

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Finance and Management
Services



**COVID-19 STATEWIDE FACILITIES SCREENING, TESTING, AND
VACCINATION**

RFP 2021-0600-4767

Amendment #1

March 12, 2021

This amendment is being issued to answer questions submitted by potential offerors and to provide additional important information. In addition to adhering to any changes made to the RFP by this amendment, offerors must use Submittal Form A – Offeror Information to acknowledge this amendment.

This amendment is also being issued to revise the deadline for receipt of proposals to **March 24, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Alaska Time.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Grove".

Jason Grove, CPPB
Procurement Officer
Phone: (907) 465-5842
Email: jason.grove@alaska.gov

Questions submitted by potential offerors and answers from the state:

Question 1: In regards to the following statement from Page 7 of the RFP, would we be disqualified or not considered if we require our laboratory to process our tests and all collections?

- “Samples must be sent to the public health lab or an alternate private commercial lab as directed by the state.”

Answer: As required by the RFP, the contractor must send test samples to the State Public Health Lab or a private commercial lab as directed by the Division of Public Health. In addition, the commercial lab must be a “high-complexity” lab in order to process tests.

Question 2: Are the estimates on Submittal Form G based per month, or for the term of the contract? Based on the breakdown included on Page 7 of your RFP, these numbers appear to be much higher in comparison.

Answer: These estimates are based on the full term of the contract and are for cost evaluation purposes. The table on page 7 is a sample of the current needs from the time the RFP was written, due to increases in vaccine availability and eligibility we anticipate increases throughout the term of the contract.

Question 3: Can you define what “deployment” means in Submittal Form G? Does it mean the number of locations in each region we would be deploying our services to?

Answer: Deployment means the contractor deploying their staff to a State facility and implementing testing and/or vaccination services at that facility. The Estimated Deployments in column E is the maximum number of deployments the State estimates will occur under the contract in each region.

Question 4: Are the Departments highlighted on the table on page 7 the only places where testing and vaccine administration would take place?

Answer: No, this is representative of current needs at the time of the RFP. Due to increases in vaccine availability and eligibility we anticipate these numbers will increase.

Question 5: At the screening, testing and vaccination sites, is Wi-Fi available for our use?

Answer: Not consistently. The offeror should be prepared to provide their own Wi-Fi/cellular/satellite connectivity as some sites are in rural, off-road settings.

Question 6: Can a company propose just screening / testing services? Do you suggest still proposing vaccination administration if we require more than 72 hours for deploying that part of the project?

Answer: A company must be able to offer screening, testing, and vaccination services for any region the company bids on. Per RFP Section 3.01, once notified by the State the company must be able to deploy their team within 72 hours or less to the facility.

Question 7: If the contractor is a clinical laboratory, will the contractor have the opportunity to be the performing laboratory for COVID-19 antigen and molecular testing or would the contractor be required to send testing to the State of Alaska and/or other commercial laboratories?

Answer: See the answer to Question 1.

Question 8: Will services be provided to State employees and non-employees, employees only, or non-employees only?

Answer: Both State employees and non-employees as directed by the Division of Public Health.

Question 9: In Section 3.02 Deliverables, it states that a rental agreement must be secured for operational space, employee parking, and employee access, however in Section 3.07 Location of Work, it indicates that the State of Alaska will provide space for screening, testing and vaccination at or around its facilities. Will the contractor be required to rent space from the State in order to provide services?

Answer: To clarify, the contractor will not be required to “rent” space from the State as there is no fee for rentals. However, an agreement with the facility for location for use of space, a traffic plan, or other logistical needs may need to be established by the contractor and facility.

If this is the case and the space is leased, coordination between the project manager, contractor, and Department of Administration, Shared Services of Alaska Leasing Office will be required:
<https://ssoa.doa.alaska.gov/leasing-and-facilities/>

If the space is state-owned, coordination between the project manager, contractor, and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Division of Facilities Services will be required:
<http://dot.alaska.gov/dfs/>

Question 10: Please provide a list of physical sites/locations where the contractor will be asked to provide services.

Answer: Multiple facilities are included in each region, please see below for information on those facilities.

Department of Corrections: <https://doc.alaska.gov/institutions>
Alaska Court System: http://courts.alaska.gov/court_dir/index.htm
Division of Juvenile Justice: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/djj/Pages/Facilities/Facilities.aspx>
Division of Forestry: <http://forestry.alaska.gov/wildland.htm>
Office of Children’s Services: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/ocs/Pages/offices/default.aspx>

Question 11: What is the ideal start date once a contract is awarded?

Answer: Section 1.09 of the RFP provides the approximate start date of the contract (4/6/2021).

Question 12: Do you have locations/areas already or is that up to us to select?

Answer: See the answers to Questions 4 and 10.

Question 13: Is this state-wide, county-wide, city-wide, limited to a certain population?

Answer: Statewide, and broken into Regions. See Section 5.13 of the RFP for more detail. It is not limited to a certain population. Also see the answer to Question 10.

Question 14: Throughput numbers per day (both testing and vaccines)?

Answer: The State does not have that data at this time. Please see the answer to Question 27.

Question 15: Is there a scope of the project?

Answer: The scope of work and deliverables is detailed in Section 3 of the RFP.

Question 16: What type of vaccine are you using? (J&J, Moderna, Pfizer)

Answer: Currently Moderna and Pfizer, others as they become available.

Question 17: Regarding page 7, are PCR tests required?

Answer: Yes.

Question 18: On page 7, for the corrections, court and juvenile departments / locations shared, will the contractor be screening, testing and vaccinating staff members only, or will incarcerated individuals or young adults be included in the SOW?

Answer: The contractor will be screening staff members, incarcerated individuals, and young adults at these locations.

Question 19: Regarding page 8, deliverable 2 – are PCR tests required for bullet one and two?

Answer: Yes. Also see answer to Question 44.

Question 20: For page 9, deliverable 3 – will the contractor be responsible for storing the vaccine throughout the entire cold chain? Or, will the contractor only be responsible for last mile / deployment storage of the vaccine?

Answer: The contractor will be responsible for cold chain integrity storage of the vaccine at the State facility.

Question 21: Also regarding page 9, are LPNs or LVNs credentialed to administer COVID-19 tests? Is this role able to administer the vaccination?

Answer: Generally, LPNs and LVNs are able to administer test. Patients may be directed to self-swab as well. All individuals administering vaccines must be approved to do so in the State of Alaska.

Question 22: Regarding page 16, section 4.04, what type of immunization program experience is needed? Can this include only COVID related vaccines or does it require all types of immunizations?

Answer: Experience can include COVID related vaccines or other immunization program experience as long as it “demonstrates experience in providing successful administration, project tracking, and quality control services where immunization of a subset of or the entire population of a state was intended, along with details of additional immunization programs that involved a vaccine that required at least one additional dose within a specified timeframe.”

Question 23: Regarding page 16, section 4.04, what are the desired experience/qualifications for the Project Manager role?

Answer: Experience managing projects of a similar nature which encompass screening, testing, and vaccination for infectious disease prevention. Sections 4.04 and 5.04 have been updated accordingly.

Question 24: On page 24, section 5.13, if a contractor were to only bid on a certain region or number of regions, how would we know the number and type of facilities within that region(s)?

Answer: See the answer to Question 10.

Question 25: Can the state please confirm the titles/lettering of the submittal forms? For example, some areas refer to the Cost Proposal as “Submittal Form G”, but in the actual submittal forms, a “Subcontractors” form is labeled “Submittal Form G”.

Answer: The Subcontractors submittal form has been corrected to read Submittal Form F.

Question 26: How many deployments at a single time are expected? For example, how many individual teams are needed to respond within any one region?

Answer: The State does not know how many deployments at a single time are expected, however, we estimate the maximum number of deployments in each region as indicated in column E of Submittal Form G – Cost Proposal.

Question 27: Can the state provide the number of vaccines, tests, and/or screenings expected per day when deployed to a site? This would allow the development of the right size team for any site location.

Answer: At this time the chart on Page 7 gives an estimate of expected numbers. As levels of individuals vaccination changes in response to state vaccine allocations these estimates will change. The Division of Public Health will work with the contractor and state facility where service is required for updated estimates on screening, testing, and vaccination needs.

Question 28: Is there a due date for questions?

Answer: There is not currently a due date for questions. Please note that if questions are submitted within a timeframe that isn't enough for an RFP amendment to be issued and potential offerors to digest the information presented in the amendment before the deadline for receipt of proposals, the deadline will be extended. However, to keep the project schedule on track a deadline for questions may also be set.

Question 29: Will all vendor questions be captured under an amendment?

Answer: Yes, questions will be answered in an RFP amendment in the same format as this amendment.

Question 30: Do you require the main contractor and subcontractors to hold an Alaska business license in order to submit a proposal?

Answer: The main contractor (offeror) must obtain an Alaska business license before the contract can be awarded. Same for a subcontractor, unless they will not physically be performing work in Alaska.

Note that in order to receive the Alaska Bidder and other related preferences, the offeror must hold an Alaska business license prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals and must meet the requirement set forth in the Alaska Bidder Preference Certification form that is attached with this RFP.

Question 31: Can you advise which facilities in which regions will require screening?

Answer: See the table on page 7 of the RFP and the answer to Question 10.

Question 32: Can you advise the schedule for screening required by facility (8-hrs/day, M-F, 7-days/week, etc.)?

Answer: Generally during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm). Additional circumstances may require screening outside these hours, such as disaster response or wildland fire response.

Question 33: Page 8, deliverable 2, second bullet – can you clarify the reference to travelers?

Answer: This is in reference to intrastate and interstate travelers (for the latter it also includes international travelers such as wildland firefighters from Canada). Note that this contract is not for screening, testing, or vaccination at state airports, rather there may be travelers that need to be screened, tested, or vaccinated at State facilities.

Question 34: Page 8, deliverable 2, there is a statement that “the contractor will either use a commercial laboratory or State of Alaska Public Health lab.” Can you advise if there is costing for the state lab that should be accounted for?

Answer: Costs should be prepared that address costs for use of a commercial lab for processing. The State Public Health Lab may be available depending on laboratory capacity at the time. There is no cost for samples processed through the State Health Lab.

Question 35: If there is no cost for testing run through the state lab, are the quantities for estimated tests on the cost sheet for commercial testing only?

Answer: Yes.

Question 36: Will space need to be procured by contractor at all facilities? If not, can you list the facilities that the contractor would require rental agreements to provide the services?

Answer: See the answers to Question 9 and 10.

Question 37: Should estimated travel costs be included within Form G, and if so, which cost line item?

Answer: Estimated travel costs are not to be included on Submittal Form G in any of the cost line items. Once the contract is effective, travel costs will be billed in accordance with Section 3.02 of the RFP.

Question 38: Can you clarify the costs to include in the pass-through costs for individual screenings?

Answer: Actual equipment (thermometers, tablets for screening questions, PPE).

Question 39: Are you allowed to name clients that show relevant experience related to the experience and qualifications?

Answer: Offerors should make every effort possible to not include identifying information that can be used to identify who the offeror is.

Question 40: How exactly should we calculate pass-through for travel for the remote locations?

Answer: See the answer to Question 37.

Question 41: Is the cost for the PCR testing covered by the state? The RFP says we need to use a commercial lab or state lab, will the state charge us for the lab use?

Answer: See the answer to Question 34.

Question 42: If we have a deployment crew at a location and they have completed their assignment, and on the return they are weathered in and cannot return for multiple days, are we authorized to bill for the amount we incur, over and above the accepted amount?

Answer: In a situation where an assignment is completed but the deployment crew is weathered in or delayed from return due to another natural disaster, the contractor will be allowed to bill for travel costs in accordance with Section 3.02 of the RFP. No additional charges shall be allowed.

Question 43: What is the responsibility of the contractor to identify the hot-spots for COVID-19 transmission? How should we incorporate this requirement into our project narrative?

Answer: DPH will identify hot-spots and priority locations. The offeror should incorporate into their proposal how a team can deploy rapidly to these locations.

Question 44: The RFP describes antigen tests and/or molecular-based tests being desirable, however further in the specifics for Deliverable 2, the RFP only mentions molecular-based tests. Molecular based tests must be shipped to a laboratory and the turn-around time is not less than 24 hours (normally 48-72 hours in the best-case scenarios). Would you prefer to use high sensitivity, rapid, point of care

antigen-based testing? The results would be available in 30 minutes, allowing for real-time surveillance and immediate action, and the sensitivity of our technology is comparable to molecular-based tests.

Answer: The contractor needs to have the capacity for both molecular and antigen as each test type has a place in diagnosis and screening. DPH will provide the contractor guidance on which test is appropriate for a particular situation.

Question 45: What is the responsibility of the contractor to procure the facility? How does this align with the need to be mobile and deploy within 72 hours? What does the deployment within 72 hours entail? Is this from the time of notice of award to having a team on the ground ready to go at the designated sites listed in the RFP? How would that incorporate the need to procure the space with all the rental agreements, permitting, and outfitting required? What does the term “mobile” entail? Would the team on the ground need to move to multiple sites?

Answer: Please see answer to Question 9 for the first part of this question. For the rest, mobile COVID response team is intended to provide rapid response to outbreaks, vaccination needs or other high volume essential needs such as arrival of wildland firefighters from out of state. The 72 hours for deployment is from time of notification from the State project manager of the need to the time a team is on location to screen/test/vaccinate.

The project manager will also notify the Department of Administration, Shared Services of Alaska Leasing Office (Leasing) or the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Division of Facilities Services (Facilities) as appropriate and if a facility agreement is required prior to the contractor being on location, the project manager will coordinate with Leasing or Facilities and the contractor to complete the facility agreement prior to the deployment (contractor being on location).

Question 46: What interaction will the contractor have with DPH regarding the clinical establishment and oversight? Will the DPH conduct any audits into our processes? Are there any set standards and procedures set by the state that we should be adhering to?

Answer: Alaska has State guidance for testing, screening, and travel. Individual State facilities may have additional standards and procedures that shall be followed.

Question 47: What is the extent to the screening which you require? Is it just temperature checks and standard COVID-19 screening questions, or are there additional procedures you’d like to implement?

Answer: Yes, temperature checks and standard COVID-19 screening questions. If additional standard screening or vaccination questions are added these will be updated.

Question 48: What are the pass-through costs referenced in the RFP Excel sheet for screening, testing and vaccines? Is this the consumables and single use items necessary for each individual patient? Does this include the cost of the test itself? Will these pass-through costs be paid for by the patient or by the state?

Answer: See the answer to Question 38. These costs will be paid by the State.

Question 49: How can this be firm fixed price if the scope is variable? If the actual patient flow is higher than the estimated volume, this will add substantial cost to the operations to account for additional variable costs associated with the patient (consumables, testing supplies, etc.).

Answer: The hourly rates, pass-through costs, and start-up costs for each deployment on the cost proposal are a firm fixed price. However, the State realizes the monthly fixed costs may vary depending on the amount of services needed in a particular region. Submittal Form G and Section 3.04 of the RFP have been updated accordingly. Offerors must use the revised Submittal Form G that is now posted with the RFP.

Question 50: How can we modify the contract if the scope of the project needs to expand, such as new sites that need to be operationalized or an expansion in predicted volume?

Answer: The contract(s) will contain a not-to-exceed dollar amount that can be amended via a written contract amendment to accommodate expansion of the contract scope beyond that amount if necessary. See Section 3.13 which has been added to the RFP.

Question 51: In the deliverables, it states the contractor will secure vaccination and testing supplies. Will these items be furnished by the state? Or is it the responsibility of the contractor to purchase the supplies?

Answer: It is the responsibility of the contractor to purchase these supplies. The vaccine itself will be provided by the State.

Question 52: Will there be a requirement for rapid molecular testing, or will antigen testing suffice?

Answer: See the answer to Question 44.

Question 53: In every region the timeline is 9 months except for interior which is 15 months, is this solely for fire season?

Answer: This was a typo and has been corrected to 9 months.

Question 54: Are screeners are to be used during deployments only or will they be there every operational day?
Also, will one screener be needed per State facility per operational day?

Answer: Screeners may be used in both. The need for screening will be determined by DPH. For example, screening for juror selection.

Question 55: In the RFP it states contractor is responsible for lease, however it also states that State of Alaska facilities will be used.

Answer: See the answers to Questions 9 and 45.

Question 56: In the RFP it states contractor is responsible for lease, however it also states that State of Alaska facilities will be used.

Answer: See the answers to Questions 9 and 45.

Question 57: What are the State's expectations for the start-up costs for each deployment?

Answer: The offeror is responsible for determining what their start-up costs will be and incorporating into their cost proposal.

Question 58: Does the manufacturer release of liability or product liability, extend to the state and/or contractor i.e. bad vaccine batch (not related to malpractice)?

Answer: If this is referencing things like drug recall, yes, the manufacturer covers "bad batches."

Other Notices

Notice 1: A potential offeror requested and was provided a copy of the current contract for the Anchorage/MatSu region. If potential offerors would like to receive a copy of the contract, please provide a written request to the procurement officer.

Other Changes to the RFP

Section 3.17 Insurance:

The Department of Administration, Division of Risk Management, is requiring Commercial General Liability and Professional Liability Insurance coverage limits to be increased to \$1,000,000 and \$5,000,000, respectively. Section 3.17 has been updated accordingly.

Section 3.01 Scope of Work

“Screening” has been added to the first, second, and third paragraphs of this section.

Section 5.04 Experience and Qualifications

The first question in this section has been revised to read as follows:

- 1) How much experience does the offeror have in prior immunization programs?
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Submittal Form G – Cost Proposal

The word “screened” has been added to the second part of the Instructions section.

End of Amendment #1