

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Health
Division of Behavioral Health



988 Tribal Needs Assessment

RFP 2024-1600-0264

Amendment #2

May 31, 2024

This amendment is being issued to answer questions submitted by potential offerors.

Offerors must use Submittal Form A – Offeror Information to acknowledge this amendment.

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Questions submitted by potential offerors and answers from the State:

Question 1: There is an open RFP to award the State 988 contract. Will the 988 RFP be granted by the start date for the 988 Tribal Needs Assessment (7/22/24)? If not, would DBH consider delaying the start of the Needs Assessment contract to ensure the 988 state operator is identified and onboarded?

Answer: No. This project is not assessing the state's crisis call center or the 988 Lifeline. It is to be an assessment of the needs of Alaska Native and Indigenous People for crisis line services in Alaska.

Question 2: Careline, the current 988 operator, currently maintains all 988 usage data. Will additional support be provided to Careline by the Department to support Careline's provision of data to support Deliverable 2 (a) or will DBH be responsible for obtaining usage data from Careline?

Answer: No additional support is planned to be provided to Careline for this project. DBH can share the usage data from the national 988 administrator and quarterly reports with the awardee if Careline is unable to fulfill data requests.

Question 3: Is the scope of the Needs Assessment only to focus on Tribal Health Organizations, or any Tribal entity serving the health, wellness, and safety of Tribal beneficiaries? The language of the RFP mandates linkages to THOs, but also mentions potentially forming partnerships with Village Safety Patrol and Tribal Police.

Answer: The scope of the Needs Assessment should not focus only on Tribal Health Organizations; it should also engage with other entities that serve the health, wellness, and safety of Alaska Native and Indigenous People in the state. This may include behavioral health and primary healthcare providers, hospitals, tribal governments, law enforcement, mobile crisis teams, crisis stabilization centers, community organizations, public service answering points (PSAPs) etc.

Question 4: Does DBH have a relationship with the State Broadband Office to help gather qualitative and quantitative data regarding broadband access and connectivity in the State? Historically, rural regions in the State with large Alaska Native populations have not had the connectivity to call, text or chat 988.

Answer: DBH can help to facilitate a connection between the offeror and the State Broadband Office.

Question 5: Will the offeror be expected to collaborate with existing efforts and networks and how will the offeror be informed of those initiatives and key contacts including:

- Alaska’s 988 Coalition Tribal/Rural Workgroup
- 988 Tribal Response Grantees who are actively working on overlapping areas of work
- BerryDunn, contracted support for 988 IT Solutions Planning Project

Answer: Yes, the successful offeror will be expected to collaborate with current existing efforts and networks. DBH will facilitate connections between the offeror and these entities as necessary. See question 6 for further explanation.

Question 6: Activity E under Sec. 3.01 related to “considering functional and technical requirements” for a solution appears to be duplicative to existing work believed to be ongoing with BerryDunn. Will DBH support the linking of these efforts so as not to create duplication of work?

Answer: DBH does not currently have any ongoing efforts with BerryDunn as it relates to “considering functional and technical requirements” for a tribal needs assessment of crisis call center services. Any work BerryDunn is performing for DBH is directly related to and through the NASPO ValuePoint Past [NASPO ValuePoint PASS Contract](#). All work conducted will be provided to the successful offeror as part of background research documents, if applicable.

Question 7: Are respondents permitted to include a cover page, letter, and table of contents with our proposal response, or would DBH prefer that we only submit the requested submittal forms?

Answer: No, per **section 4.01** the submittal forms make up the entire proposal.

Question 8: Would DBH prefer respondents to submit our completed submittal forms as two (one technical and one cost), combined PDF documents, or would DBH prefer we submit each form as a separate document?

Answer: Please see **section 1.07**.

Question 9: Would DBH like respondents to provide copies of our proposed team members' resumes, and if so, where in our response would DBH like us to include them?

Answer: Yes, please include resumes for key team members, they can be added to Submittal Form B with no page count penalty. Please see **Change 2** below.

Question 10: Can resumes be included as an Appendix to the Technical Proposal?

Answer: Please see question 9 and **Change 2** below.

Question 11: Should we include resumes in Submittal Form B? Will resumes count against the page limit?

Answer: Please see question 9 and **Change 2** below.

Question 12: Does the finalized needs assessment report need to be made 508 compliant?

Answer: No, it does not need to be 508 compliant.

Question 13: Page 18 SEC 4.10 Cost Proposal states to include the costs associated with the performance of the contract, including but not limited to total number of hours at various hourly rate, the Form H does not have lines to list number of hours and various hourly rates. Is the contractor to submit an additional table with this information or is the Submittal Form H the only page to be submitted as it was provided?

Answer: No, see **Change 1** below.

Question 14: Will this work require IRB approval? If so, is there a preference for the IRB entity and who would that be?

Answer: No, IRB approval is not a required for this work.

Question 15: If there is a 1099 issued, does that automatically make them sub-contractors?

Answer: Yes, if they are not employed by the vendor and submit a 1099, they are considered a subcontractor.

Changes:

Change 1: The following section has been updated:

SEC. 4.10 COST PROPOSAL (SUBMITTAL FORM H)

Offerors must complete and submit this Submittal Form. Proposed costs must be inclusive of all direct and indirect costs associated with the performance of the contract. The costs identified on the cost proposal are the total amount of costs to be paid by the state. No additional charges shall be allowed.

Change 2: The following language has been added in section 4.04:

Offeror should include resumes for key members of the team. Resumes will not be counted to the page limit in section 4.02 and should be submitted as separate documents to Submittal Form B.

End of Amendment #1