sites across Nebraska?	Specimens are delivered via mail to the Contractor.
11.	The RFP states "all proposals or responses received regarding this solicitation will be posted to the State Purchasing bureau public website." Will the State be posting all submitted proposals or only the awarded proposal?	All proposals will be posted on State Purchasing Bureau's public website.

12.	At what time in the RFP process will vendor proposals be posted on the public website?	Proposals will be posted to State Purchasing Bureau's public website after an Intent to Award has been issued.
13.	Please clarify Attachment 2, DHHS HIPAA Business Associate Agreement Provisions Services Contracts, and how it is applicable to Reference Laboratories. Reference Laboratories are covered entities under HIPAA and does not become a business associate (as that term is defined in the HIPAA Privacy Rule) of another covered health care provider, such as a hospital or physician, by providing laboratory services to that covered health care provider.	Attachment 2 – HIPAA Business Associate Agreement Provisions is hereby removed from the RFP.
14.	Solicitation Section V. B. Page Number 27 Question – Are any STD testing sites operated by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services or are all independent agencies?	All STD testing sites are independent entities and are not operated by DHHS.
15.	Solicitation Section V. B. Page Number 27 Question – Are there any requirements where the costs associated with lab interfaces with a sites Electronic Health Record System should be figured into our responses to this RFP?	Prices provided on the Cost Proposal must be inclusive of all fees and expenses.
16.	Solicitation Section V. C. 2. Page Number 27 Question – It states that the Syphilis test performed must use the traditional algorithm starting with the Rapid Plasma Regain (RPR) followed by confirmation using Treponema pallidum-specific antibody tests. However, you are requesting pricing on a Syphilis IgG EIA screen. Does this mean that you would also approve contractors use of the CDC approved reverse-sequence algorithm, Syphilis IgG EIA screen followed by the RPR and if necessary a TP-PA?	DHHS would not approve using the reverse algorithm. Syphilis testing must be performed using the CDC approved traditional algorithm which provides a quicker understanding of the disease activity. Syphilis IgG EIA will only be used as requested.

17.	Solicitation Section V. C. 4. Page Number 28 Question – States that STD results must be done via Electronic Lab Reporting (ELR). Are you referring to just positive results going to Nebraska DHHS?	No. All results must be submitted via ELR.
18.	Solicitation Section V. C. 4. Page Number 28 Question – Many times, state STD programs require additional patient demographic information to be sent along with the test results. Information such as Patient Sex at Birth, Current Sex of Client, Number of Sexual Partners in the Last 90 Days, Reason for Exam, Presumptive Treatment, etc. Are any of these types of demographic information required of this RFP?	Section V.D of the RFP is amended to add: 24. Along with each test result, the Contractor must submit to DHHS additional patient demographic information, including but not limited to Current Sex of Client, Number of Sexual Partners in the Last Ninety (90) Days, Reason for Exam, Race and Ethnicity, Pregnancy Status, and Presumptive Treatment.
19.	Solicitation Section V. C. 4. Page Number 28 Question – Are results that go to the ordering clinic okay to be sent via normal channels approved by the ordering site?	There is not enough information provided in the question for DHHS to provide a response.
20.	Solicitation Section V. D. 2. Page Number 28 Question – Little is written regarding the initial training of each site on how to conduct sample collection, ordering tests, and shipping of samples. Do you require that this training be conducted in person?	DHHS does not require such training to be conducted in person.
21.	Solicitation Section V. D. 2. Page Number 28 Question – If training is to be conducted in person, would regional trainings where clinics located within a region of the state would come to a location central to that region meet your requirements?	Yes, this meets requirements of DHHS. See response to question #20.

22.	Solicitation Section V. D. 18. Page Number 28 Question – Do you have a report format you prefer for the monthly report accounting of tests performed under this contract?	The format is flexible, but would need to include, but may not be limited to: name of test, test order code, price per test, total tests used, total tests used per site, and site name.
23.	Will invoicing for all tests go to the Nebraska DHHS or should the Nebraska DHHS be the payer of last resort and billing go to the patients insurance provider if applicable?	All invoicing will be sent to DHHS.
24.	What percentage of testing will be billed to a patients insurance vs. Nebraska DHHS?	STD testing sites with a DHHS agreement, are not permitted to charge patients for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis testing when using a DHHS contracted lab. See response to question #23.
25.	Who is currently providing these testing services for the Nebraska STD program?	The Nebraska Public Health Laboratory is the current Contractor for STD Testing services.
26.	What is the current pricing for GC/Chlamydia Amplified Swab, GC/Chlamydia Amplified Urine, Syphilis IgG EIA Screen, RPR Confirmation, RPR Titer, RPR Quantitative, and GC Culture?	GC/Chlamydia Amplified Swab: \$14.50 GC/Chlamydia Amplified Urine: \$14.50 Syphilis IgG EIA Screen: \$7.20 RPR Confirmation: \$26.16 RPR Titer: \$7.20 RPR Quantitative: \$15.20 GC Culture: \$10.50 See also Addendum 2.
27.	Do you require GC/Chlamydia specimen testing from non-FDA approved rectal and pharyngeal sources?	DHHS does not currently approve self-collecting rectal and pharyngeal GC/CT specimen testing.

This addendum will become part of the RFP and should be acknowledged with the Request for Proposal response.