

# Request for Information



State of Alaska  
Department of Health  
Division of Public Health

**Date Issued: October 25, 2023**  
**Response Deadline: November 8, 2023**

## 1624-020 – NBS HOSTING AND MAINTENANCE

### **Introduction**

The Alaska Department of Health, Division of Public Health, Section of Epidemiology, is seeking letters of interest from qualified parties capable of and interested in providing database hosting and maintenance services for the Alaska version of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) Base System (NBS).

### **Background Information**

The Division adopted the NBS System in Fall 2019 with a sole source contract for NBS hosting and maintenance services. The State is interested in assessing whether other entities may have the skills and background experience necessary to successfully meet its needs.

### **Scope of Work**

The key function of this project is to host and maintain Alaska's NBS, encompassing the following activities, among others:

- Onboard, monitor, maintain existing and new electronic lab feeds;
- Onboard, monitor, maintain existing and new electronic case reporting feeds;
- Active engagement with trading partners, whether local, regional, or national;
- Interface with the Alaska Health Information Exchange (HIE);
- Provide support for user provisioning;
- Manage and maintain reporting outbound data to the CDC;
- Provide ad hoc data reports and database query support;
- Install updates and enhancements to pages and/or produce customized pages/reports.

### **Deliverables**

The State of Alaska requires a system with minimal downtime that is managed effectively to house public health surveillance data.

- Ensure the State meets national reporting standards to CDC;
- Maintain electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) and electronic case reporting (eCR) feeds;
- Ensure data can be extracted in meaningful reports internally and for obtaining federal grant metrics, such as proportion of cases received through electronic means, time from report to investigation, etc.;
- Provide ad hoc data reports and database query support;

- Install updates and enhancements to existing and legacy pages;
- Develop and produce customized pages/reports.

### **Preferred Minimum Experience**

The Division is looking for the following qualifications and experience in a contractor:

1. Detailed knowledge of the NBS system and ability to configure settings to the security specifications required by the Alaska Office of Information Technology;
2. Demonstrated history of successfully hosting NBS for a state or equivalent jurisdiction to include:
  - a. Demonstrated ability to host and integrate data from other disease surveillance systems, including syndromic surveillance systems and other infectious disease surveillance systems;
  - b. Knowledge of eCR functionality and methods of integrating eCR data into NBS;
  - c. Experience in programming for data extraction and customized report development;
  - d. Knowledge of ELR functionality, including integration of the Association of Public Health Laboratories Informatics Messaging Services feed and HIE feeds, as well as methods of creating and maintaining outbound interjurisdictional ELR feeds; and
  - e. Knowledge of NBS best practices from regular engagement in existing NBS subject matter expert (SME) and user meetings;
3. Experience in using Rhapsody for data transport;
4. Demonstrated experience working with external partners, including laboratories, hospitals, the NBS GDIT team, and various CDC surveillance teams;
5. Knowledge and experience with CDC message mapping guides, the NBS and other Data Modernization Initiatives (DMI), as well as the NorthStar Architecture.

### **Budget**

The Department of Health, Division of Public Health has a budget of \$300,000 to \$400,000 per year to utilize over the next ten years in support of this contract.

Contract period: the length of this contract will be approximately one (1) year with nine (9) optional one-year renewals.

### **Questions**

For how many years and in what jurisdictions has your company supported the NBS platform?

- a. Specifically describe your company's experience hosting and maintaining NBS.
- b. Specifically describe the skills and experience of your staff.

### **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 with the following information:

1. Company name.
2. Contact information (email) for the individual(s) who should be notified if DOH releases a solicitation.
3. A summary that clearly describes your company's capabilities and experience related to providing the services described in this RFI. (See *Scope of Work* and *Deliverables*.)

4. A summary that clearly describes how the applicant/firm meets or exceeds the preferred minimum experience above. (See *Preferred Minimum Experience*.)
5. A statement confirming that the company anticipates the project deliverables, as shown above, are reasonably within the estimated budget provided. (See *Deliverables*.) Or, if not, why?
6. Provide narrative statements in response to the question/requested specifications listed above. (See *Questions*.)
7. A summary of any concerns regarding the project as described, and what potential obstacles should be anticipated

**Submission Instructions**

Applicants/firms must submit their response as a .pdf file, sent via email, on or before November 8, 2023, 2:30 pm, prevailing Alaska time. The response should be attached to the email with "NBS Hosting and Maintenance" included as the subject line of the email to the following:

**Anneliese Zlitni**

Procurement Specialist

Alaska Department of Health

[anneliese.zlitni@alaska.gov](mailto:anneliese.zlitni@alaska.gov)

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

**Important Notice**

This RFI does not extend any rights to prospective vendors 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.