

**Request for Information
RFI 02-114-23**



State of Alaska
Department of Administration
Division of Retirement and Benefits

Date Issued: June 26, 2023

ONCOLOGY SUPPORT SERVICES

Introduction:

The Department of Administration, Division of Retirement and Benefits, is seeking information from companies who provide Oncology specific solutions to large public health plans.

Background Information:

The Division of Retirement and Benefits (Division) manages the State of Alaska (State) retirement plans, the State-sponsored AlaskaCare health and dental plans, and other State-sponsored optional benefits. The Commissioner of the Department of Administration is the AlaskaCare Plan Administrator, but delegates policy development and operational duties to the Division. Under the leadership of the Division Director, the Division is organized into several sections as follows:

- **Health Plan Administration:** This section administers and manages the AlaskaCare health plans and other optional benefits, manages the associated vendors, manages health plan eligibility, and internally handles some of the work related to health plan customer service, benefits processing, and appeals.
- **Finance:** This section provides accounting services and payroll services including retiree payroll processing, refund processing, and employer payroll support.
- **Pension and Member Benefits:** This section provides counseling to members, processes retirement benefit appeals, IT & special project support, and processing related to disability and death, retirement, and survivor benefits.
- **Operations:** This section provides administrative services, communications support, information services, internal auditing/compliance activities, and operates a member service center.

AlaskaCare is the term used to describe the medical, pharmacy, dental, vision, and audio plans administered by the Division. These plans are provided in accordance with Alaska statutes to (1) a portion of State employees; (2) Defined Benefit (DB) Retired employees of the State, teachers, and participating political subdivision employers; and (3) Defined Contribution (DC) Retired employees of the State, teachers, and participating political subdivision employers. The plans have different provisions and funding structures, but the State's group health and dental plans are self-funded. The coverage provided is good worldwide.

The current Medical Administration and Network Management contract is with Aetna and has been in place since January 1, 2020. The current Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) contract is with Optum Rx and has been in place since January 1, 2019. The current Dental Claims Administrator and Network contract is with Delta Dental of Alaska (MODA) and has been in place since January 1, 2020.

AlaskaCare Active Employee Benefits

The AlaskaCare Active Employee Health Plan provides medical, pharmacy, and audio benefits to eligible State of Alaska employees and their dependents. The Division offers eligible employees a choice between three plan options with different cost share provisions, but the same coverage provisions: the Standard Plan, the Economy Plan, and the Consumer Choice Plan. The plan is actively managed by the Division. There are approximately 15,000 covered lives in the employee medical plan (encompassing subscribers and dependents). The plan is primarily financially supported by employer contributions and monthly employee premiums.

Full details on the employee plan can be found in the insurance information booklet available online at: <https://drb.alaska.gov/employee/healthplans.html#booklets>

AlaskaCare Retiree Health Benefits

The Division offers the following options to retirees:

1. **AlaskaCare Defined Benefit (DB) Retiree Health Plan:** This plan provides medical and pharmacy benefits to eligible DB retirees automatically upon retirement. There are over 76,000 covered lives in this plan (encompassing subscribers and dependents) of whom approximately 60,500 are Medicare age eligible. The plan is funded by various retiree health trusts, and most members are eligible for retirement system-paid premiums, meaning they do not pay a monthly premium out-of-pocket for health coverage for themselves and any eligible dependents.
2. **AlaskaCare Defined Contribution (DC) Retiree Health Plan:** This plan provides medical and pharmacy benefits to eligible DC retirees who elect to participate after termination of employment. This plan was first implemented in 2016. There are currently 220 covered lives in this plan (encompassing subscribers and dependents) and is expected to grow quickly. This plan is funded by various retiree health trusts, and all members in this plan are required to pay monthly premiums, which vary depending on a number of factors. Eligible members may elect to use a State-sponsored Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) account to pay or offset their monthly premiums.

Alaska statute requires that the coverage for members aged 65 or older is the same coverage available to members under the age of 65, but that the AlaskaCare retiree health plans become supplemental to Medicare when members turn 65. Retiree health benefits are protected against diminishment by the Alaska Constitution. As a result, relatively few changes have been made to the retiree health plans since 2000, and any potential future changes must be carefully considered.

Full details on both retiree benefit plans can be found in the insurance information booklets available online at: <https://drb.alaska.gov/retiree/healthplans.html#retireebooklets>

Purpose:

The purpose of this RFI is to gather information from vendors who are qualified to provide an Oncology program to the Active Employee Health Plan membership.

At this time, an Oncology Program is not under consideration for the Retiree Plans; however, this may change in the future. In your response, please identify and describe how your program's coverage and services would differ between an active population and a retiree population.

The State is seeking information from the market as to the types of programs available, as well as the general cost associated with those programs. Provided below are some general data metrics on the prevalence of cancer in the current active membership.

| ACTIVE PLAN | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Type | Total Cancer Cases 2021 | Total Cancer Cases 2022 |
| Breast Cancer | 77 | 76 |
| Brain Cancer | 6 | 4 |
| Prostate Cancer | 24 | 23 |
| Skin Cancer | 76 | 67 |
| Hodgkin's/Lymphoma | 24 | 24 |
| Leukemia | 13 | 16 |
| Other Cancer | 77 | 75 |

| RETIREE PLAN | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Type | Total Cancer Cases 2021 | Total Cancer Cases 2022 |
| Breast Cancer | 342 | 319 |
| Brain Cancer | 11 | 14 |
| Prostate Cancer | 226 | 213 |
| Skin Cancer | 380 | 333 |
| Hodgkin's/Lymphoma | 60 | 63 |
| Leukemia | 69 | 66 |
| Other Cancer | 380 | 333 |

Response Information:

Responses must include the following information:

1. Organization name, contact name, mailing address, phone number, and email of designated point of contact;
2. Existing capableness and competence related to the services identified above to include answers to the RFI Questionnaire; and
3. Responses provided in both word and PDF formats, including any supplemental attachments.

RFI Questionnaire:

1. What is the name of your organization and your Oncology program?
2. Provide an overview of the ownership of your organization.
3. When was your program established?
4. Provide a general overview of your program and its value proposition. (limit to 1,000 words)
5. Please list the cancers/diagnoses your program covers.
6. What are your program exclusions related to cancer types, treatments, services, and other relevant coverages?
7. What are the service components to your program? Please address the listed components' availability as well as all other program services.
 - a. Member Concierge / Care Management
 - b. Centers of Excellence / Partnerships / Network
 - c. Preferred drug pricing
 - d. Travel services and assistance
 - e. Member and family counseling services
 - f. Other
8. Are these program components a bundle or can plans choose certain services?
9. Please provide a general fee arrangement and benchmark cost for your program.
10. Are you planning any changes/enhancements to the current program in the next few years?
11. How does your program coordinate with a plan's major medical TPA or PBM?
12. Does your organization include a customer service line?
13. Provide a general overview of the member experience with your program. If you offer multiple customer service models, please summarize the differences in these options.
14. Provide a sample data report that is provided to clients.
15. What performance guarantees do you include with your program?

This RFI does not extend any rights to prospective vendors or obligate the state to conduct a solicitation or purchase any goods or services. DOA does not intend to award a contract from this RFI, nor will DOA be financially responsible for the preparation, or administration cost incurred to respond to this RFI. All costs associated with responding will be solely at the interested party's expense.

Procurement Officer contact information:

Interested parties must submit a written response by **July 26th, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. AKST.** Concise responses that are specific to AlaskaCare are appreciated versus pre-written materials. Responses must be sent via email to: doa.oppm.procurement@alaska.gov .

All questions must be in writing and emailed to: doa.oppm.procurement@alaska.gov
Attention: Lisa Trombi, Department Procurement Manager
Department of Administration, Division of Retirement and Benefits
Office of Procurement and Property Management