Amendment #1 - Issued February 22, 2022
RFQ 0622-064 - DPH - Alaska Death Certificate Training

Response to Questions Received

Question/ Answer#	Section Reference and/or Page Number	Questions Received / Responses Provided
Q1	Background Information, 2nd paragraph, last sentence	The RFQ mentions that there has been some difficulty during Covid with regards to getting timely death certificates. Could you explain what those difficulties entailed?
A1		Alaska experiences unique challenges in Vital Event reporting, which have existed prior to the pandemic. The project to improve death reporting in Alaska was one that was intended to be implemented in 2020, but was delayed due to the pandemic. The RFQ states "Further, as was made clear during the COVID pandemic, improved access to data is crucial for timely response to the pandemic." This statement was an example of how timely death data is important to responding to public health issues. It did not mean there were issues with timeliness specific to the pandemic. We certainly did have some slow down when we had the cyberattack and did not have our electronic vital records system available, and funeral homes and doctors were completing death certificates on paper. This, of course, was not COVID specific but it did affect COVID death certificates.
Q2	Not cited	Has the state identified any specific issues with regard to Covid death certificates?
A2		We have had a handful of death certificates that have only stated "coronavirus" on the death certificate. In these cases we follow back with the certifier to clarify the type of coronavirus, as we do not assume that it is COVID 19. It is common practice for all death certificates to have a visual review by vital records staff for any obvious errors that require follow back with the certifier.
Q3	Not cited	Specifically, how will this training help address problems with Covid death certificates?
A3		Encourage use of EVRS for more timely cause of death information, provide resources/guidance for filling out death certificates, provide information on the importance of death certificate data to public health. This training is not specific to COVID deaths, but the COVID pandemic is a good example of how death certificate data has been used.
Q4	Not cited	What will the training entail with regard to certifying Covid-relateed [*sic*] deaths?
A4		There will be some practical examples of which may include COVID-19 deaths, and sharing of resources provided by NCHS, which includes guidance for filling out COVID death certificates. But again, as stated, this training is not specific to COVID death certificates.
Q5	Not cited	Ahead of the deadline for submissions of the Solicitation titled: "RFQ 0622-064 Alaska Death Certificate Training," we would like to confirm if there have been any vendor questions or document that are not posted on the solicitation website.
A5		Amendment #1 issued February 22, 2022 is representative of the State's responses to all questions received to date.
Q6	Not cited	In addition, we would greatly appreciate if you could please confirm that the response for this Solicitation will be via email and that the due deadline is on Friday, February 25, 2022 at 4:00PM AKST.
A6		Response deadline is to be via email to: **hss.procurement.proposal@alaska.gov**, Friday, February 25, 2022 at 4:00PM AKST.