

Request for Information



State of Alaska
Department of Health
Division of Public Health

Date Issued: January 31, 2023

1623-035 - ORAL HEALTH CONSULTANT

Introduction:

The Alaska Department of Health (DOH), Division of Public Health (DPH) Section of Women's, Children's & Family Health Adolescent Health Program (WCFH) is seeking information from qualified parties capable and interested in providing contracted support from a consultancy that will partner with the Alaska Oral Health Program to address workforce development and data surveillance projects related to access to oral health care and health literacy. The contractor will provide end-user consultation to statewide organizations in Health Provider Shortage Areas (HPSAs) to develop data surveillance infrastructure, research and develop an informed plan to address best practice consultation and use of the Prescription Drug Management Program (PDMP), and co-develop a 2030 Oral Health Action Plan and evaluation strategy with the Alaska Oral Health Program.

Background Information:

This project is supported by a federal Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Grants to States to 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 that will 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 Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) in collaboration with staff members from DPH, the Alaska Dental Action Coalition, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Christian Health Associates, and other stakeholders.

Minimums

1. Contractor must be a DMD/DDS actively licensed in the state of Alaska.
2. Contractor must have 2 years or more of experience providing professional clinical advisory services.
3. Contractor must have 2 years or more experience in study design and development, data analyses including knowledge of SQL, and familiarity with HPSA designation criteria.
4. Contractor must be willing to participate in all Oral Health Program meetings, Alaska Dental Action Coalition meetings.

Scope of Work

The Dental Consultant will provide DPH with professional dental health expertise and guidance for oral health related work and will develop oral health program priorities in a written Oral Health Action Plan with assistance from partner programs to identify and address gaps in oral health services to Alaska's most vulnerable populations. The Dental Consultant will work in conjunction with DOH to improve the oral health status and access to care for Alaskans.

Through collaboration with DPH staff, the Dental Consultant will assist with strategic planning and coordination of oral health-related activities across Alaska. A Public Health Specialist II (1.0 FTE) is dedicated to oral health program management within DPH. Two Health Program Manager III staff members, two Nurse Consultants, and a Research Analyst III provide minimal in-kind time as needed. The Dental Consultant will provide guidance and consultation to the development, implementation and improvement of statewide oral health prevention, policy and surveillance activities aligned with the 10 Essential Public Health Services identified to promote oral health.

The Dental Consultant will represent DPH as the subject matter expert and technical assistance provider for oral healthcare for the SOA; this includes coordination and participation in agency, private, local and statewide oral health care committees. This position will seek opportunities for partnership with other agencies and other organizations, specifically chronic disease and maternal child health and Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention (OSMAP) to enhance oral health in Alaska.

Budget

\$37,500 for 9/1/2022-8/31/2023 and over three one-year renewals (9/1/2023 – 8/31/2026). \$150,000 total.

Deliverables

- 1) Provide clinical and public leadership in the promotion of oral health in Alaska;
 - Represent the State as needed at annual professional events: Alaska Area Dental Meeting, Alaska Public Health Association summit, Maternal Child Health meeting.
 - Collaborate with the Project Director, Health Program Managers, and Nurse Consultants to provide definitive solutions for all requested deliverables.
 - In collaboration with DOH staff, submit annually revised work plan(s) for the duration of the contract
 - Quarterly teleconferencing consultation with DOH staff; WCFH unit section chief, Health Program Manager, and Project Director. Frequent email and project management software check-ins.
 - Participate in coalitions/ad hoc work group opportunities focused on improving oral health outcomes: Dental Advisory Committee, Medical Care Advisory Committee, Alaska Dental Action Coalition, Dental Quality Alliance, etc.
 - Consult with internal and external executive staff on oral health policy, new and emerging oral health procedures and practice, and other activities to improve access to and quality of oral health care in Alaska.
 - Network with external partners regarding access, quality, and other areas of oral health care innovation relevant to Alaska.
- 2) Inform and initiate a new activity for program enhancement and sustainability, the 2025-2030 Alaska Oral Health Action Plan, in collaboration with stakeholders and partners
 - Define action plan focus areas in collaboration with DOH.
 - Develop data surveillance and evaluation/reporting strategies in partnership with stakeholders.

3) Advocate for, innovate, and trial policy and programs that enhance recruitment and retention of oral health professionals in Alaska

- In partnership with WCFH and DPH staff, work to increase the number of oral health professionals practicing in Alaska and treating HPSAs, researching, recommending, and trialing systems improvement and innovative approaches to recruitment and retention of dentists
- Identify sites for potential residency programs related to general and/or pediatric dental residencies. Partner with FQHCs to work toward a residency program application, including hire of required staff and development of information packet prior to CODA meeting.
- Remain current with regulatory and accreditation standards, implications of healthcare law, State licensing requirements, delivery system trends, and oral health science.
- Remotely attend or review minutes of Alaska State Dental Board.
- Remain current in contact with Legislative Liaisons.
- Read and review journals, articles, and professional web forums on delivery trends and oral health science.
- Leverage connections with HRSA, National Network for Oral Health Access, Alaska Dental Society, Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, public health groups, and other national partners to locate funding opportunities.

4) Convene the Alaska Dental Action Coalition (ADAC); support quarterly meetings as co-chair.

5) Support the oral health workforce in consistent PDMP use and tracking and the reduction of opioid misuse.

- Collaborate on State efforts with OSMAP; provider programs through Southcentral Foundation, the Alaska Native Medical Center, and other partners to summarize oral health providers' issues and concerns with existing PDMP system and the current available training and access
- Initiate research and development of an informed plan to address best practice consultation and use of PDMP, and education of oral health professionals on alternative pain management and opioid prescription reduction

6) Improvement of data surveillance and systems/infrastructure development to support real-time data sharing at the HPSA-site-level.

- Review of data surveillance capacity and preventative service provision in HPSA sites
- Determine if collaboration is possible with DPH/DOH to leverage existing data partnerships to review emergency department utilization data for dental services more appropriately delivered in an oral health primary care setting
- Provision of end-user consultation to build capacity for data surveillance and state-level data sharing

Response Information:

Interested firms must indicate their interest by submitting an electronic response (.pdf format is preferable) with the following information:

- Firm Name;
- Individual authorized to sign contracts;
- Mailing address;
- Phone number;
- Email address;
- Address how applicant meets or exceeds the experience requirements;
- Confirmation that the firm can provide the project deliverables within the budget and timeline provided

Submit an electronic response no later than 1400 AKST on February 10, 2023, to the attention of:

Matt Meienberg
Procurement Specialist
(907) 465-5293
E-mail: matt.meienberg@alaska.gov

BIDDERS/OFFERORS WITH DISABILITIES: The State of Alaska complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to submit a Letter of Interest should contact the Procurement Officer named above, no later than February 5, 2023.

Important Notice:

This RFI does not extend any rights to prospective contractors or obligate the state to conduct a solicitation or purchase any goods or services. Nor will the State be financially responsible for any costs associated with the preparation of any response for the requested information. This RFI is issued for the sole purpose of obtaining information as described in this notice. However, the information obtained from this request may be used to prepare a purchase, contract, or solicitation in the future.