

Request for Information



State of Alaska
Department of Health
Division of Public Health

Date Issued: August 5, 2022
Response Deadline: August 15, 2022, 2:30PM

ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR UNDERSERVED/UNDERINSURED POPULATIONS IN ALASKA

A. Introduction:

The Alaska Department of Health (DOH), Division of Public Health (DPH), section of Women's, Children's & Family Health (WCFH), Adolescent Health Program is seeking information from qualified parties capable and interested in providing contracted support services from a non-profit community-based organization that will partner with the Alaska Oral Health Program to address workforce and strategic infrastructure development projects, related to accessing oral health care and health literacy. The vendor will provide clinical services to seniors in long-term care facilities and to individuals without insurance or the ability to receive insurance in the Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Valley Health Provider Shortage Areas (HPSAs).

B. Background Information:

The current contract is supported by federal Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Grants to States that Support Oral Health Workforce Activities grant. The purpose of this program is to help states develop and implement innovative programs to address the dental workforce needs of designated dental health professional shortage areas (Dental HPSAs), in a manner appropriate to each state's individual needs. The aim is to encourage and support state innovation to increase oral health services for populations living in Dental HPSAs and to sustain those programs that increase the accessibility and quality of oral health services within Dental HPSAs. This project seeks to expand the oral health workforce, services, and outcomes for the highest need communities and populations within targeted Dental HPSAs in collaboration with staff members from the Division of Public Health, the Alaska Dental Action Coalition, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska School Districts, and other stakeholders.

C. Scope of Work

The vendor would manage the implementation, enhancement, and sustainment of innovative programs for Alaskan seniors, children, and individuals without insurance or the ability to receive insurance in consultation with state and local dental societies. These programs/projects will expand upon or establish oral health services and facilities in the Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Valley Dental HPSAs, including services and facilities for children with special needs.

Oral Health Workforce Activities funding will support access to health care for low-income uninsured members of the community by using a volunteer network of providers working in a coordinated fashion. The volunteer network must amplify access to the oral health providers offering care. Funding will also be utilized to increase access to dental care for residents residing in long-term care facilities in the Municipality of Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The model of care must allow for a collaborative practice (dental hygienists working with dentists) that increases care access for individuals who cannot physically access dental care.

Anticipated outcomes include increased access to care and health literacy in the Municipality of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna, Dental HPSAs with an approximate population of 298,908, particularly for school-aged children and low-income, uninsured adults.

D. Deliverables

- 1) Develop and enhance innovative programming through implementation of a successfully-piloted working model for collaborative practice in Long-Term Care home settings, with expansion into Assisted Living care.
 - Establish a minimum of 2 dental clinics trialing a collaborative practice in Assisted Living facilities, utilizing age-friendly systems concepts and modeling innovative care practices
 - Dedicate and train 1.0 FTE total Dental Assistants to increase access to care in HPSA-area facilities in the Matanuska-Susitna
 - Provide training to long-term care staff on oral health disease prevention best practices
 - Equip and supply dental clinics with needed materials, including software supporting multi-site dentistry using collaborative agreements
 - Integrate Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) program trainees into Health Smiles Forever training and education for age-friendly systems concepts and practice
- 2) Increase access to dental care and education for underserved populations in the Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Valley HPSAs through targeted outreach, enhanced tracking and evaluation of targeted services, and implementation of community partnerships supporting mobile screening and referral
 - Provide program outreach through various forms of media, increasing access to dental care through public awareness of the proposed program and projects
 - Increase care coordination for new dental patients, developing and enhancing a successfully-trialed care coordination model
 - Evaluate efficacy and reach of mobile care service programs in areas of service
 - Development of partnership with DHAT program increasing HPSA dental screenings and program referrals
 - Pilot a system of promoting, tracking, and reporting dental sealant services provided to school-age children ages 6 to 18 years from referral to completion
- 3) Pilot a new program of oral health education sessions for early intervention and disease prevention in the Anchorage school district, in partnership with Camp Fire Alaska and Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
 - Obtain approval from school leadership to host early intervention presentations
 - Create, revise, and present early intervention education sessions
 - Evaluate and report efficacy of sessions

E. Preferred Minimum Experience

1. Five years of experience within the last eight years, the organization has demonstrated sufficient evidence of their capacity and expertise to successfully manage innovative access to care programs for dental service delivery to uninsured, underinsured, and special healthcare needs individuals, including Alaskan seniors in Long Term Care and Assisted Living facilities in the Municipality of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Valley Dental HPSA areas.
2. Five years of experience within the last eight years, the organization has established or can be prepared to reestablish multiple MOA/MOUs within the Anchorage School District for various locations to provide oral health care education in a school setting, including designation of a member of staff with the demonstrated credentials and/or experience to provide oral health literacy materials to children ages K-12.

3. Vendor must have developed and maintained successful partnership with Tribal Health entities, and incorporate Dental Health Aide Therapy (DHAT) program current students and graduates into innovative programming and proposed projects.
4. Vendor must have the existing program capacity to provide in-kind match, to 40% of awarded funds, as required by HRSA for program implantation.

F. Budget

Not to exceed a total of \$837,500.00 for contract period 9/1/2022-8/31/2023 and three one-year renewals (9/1/2023 – 8/31/2026).

G. Questions:

1. In your experience, how effective at meeting program goals through this or similar program have you found this program to be for the population served?
2. Tell us what challenges and opportunities exist?

H. Response Information:

How to Participate

Interested applicants/firms who believe they can provide the services described above should indicate their interest by submitting an electronic response (*.pdf format is preferable) with the following information:

- Company name
- Contact information (email) for the individual(s) who should be notified if DHSS releases a solicitation
- A summary that clearly describes your company's capabilities and experience related to providing the services described in this RFI (Sections C and D).
- A summary that clearly describes how the applicant/firm meets or exceeds the *preferred minimum experience* above (Section E).
- A statement confirming that the company anticipates the project deliverables, as shown in Section D, are reasonably within the estimated budget provided (Section F). Or, if not, why not?
- Provide narrative statements in response to the questions listed in Section G.
- A summary of any concerns regarding the project as described, and what potential obstacles should be anticipated?

A. Submission Instructions:

Applicants/firms must submit their response as a PDF file, sent via email, on or before August 15, 2022, 2:30PM. The response should be attached to the email with "RFI ORAL HEALTH" included as the subject line of the email to the following:

Annalisa Haynie / Matt Meienberg

Procurement Specialist

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

Annalisa.Haynie@alaska.gov / Matt.Meienberg@alaska.gov

It is the responsibility of the interested party to follow up with the procurement specialist(s) shown above to ensure that response was received prior to the time and date specified at the top of this RFI.

Important Notice:

This Request for Information does not constitute a formal solicitation. The purpose of the RFI is to determine if there are qualified offerors who would be interested in bidding on these services. The State will use this information to potentially develop a future solicitation.

The State of Alaska is not responsible for any costs associated with the preparation of responses. The issuance of this Request for Information does not obligate the state to purchase any goods or services, extend any rights to prospective vendors nor guarantee that the State of Alaska will proceed with a formal solicitation.