

STATE OF ALASKA INFORMAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (IRFP)



REDUCING IMPLICIT BIAS IN MATERNITY CARE

IRFP 1624-076

ISSUED SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

The Department of Health, Division of Public Health is seeking someone to create and administer an implicit bias training for maternity care providers in Alaska. The Division of Public Health wants to ensure that the training focuses on care for patients who use drugs or alcohol during pregnancy.

ISSUED BY:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Division of Public Health

PRIMARY CONTACT:

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OFFERORS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO RETURN THIS FORM.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: IF YOU RECEIVED THIS SOLICITATION FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA'S "ONLINE PUBLIC NOTICE" WEB SITE, YOU MUST REGISTER WITH THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER LISTED IN THIS DOCUMENT TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS. FAILURE TO CONTACT THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER MAY RESULT IN THE REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER.

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SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION & INSTRUCTIONS

SEC. 1.01 PURPOSE OF THE IRFP

The Department of Health, Division of Public Health, is soliciting proposals to create and administer an implicit bias training for maternity care providers in Alaska, ensuring that the training focuses on care for patients who use drugs or alcohol during pregnancy.

SEC. 1.02 BUDGET

Department of Health, Division of Public Health, estimates a budget of \$25,000.00 for completion of this project. Proposals priced at more than \$25,000.00 will be considered non-responsive.

Payment for the contract is subject to funds already appropriated and identified.

SEC. 1.03 DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS

Proposals must be received no later than 12:00 Pm Alaska time on Friday, October 25, 2024, Late proposals or amendments will be disqualified and not opened or accepted for evaluation.

SEC. 1.04 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

To be considered responsive for this IRFP, an offeror must meet the mandatory minimum experience requirements that are provided in **Submittal Form F – Mandatory Requirements**. Failure to meet all these requirements will result in immediate disqualification.

SEC. 1.05 REQUIRED REVIEW

Offerors should carefully review this solicitation for defects and questionable or objectionable material. Comments concerning defects and questionable or objectionable material should be made in writing and received by the procurement officer before the deadline for receipt of proposals. This will allow time for the issuance of any necessary amendments. It will also help prevent the opening of a defective proposal and exposure of offeror's proposals upon which award could not be made.

SEC. 1.06 QUESTIONS PRIOR TO DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS

All questions must be in writing and directed to the procurement officer and received ten (10) days before the deadline for receipt of proposals. The interested party must confirm telephone conversations in writing.

Two types of questions generally arise. One may be answered by directing the questioner to a specific section of the IRFP. These questions may be answered over the telephone. Other questions may be more complex and may require a written amendment to the IRFP. The procurement officer will make that decision.

SEC. 1.07 RETURN INSTRUCTIONS

Offerors must submit their proposals via email. The technical proposal and cost proposal must be saved as separate documents and emailed to doh.procurement.proposals@alaska.gov as separate, clearly labeled attachments. The email must contain the IRFP number in the subject line.

The maximum size of a single email (including all text and attachments) that can be received by the state is 25mb (megabytes). If the email containing the proposal exceeds this size, the proposal must be sent in multiple emails that are each less than 25 megabytes.

Please note that email transmission is not instantaneous. Similar to sending a hard copy proposal, if you are emailing your proposal, the state recommends sending it enough ahead of time to ensure the email is delivered by the deadline for receipt of proposals.

It is the offeror’s responsibility to contact the above email address to confirm that the proposal has been received. The state is not responsible for unreadable, corrupt, or missing attachments.

SEC. 1.08 ASSISTANCE TO OFFERORS WITH A DISABILITY

Offerors with a disability may receive accommodation regarding the means of communicating this IRFP or participating in the procurement process. For more information, contact the procurement officer no later than ten days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals.

SEC. 1.09 AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSALS

Amendments to or withdrawals of proposals will only be allowed if acceptable requests are received prior to the deadline that is set for receipt of proposals. No amendments or withdrawals will be accepted after the deadline unless they are in response to the state's request in accordance with 2 AAC 12.290.

SEC. 1.10 AMENDMENTS TO THE IRFP

If an amendment is issued before the deadline for receipt of proposals, it will be provided to all who were notified of the IRFP and to those who have registered with the procurement officer after receiving the IRFP from the State of Alaska Online Public Notice website.

After receipt of proposals, if there is a need for any substantial clarification or material change in the IRFP, an amendment will be issued. The amendment will incorporate the clarification or change, and a new date and time established for new or amended proposals. Evaluations may be adjusted as a result of receiving new or amended proposals.

SEC. 1.11 IRFP SCHEDULE

IRFP schedule set out herein represents the state’s best estimate of the schedule that will be followed. If a component of this schedule, such as the deadline for receipt of proposals, is delayed, the rest of the schedule may be shifted accordingly. All times are Alaska Time.

ACTIVITY	TIME	DATE
Issue Date / IRFP Released		9/20/2024
Deadline to Submit Questions	12:00 PM	10/20/2024
Deadline for Receipt of Proposals / Proposal Due Date	12:00 PM	10/25/2024
Proposal Evaluations Complete		11/15/2024
Contract Issued		12/6/2024

This IRFP does not, by itself, obligate the state. The state's obligation will commence when the contract is approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Health, or the Commissioner's designee. Upon written notice to the contractor, the state may set a different starting date for the contract. The state will not be responsible for any work done by the contractor, even work done in good faith, if it occurs prior to the contract start date set by the state.

SEC. 1.12 ALTERNATE PROPOSALS

Offerors may only submit one proposal for evaluation. In accordance with 2 AAC 12.830 alternate proposals (proposals that offer something different than what is asked for) will be rejected.

SEC. 1.13 NEWS RELEASES

News releases related to this IRFP will not be made without prior approval of the project director.

SECTION 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SEC. 2.01 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The State of Alaska, Department of Health, Division of Public Health, Section of Women’s, Children’s and Family Health (WCFH) is the administrative entity of the Alaska Perinatal Quality Collaborative (AKPQC). The AKPQC was established to promote high-quality maternal and newborn care across Alaska. PQCs exist in most states and are structured, and function based on the needs of the population. The AKPQC’s mission is to provide the highest level of care to mothers and infants across Alaska by collaborating with hospitals, other birthing facilities, providers and key stakeholders to promote the sharing of best practices and advancement of data-driven initiatives.

Use of harmful substances during pregnancy continues to be an issue in Alaska and in some cases is increasing. With input from multiple stakeholders statewide, the AKPQC developed a key driver diagram, change package, and measurement plan with specific strategies and resources to improve the care of patients during pregnancy and newborns affected by substances statewide.

The AKPQC has also been working to address health disparities and health equity by encouraging motivational interviewing, universal verbal screening for substance use, and implicit bias training. Addressing bias is essential to respectful care. Persons who use drugs often face discrimination within the healthcare setting. Many decline to seek healthcare services due to the negative treatment they have had in previous medical settings. Patients who use substances while pregnant may not feel comfortable disclosing substance use, especially if they have experienced stigma related to their substance use during a previous encounter. Providing universal verbal screening with a validated tool can reduce biases and promote brief interventions. Verbally screening all patients for substance use during pregnancy using a validated tool will aid in reducing the screener’s intrinsic and extrinsic biases associated with what a person who uses substances “looks like”. In addition, it will create a culture of normalizing the screening process, which may make disclosure more comfortable. It is important that hospital staff understand why screening at delivery is critical, as there are interventions that can assist both the birthing patient and the newborn after delivery. By training staff in use of the screening tool and brief intervention, there can be a focus on harm reduction and eliminating bias and discrimination.

In addition to training staff on screening and brief intervention, there is referral to treatment. The AKPQC encourages facilities to provide referral and warm handoff to treatment, behavioral health, and community resources/wrap-around supports. At learning sessions and annual meetings, the AKPQC enlists local presenters to educate providers on the referral and support services network in Alaska. Understanding community and statewide resources is vital in referring to appropriate care and ensuring family support.

SECTION 3. SCOPE OF WORK & CONTRACT INFORMATION

SEC. 3.01 SCOPE OF WORK

The Alaska Perinatal Quality Collaborative (AKPQC) seeks a contractor to create an Implicit Bias training for the target audience of perinatal and neonatal providers. This training should incorporate patients who are pregnant with substance use disorders as a population that often experiences discrimination associated with their substance use. This training should provide tangible tools and skills to address implicit bias with the goal to improve patient care throughout Alaska.

SEC. 3.02 DELIVERABLES

The contractor will be required to provide the following deliverables:

Develop (or tailor) and provide an Implicit Bias training for approximately 150 of Alaska's perinatal and neonatal providers with a focus on care for patients with substance use disorders during pregnancy. The AKPQC is seeking a range of proposals to identify the best fit for their needs. To accommodate different approaches and perspectives, the criteria has been kept broad and flexible. The AKPQC is open to approaches that include virtual or in person options.

Following the execution of the contract, a meeting will be scheduled within two weeks to discuss the project in detail and establish the foundation for successful implementation. This meeting will provide an opportunity to align on project goals, timelines, and deliverables, ensuring a smooth and effective kickoff. The vendor will also provide an evaluation report 30 days after completion of training(s) that assesses the effectiveness, impact, and relevance of the training sessions conducted to include the following:

- Comparison of pre-training and post-training assessments to gauge knowledge, acquisition, and attitude changes.
- Summary of the feedback received from participants through surveys or interviews.
- Analysis of qualitative responses highlighting strengths and areas for improvement.
- Examination of how the training has influenced workplace behaviors, decision making, and culture.
- Examples of practical applications or behavioral changes observed post-training.
- Suggestions for refining future training programs based on evaluation results.
- Strategies for reinforcing learning outcomes and maintaining awareness of implicit biases.

SEC. 3.03 CONTRACT TERM

The length of the contract will be from the date of award, until completion, February 28, 2025.

SEC. 3.04 CONTRACT TYPE

This contract is a Firm Fixed Price contract.

SEC. 3.05 PAYMENT PROCEDURES

The state will make payments based on a negotiated payment schedule. Each billing must consist of an invoice and progress report. No payment will be made until the progress report and invoice has been approved by the project director.

SEC. 3.06 CONTRACT PAYMENT

No payment will be made until the contract is approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Health or the Commissioner's designee. Under no conditions will the state be liable for the payment of any interest charges associated with the cost of the contract. The state is not responsible for and will not pay local, state, or federal taxes. All costs associated with the contract must be stated in U.S. currency.

Any single contract payment of \$1 million or higher must be accepted by the contractor via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

SEC. 3.07 LOCATION OF WORK

The location(s) the work is to be performed, completed and managed at the contractor's place of business.

The state will not provide workspace for the contractor. The contractor must provide its own workspace.

If travel is anticipated for in-person trainings, travel must be conducted in accordance with the State of Alaska Travel Guidelines, provided below.

State Approved Travel Guidelines:

Costs associated with travel are included in this contract per the criteria below. Expenses above these criteria must be approved in advance by the Program Manager.

Air Travel: copies of receipts and boarding passes for flights must be submitted with the invoice. The State will reimburse for coach travel only.

Hotel: copies of original hotel receipts at commercial facilities must be submitted with the invoice. Actual lodging expenses that exceed \$300 room rate per night, excluding taxes, must be approved in advance by the Program Manager.

Rental Car: copies of the rental car receipt and agreement must be submitted with the invoice. Rental should be for a mid-size or less car (unless approved in advance) and the rental period is to cover the business travel period only.

Ground Transportation: between the Contractor's home and the airport, and the destination airport and hotel; via airport shuttle, courtesy van, or taxi service.

Per Diem: the maximum amount for food and all other travel related incidentals in Alaska is \$60 per day, per person.

Note: Costs of parking violations will not be reimbursed.

By signature on their proposal, the offeror certifies that all services provided under this contract by the contractor and all subcontractors shall be performed in the United States.

If the offeror cannot certify that all work will be performed in the United States, the offeror must contact the procurement officer in writing to request a waiver at least 10 days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals.

The request must include a detailed description of the portion of work that will be performed outside the United States, where, by whom, and the reason the waiver is necessary.

Failure to comply with these requirements may cause the state to reject the proposal as non-responsive or cancel the contract.

SEC. 3.08 SUBCONTRACTORS

Subcontractors may be used to perform work under this contract. If an offeror intends to use subcontractors, the offeror must complete the Submittal Form identified in Section 4.02 of this IRFP.

An offeror's failure to provide this information with their proposal may cause the state to consider their proposal non-responsive and reject it.

Subcontractor experience shall be considered in determining whether the offeror meets the requirements set forth in Submittal Form F – Mandatory Requirements. **Offerors must be specific in Submittal Form F as to which subcontractor(s) defined in Submittal Form G – Subcontractors they are citing to meet the specific requirement listed in Submittal Form F.**

If a proposal with subcontractors is selected, the state may require a signed written statement from each subcontractor that clearly verifies the subcontractor is committed to provide the good or services required by the contract.

The substitution of one subcontractor for another may be made only at the discretion and prior written approval of the project director or procurement officer.

Note that if the subcontractor will not be performing work within Alaska, they will not be required to hold an Alaska business license.

SEC. 3.09 JOINT VENTURES

Joint ventures will not be allowed.

SEC. 3.10 RIGHT TO INSPECT PLACE OF BUSINESS

At reasonable times, the state may inspect those areas of the contractor's place of business that are related to the performance of a contract. If the state makes such an inspection, the contractor must provide reasonable assistance.

SEC. 3.11 CONTRACT PERSONNEL

Any change of the project team members or subcontractors named in the proposal must be approved, in advance and in writing, by the project director or procurement officer. Changes that are not approved by the state may be grounds for the state to terminate the contract.

SEC. 3.12 INSPECTION & MODIFICATION - REIMBURSEMENT FOR UNACCEPTABLE DELIVERABLES

The contractor is responsible for the completion of all work set out in the contract. All work is subject to inspection, evaluation, and approval by the project director. The state may employ all reasonable means to ensure that the work is progressing and being performed in compliance with the contract. The project director or procurement officer may instruct the contractor to make corrections or modifications if needed to accomplish the contract's intent. The contractor will not unreasonably withhold such changes.

Substantial failure of the contractor to perform the contract may cause the state to terminate the contract. In this event, the state may require the contractor to reimburse monies paid (based on the identified portion of unacceptable work received) and may seek associated damages.

SEC. 3.13 NONDISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Contractor agrees that all confidential information shall be used only for purposes of providing the deliverables and performing the services specified herein and shall not disseminate or allow dissemination of confidential information except as provided for in this section. The contractor shall hold as confidential and will use reasonable care (including both facility physical security and electronic security) to prevent unauthorized access by, storage, disclosure, publication, dissemination to and/or use by third parties of, the confidential information. "Reasonable care" means compliance by the contractor with all applicable federal and state law, including the Social Security Act and HIPAA. The contractor must promptly notify the state in writing if it becomes aware of any storage, disclosure, loss, unauthorized access to or use of the confidential information.

Confidential information, as used herein, means any data, files, software, information or materials (whether prepared by the state or its agents or advisors) in oral, electronic, tangible or intangible form and however stored, compiled or memorialized that is classified confidential as defined by State of Alaska classification and categorization guidelines provided by the state to the contractor or a contractor agent or otherwise made available to the contractor or a contractor agent in connection with this contract, or acquired, obtained or learned by the contractor or a contractor agent in the performance of this contract. Examples of confidential information include, but are not limited to: technology infrastructure, architecture, financial data, trade secrets, equipment specifications, user lists, passwords, research data, and technology data (infrastructure, architecture, operating systems, security tools, IP addresses, etc).

If confidential information is requested to be disclosed by the contractor pursuant to a request received by a third party and such disclosure of the confidential information is required under applicable state or federal law, regulation, governmental or regulatory authority, the contractor may disclose the confidential information after providing the state with written notice of the requested disclosure (to the extent such notice to the state is permitted by applicable law) and giving the state opportunity to review the request. If the contractor receives no objection from the state, it may release the confidential information within 30 days. Notice of the requested disclosure of confidential information by the contractor must be provided to the state within a reasonable time after the contractor's receipt of notice of the requested disclosure and, upon request of the state, shall seek to obtain legal protection from the release of the confidential information.

The following information shall not be considered confidential information: information previously known to be public information when received from the other party; information freely available to the general public; information which now is or hereafter becomes publicly known by other than a breach of confidentiality hereof; or information which is disclosed by a party pursuant to subpoena or other legal process and which as a result becomes lawfully obtainable by the general public.

SEC. 3.14 INDEMNIFICATION

The contractor shall indemnify, hold harmless, and defend the contracting agency from and against any third-party claim of, or liability for error, omission or negligent act of the contractor under this agreement. The contractor shall not be required to indemnify the contracting agency for a claim of, or liability for, the independent negligence of the contracting agency. If there is a claim of, or liability for, the joint negligent error or omission of the contractor and the independent negligence of the contracting agency, the indemnification and hold harmless

obligation shall be apportioned on a comparative fault basis. "Contractor" and "contracting agency", as used within this and the following article, include the employees, agents and other contractors who are directly responsible, respectively, to each. The term "independent negligence" is negligence other than in the contracting agency's selection, administration, monitoring, or controlling of the contractor and in approving or accepting the contractor's work.

SEC. 3.15 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Without limiting contractor's indemnification, it is agreed that contractor shall purchase at its own expense and maintain in force at all times during the performance of services under this agreement the following policies of insurance. Where specific limits are shown, it is understood that they shall be the minimum acceptable limits. If the contractor's policy contains higher limits, the state shall be entitled to coverage to the extent of such higher limits.

Certificates of Insurance must be furnished to the procurement officer prior to beginning work and must provide for a notice of cancellation, non-renewal, or material change of conditions in accordance with policy provisions. Failure to furnish satisfactory evidence of insurance or lapse of the policy is a material breach of this contract and shall be grounds for termination of the contractor's services. All insurance policies shall comply with and be issued by insurers licensed to transact the business of insurance under AS 21.

Workers' Compensation Insurance: The contractor shall provide and maintain, for all employees engaged in work under this contract, coverage as required by AS 23.30.045, and; where applicable, any other statutory obligations including but not limited to Federal U.S.L. & H. and Jones Act requirements. The policy must waive subrogation against the State.

Commercial General Liability Insurance: covering all business premises and operations used by the Contractor in the performance of services under this agreement with minimum coverage limits of \$300,000 combined single limit per claim.

Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance: covering all vehicles used by the contractor in the performance of services under this agreement with minimum coverage limits of \$300,000 combined single limit per claim.

SEC. 3.16 TERMINATION FOR DEFAULT

If the project director or procurement officer determines that the contractor has refused to perform the work or has failed to perform the work with such diligence as to ensure its timely and accurate completion, the state may, by providing written notice to the contractor, terminate the contractor's right to proceed with part or all of the remaining work.

This clause does not restrict the state's termination rights under the contract provisions of Appendix A, attached in **SECTION 7. ATTACHMENTS**.

SECTION 4. PROPOSAL FORMAT AND CONTENT

SEC. 4.01 IRFP SUBMITTAL FORMS

This IRFP contains Submittal Forms, which must be completed by the offeror and submitted as their proposal. An electronic copy of the forms is posted along with this IRFP. Offerors shall not re-create these forms, create their own forms, or edit the format structure of the forms unless permitted to do so.

Unless otherwise specified in this IRFP, the Submittal Forms shall be the offeror’s entire proposal. Do not include any marketing information in the proposal.

Any proposal that does not follow these requirements may be deemed non-responsive and rejected.

SEC. 4.02 SPECIAL FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

The offeror must ensure that their proposal meets all special formatting requirements identified in this section.

Documents and Text: All attachment documents must be written in the English language, be single sided, and be single spaced with a minimum font size of 10. Pictures or graphics may be used if the offeror feels it is necessary to communicate their information, however, be aware of the below requirements for page limits.

Page Limits: Some Submittal Forms listed below have maximum page limit requirements. Offerors must not exceed the maximum page limits. Note, the page limit applies to the front side of a page only (for example, ‘1 Page’ implies that the offeror can only provide a response on one side of a piece of paper).

Submittal Form	Maximum Page Limits
Submittal Form A – Offeror Information and Certifications	N/A
Submittal Form B – Experience and Qualifications	3
Submittal Form C – Understanding of the Project	5
Submittal Form D – Methodology Used for the Project	2
Submittal Form E – Management Plan for the Project	2
Submittal Form F – Mandatory Requirements	N/A
Submittal Form G – Subcontractors	N/A
Submittal Form H – Cost Proposal	N/A

Any Submittal Form that is being evaluated and does not follow these instructions may receive a ‘1’ score for the evaluated Submittal Form, or the entire response may be deemed non-responsive and rejected. Failure to submit any of the Submittal Forms will result in the proposal being deemed non-responsive and rejected.

SEC. 4.03 OFFEROR INFORMATION AND CERTIFICATIONS (SUBMITTAL FORM A)

The offeror must complete and submit this Submittal Form. The form must be signed by an individual authorized to bind the offeror to the provisions of the IRFP.

By signature on the form, the offeror certifies they comply with the items listed in the Certifications section of the Submittal Form. If the offeror fails to comply with these items, the state reserves the right to disregard the proposal, consider the contractor in default, or terminate the contract.

The Submittal Form also requests the following information:

- a) The complete name and address of offeror's firm along with the offeror's Tax ID.
- b) Information on the person the state should contact regarding the proposal.
- c) Names of critical team members/personnel.
- d) Addenda acknowledgement.
- e) Conflict of interest statement.
- f) Federal requirements.
- g) Alaska preference qualifications.

An offeror's failure to provide this information may cause the proposal to be determined to non-responsive and rejected.

SEC. 4.04 EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS (SUBMITTAL FORM B)

Offerors must provide detail on their experience and qualifications in conducting Implicit Bias trainings.

Offerors must provide a brief summary of course evaluations for at least one past implicit bias course. This summary should include the number of participants attended and number of evaluations completed.

Offeror must provide detail on their experience engaging with a target audience that operates in health care settings.

Offerors must also provide detail on the primary project manager's specific experience in projects of a similar nature along with the directly related experience of the overall project team identified in Submittal Form A.

Finally, offerors must provide a description of the organization of the project team and the individual(s) responsible and accountable for the completion each component and deliverable of the IRFP.

SPECIAL NOTE: The offeror shall not disclose their costs in this Submittal Form. This Submittal Form cannot exceed the page limit (as described in Section 4.02).

SEC. 4.05 UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT (SUBMITTAL FORM C)

Offerors must provide detail that demonstrates their understanding of the requirements of the project and how to meet the state's needs.

Offerors must provide a brief description and agenda or syllabus demonstrating a curriculum to address Implicit Bias. Offerors must include details on the format for the project, including whether the project will be in-person or virtual and whether live or on demand.

SPECIAL NOTE: The offeror shall not disclose their costs in this Submittal Form. This Submittal Form cannot exceed the page limit (as described in Section 4.02).

SEC. 4.06 METHODOLOGY USED FOR THE PROJECT (SUBMITTAL FORM D)

Offerors must provide detail that demonstrates the methodology they will employ and how the methodology will serve to accomplish the work and meet the state's needs.

SPECIAL NOTE: The offeror shall not disclose their costs in this Submittal Form. This Submittal Form and cannot exceed the page limit (as described in Section 4.02).

SEC. 4.07 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PROJECT (SUBMITTAL FORM E)

Offerors must provide detail that demonstrates the management plan they intend to follow and how the plan will serve to accomplish the work and meet the state's needs.

Offerors must also identify any potential issues, risks, or problems they foresee with this project and how they will address them.

SPECIAL NOTE: The offeror shall not disclose their costs in this Submittal Form. This Submittal Form cannot exceed the page limit (as described in Section 4.02).

SEC. 4.08 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS (SUBMITTAL FORM F)

Offerors must complete and submit this Submittal Form.

Offerors must have offered past Implicit Bias Training.

SEC. 4.09 SUBCONTRACTORS (SUBMITTAL FORM G)

If using subcontractors, the offeror must complete and submit this Submittal Form.

SEC. 4.10 COST PROPOSAL (SUBMITTAL FORM H)

Offerors must complete and submit this Submittal Form. Proposed costs must include all direct and indirect costs associated with the performance of the contract. If offerors plan to conduct in-person trainings, travel must be included in their cost proposal. 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.

SECTION 5. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND CONTRACTOR SELECTION

SEC. 5.01 SUMMARY OF EVALUATION PROCESS

The state will use the following steps to evaluate and prioritize proposals:

- 1) Proposals will be assessed for overall responsiveness. Proposals deemed non-responsive will be eliminated from further consideration.
- 2) A proposal evaluation committee (PEC), made up of at least three state employees or public officials, will evaluate specific parts of the responsive proposals.
- 3) The Submittal Forms, from each responsive proposal, will be sent to the PEC. No cost information will be shared or provided to the PEC.
- 4) The PEC will independently evaluate and score the documents based on the degree to which they meet the stated evaluation criteria.
- 5) After independent scoring, the PEC will have a meeting, chaired by the procurement officer, where the PEC may have a group discussion prior to finalizing their scores.
- 6) The evaluators will submit their final individual scores to the procurement officer, who will then compile the scores and calculate awarded points as set out in Section 5.03.
- 7) The procurement officer will calculate scores for cost proposals as set out in Section 5.08 and add those scores to the awarded points along with factoring in any Alaska preferences.
- 8) The procurement officer may ask for best and final offers from offerors susceptible for award and revise the cost scores accordingly.
- 9) The state will then conduct any necessary negotiations with the highest scoring offeror and award a contract if the negotiations are successful.

SEC. 5.02 EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on their overall value to state, considering both cost and non-cost factors as described below. Note: An evaluation may not be based on discrimination due to the race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, disability, or political affiliation of the offeror.

Overall Criteria	Weight
Responsiveness	Pass / Fail
Mandatory Requirements Compliance (Submittal Form F)	Pass / Fail

Qualifications Criteria		Weight
Experience and Qualifications	(Submittal Form B)	150
Understanding of the Project	(Submittal Form C)	125
Methodology Used for the Project	(Submittal Form D)	110
Management Plan for the Project	(Submittal Form E)	115
Total		500

Cost Criteria		Weight
Cost Proposal	(Submittal Form G)	400
Total		400

Preference Criteria	Weight
Alaska Offeror Preference (if applicable)	100
Total	100

TOTAL EVALUATION POINTS AVAILABLE: 1000

SEC. 5.03 SCORING METHOD AND CALCULATION

The PEC will evaluate responses against the questions set out in Sections 5.04 through 5.07 and assign a single score for each section. Offerors’ responses for each section may be rated comparatively against one another with each PEC member assigning a score of 1, 5, or 10 (with 10 representing the highest score, 5 representing the average score, and 1 representing the lowest score). Responses that are similar or lack dominant information to differentiate the offerors from each other will receive the same score. Therefore, it is the offeror’s responsibility to provide dominant information and differentiate themselves from their competitors.

After the PEC has scored each section, the scores for each section will be totaled and the following formula will be used to calculate the amount of points awarded for that section:

- 1) Maximum Points Available / Maximum Combined PEC Score Possible
- 2) Combined PEC Score x Result of 1)

Example (Maximum Points Available for the Section = 100):

	PEC Member 1 Score	PEC Member 2 Score	PEC Member 3 Score	PEC Member 4 Score	Combined Total Score	Points Awarded
Offeror 1	10	5	5	10	30	75
Offeror 2	5	5	5	5	20	50
Offeror 3	10	10	10	10	40	100

Offeror 1 was awarded 75 points:

$$\frac{\text{Maximum Points Available (100)}}{\text{Maximum Combined PEC Score Possible (40)}} = 2.5$$

$$\text{Combined PEC Score (30)} \times 2.5 = \text{Points Awarded (75)}$$

Offeror 2 was awarded 50 points:

$$\frac{\text{Maximum Points Available (100)}}{\text{Maximum Combined PEC Score Possible (40)}} = 2.5$$

$$\text{Combined PEC Score (20)} \times 2.5 = \text{Points Awarded (50)}$$

Offeror 3 was awarded 100 points:

$$\frac{\text{Maximum Points Available (100)}}{\text{Maximum Combined PEC Score Possible (40)}} = 2.5$$

Combined PEC Score (40) x 2.5 = Points Awarded (100)

SEC. 5.04 EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

This portion of the offeror's proposal will be evaluated against the following questions:

- 1) How well does the offeror demonstrate past experience with providing Implicit Bias trainings?
- 2) How well does the summary of course evaluations for past trainings demonstrate successful completion of training?
- 3) How well did the offeror demonstrate their experience in engaging a target audience operating in a health care setting?
- 4) How did the offeror describe the organization of the project team and the individual(s) responsible for and accountable for the completion of each component and deliverable of the IRFP?

SEC. 5.05 UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT

This portion of the offeror's proposal will be evaluated against the following questions:

- 1) How well did the offeror demonstrate their understanding of the project requirements and how to meet the state's needs?
- 2) How well does the offeror demonstrate a curriculum addressing Implicit Bias?
- 3) How well does the offeror demonstrate the proposed format for the project?

SEC. 5.06 METHODOLOGY USED FOR THE PROJECT

This portion of the offeror's proposal will be evaluated against the following questions:

- 1) How well did the offeror demonstrate the methodology they will employ and how the methodology will serve to accomplish the work and meet the state's needs?

SEC. 5.07 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PROJECT

This portion of the offeror's proposal will be evaluated against the following questions:

- 1) How well did the offeror demonstrate their management plan and how that plan will service to accomplish the work and meet the state's needs?
- 2) To what extent did the offeror identify potential issues, risks, or problems they foresee with this project and how they will address them?

SEC. 5.08 CONTRACT COST (COST PROPOSAL)

Overall, a minimum of 40% of the total evaluation points will be assigned to cost. After the procurement officer applies any applicable preferences, the offeror with the lowest total cost will receive the maximum number of points allocated to cost per 2 AAC 12.260(c). The point allocations for cost on the other proposals will be determined using the following formula:

$$[(\text{Price of Lowest Cost Proposal}) \times (\text{Maximum Points for Cost})] \div (\text{Cost of Each Higher Priced Proposal})$$

Example (Max Points for Contract Cost = 400):

Step 1

List all proposal prices, adjusted where appropriate by the application of applicable preferences claimed by the offeror.

Offeror #1	\$40,000
Offeror #2	\$42,750
Offeror #3	\$47,500

Step 2

In this example, the RFP allotted 40% of the available 1,000 points to cost. This means that the lowest cost will receive the maximum number of points.

Offeror #1 receives 400 points.

The reason they receive that amount is because the lowest cost proposal, in this case \$40,000, receives the maximum number of points allocated to cost, 400 points.

Offeror #2 receives 374.3 points.

$$\$40,000 \text{ lowest cost} \times 400 \text{ maximum points for cost} = 16,000,000 \div \$42,750 \text{ cost of Offeror \#2's proposal} = 374.3$$

Offeror #3 receives 336.8 points.

$$\$40,000 \text{ lowest cost} \times 400 \text{ maximum points for cost} = 16,000,000 \div \$47,500 \text{ cost of Offeror \#3's proposal} = 336.8$$

SEC. 5.09 APPLICATION OF PREFERENCES

Certain preferences apply to all state contracts, regardless of their dollar value. The Alaska Bidder, Alaska Veteran, and Alaska Offeror preferences are the most common preferences involved in the IRFP process. Additional preferences that may apply to this procurement are listed below. Guides that contain excerpts from the relevant statutes and codes, explain when the preferences apply and provide examples of how to calculate the preferences are available at the following website:

<http://doa.alaska.gov/dgs/pdf/pref1.pdf>

- Alaska Products Preference - AS 36.30.332
- Recycled Products Preference - AS 36.30.337
- Local Agriculture and Fisheries Products Preference - AS 36.15.050
- Employment Program Preference - AS 36.30.321(b)

- Alaskans with Disabilities Preference - AS 36.30.321(d)
- Alaska Veteran's Preference - AS 36.30.321(f)
- Alaska Military Skills Program Preference – AS 36.30.321(l)

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development keeps a list of qualified employment programs and individuals who qualify as persons with a disability. As evidence of a business' or an individual's right to the Employment Program or Alaskans with Disabilities preferences, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will issue a certification letter. To take advantage of these preferences, a business or individual must be on the appropriate Division of Vocational Rehabilitation list prior to the time designated for receipt of proposals. Offerors must attach a copy of their certification letter to the proposal. **An offeror's failure to provide this certification letter with their proposal will cause the state to disallow the preference.**

SEC. 5.10 ALASKA BIDDER PREFERENCE

An Alaska Bidder Preference of 5% will be applied to the price in the proposal. The preference will be given to an offeror who:

- 1) holds a current Alaska business license prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals;
- 2) submits a proposal for goods or services under the name appearing on the offeror's current Alaska business license;
- 3) has maintained a place of business within the state staffed by the offeror, or an employee of the offeror, for a period of six months immediately preceding the date of the proposal;
- 4) is incorporated or qualified to do business under the laws of the state, is a sole proprietorship and the proprietor is a resident of the state, is a limited liability company (LLC) organized under AS 10.50 and all members are residents of the state, or is a partnership under AS 32.06 or AS 32.11 and all partners are residents of the state; and
- 5) if a joint venture, is composed entirely of ventures that qualify under (1)-(4) of this subsection.

Alaska Bidder Preference Certification Form

In order to receive the Alaska Bidder Preference, the proposal must include the Alaska Bidder Preference Certification Form attached to this IRFP. An offeror does not need to complete the Alaska Veteran Preference questions on the form if not claiming the Alaska Veteran Preference. An offeror's failure to provide this completed form with their proposal will cause the state to disallow the preference.

SEC. 5.11 ALASKA VETERAN PREFERENCE

An Alaska Veteran Preference of 5%, not to exceed \$5,000, will be applied to the price in the proposal. The preference will be given to an offeror who qualifies under AS 36.30.990(2) as an Alaska bidder and is a:

- A. sole proprietorship owned by an Alaska veteran;
- B. partnership under AS 32.06 or AS 32.11 if a majority of the partners are Alaska veterans;
- C. limited liability company organized under AS 10.50 if a majority of the members are Alaska veterans; or
- D. corporation that is wholly owned by individuals, and a majority of the individuals are Alaska veterans.

In accordance with AS 36.30.321(i), the bidder must also add value by actually performing, controlling, managing, and supervising the services provided, or for supplies, the bidder must have sold supplies of the general nature solicited to other state agencies, other government, or the general public.

Alaska Veteran Preference Certification

In order to receive the Alaska Veteran Preference, the proposal must include the Alaska Bidder Preference Certification Form attached to this IRFP. An offeror's failure to provide this completed form with their proposal will cause the state to disallow the preference.

SEC. 5.12 ALASKA MILITARY SKILLS PROGRAM PREFERENCE

An Alaska Military Skills Program Preference of 2%, not to exceed \$5,000, will be applied to the price in the proposal. The preference will be given to an offeror who qualifies under AS 36.30.990(2) as an Alaska bidder and:

- A. Employs at least one person who is currently enrolled in, or within the previous two years graduated from, a United States Department of Defense SkillBridge or United States Army career skills program for service members or spouses of service members that offers civilian work experience through specific industry training, pre-apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships, or internships during the last 180 days before a service member separates or retires from the service; or
- B. has an active partnership with an entity that employs an apprentice through a program described above.

In accordance with AS 36.30.321(i), the bidder must also add value by actually performing, controlling, managing, and supervising the services provided, or for supplies, the bidder must have sold supplies of the general nature solicited to other state agencies, other government, or the general public.

Alaska Military Skills Program Preference Certification

In order to receive the Alaska Military Skills Program Preference, the proposal must include the Alaska Bidder Preference Certification Form attached to this RFP. An offeror's failure to provide this completed form with their proposal will cause the state to disallow the preference.

SEC. 5.13 ALASKA OFFEROR PREFERENCE

Per 2 AAC 12.260, if an offeror qualifies for the Alaska Bidder Preference, the offeror will receive an Alaska Offeror Preference. The preference will be 10% of the total available points, which will be added to the offeror's overall evaluation score.

Example:

Step 1

Determine the number of points available to qualifying offerors under this preference:

1000 Total Points Available in RFP x 10% Alaska Offeror preference = 100 Points for the preference

Step 2

Determine which offerors qualify as Alaska bidders and thus, are eligible for the Alaska Offeror preference. For the purpose of this example, presume that all proposals have been completely evaluated based on the evaluation criteria in the RFP. The scores at this point are:

Offeror #1	830 points	No Preference	0 points
Offeror #2	740 points	Alaska Offeror Preference	100 points
Offeror #3	800 points	Alaska Offeror Preference	100 points

Step 3

Add the applicable Alaska Offeror preference amounts to the offerors' scores:

Offeror #1	830 points
Offeror #2	840 points (740 points + 100 points)
Offeror #3	900 points (800 points + 100 points)

Offeror #3 is the top scoring offeror.

SECTION 6. GENERAL PROCESS AND LEGAL INFORMATION

SEC. 6.01 INFORMAL DEBRIEFING

When the contract is completed, an informal debriefing may be performed at the discretion of the project director or procurement officer. If performed, the scope of the debriefing will be limited to the work performed by the contractor.

SEC. 6.02 ALASKA BUSINESS LICENSE AND OTHER REQUIRED LICENSES

Prior to the award of a contract, an offeror must hold a valid Alaska business license. However, in order to receive the Alaska Bidder Preference and other related preferences, such as the Alaska Veteran Preference and Alaska Offeror Preference, an offeror must hold a valid Alaska business license prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals. Offerors should contact the **Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing** for information on these licenses. Acceptable evidence that the offeror possesses a valid Alaska business license may consist of any one of the following:

- copy of an Alaska business license;
- certification on the proposal that the offeror has a valid Alaska business license and has included the license number in the proposal;
- a canceled check for the Alaska business license fee;
- a copy of the Alaska business license application with a receipt stamp from the state's occupational licensing office; or
- a sworn and notarized statement that the offeror has applied and paid for the Alaska business license.

You are not required to hold a valid Alaska business license at the time proposals are opened if you possess one of the following licenses and are offering services or supplies under that specific line of business:

- fisheries business licenses issued by Alaska Department of Revenue or Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
- liquor licenses issued by Alaska Department of Revenue for alcohol sales only,
- insurance licenses issued by Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Insurance, or
- Mining licenses issued by Alaska Department of Revenue.

Prior the deadline for receipt of proposals, all offerors must hold any other necessary applicable professional licenses required by Alaska Statute.

SEC. 6.03 STANDARD CONTRACT PROVISIONS

The contractor will be required to sign the state's Standard Agreement Form for Professional Services Contracts Appendix A) This form is attached with the IRFP for your review. The contractor must comply with the contract provisions set out in this attachment. No alteration of these provisions will be permitted without prior written approval from the Department of Law, and the state reserves the right to reject a proposal that is non-compliant or takes exception with the contract terms and conditions stated in the Agreement. Any requests to change

language in this document (adjust, modify, add, delete, etc.), must be set out in the offeror’s proposal in a separate document. Please include the following information with any change that you are proposing:

- 1) Identify the provision that the offeror takes exception with.
- 2) Identify why the provision is unjust, unreasonable, etc.
- 3) Identify exactly what suggested changes should be made.

SEC. 6.04 QUALIFIED OFFERORS

Per 2 AAC 12.875, unless provided for otherwise in the IRFP, to qualify as an offeror for award of a contract issued under AS 36.30, the offeror must:

- 1) Add value in the contract by actually performing, controlling, managing, or supervising the services to be provided; or
- 2) Be in the business of selling and have actually sold on a regular basis the supplies that are the subject of the IRFP.

If the offeror leases services or supplies or acts as a broker or agency in providing the services or supplies in order to meet these requirements, the procurement officer may not accept the offeror as a qualified offeror under AS 36.30.

SEC. 6.05 PROPOSAL AS PART OF THE CONTRACT

Part of all of this IRFP and the successful proposal may be incorporated into the contract.

SEC. 6.06 ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The state reserves the right to add terms and conditions during contract negotiations. These terms and conditions will be within the scope of the IRFP and will not affect the proposal evaluations.

SEC. 6.07 HUMAN TRAFFICKING

By signature on their proposal, the offeror certifies that the offeror is not established and headquartered or incorporated and headquartered in a country recognized as Tier 3 in the most recent United States Department of State’s Trafficking in Persons Report.

The most recent United States Department of State’s Trafficking in Persons Report can be found at the following website: <https://www.state.gov/trafficking-in-persons-report/>

Failure to comply with this requirement will cause the state to reject the proposal as non-responsive or cancel the contract.

SEC. 6.08 RIGHT OF REJECTION

Offerors must comply with all of the terms of the IRFP, the State Procurement Code (AS 36.30), and all applicable local, state, and federal laws, codes, and regulations. The procurement officer may reject any proposal that does not comply with all of the material and substantial terms, conditions, and performance requirements of the IRFP.

Offerors may not qualify the proposal nor restrict the rights of the state. If an offeror does so, the procurement officer may determine the proposal to be a non-responsive counter-offer and the proposal may be rejected.

Minor informalities that:

- do not affect responsiveness;
- are merely a matter of form or format;
- do not change the relative standing or otherwise prejudice other offers;
- do not change the meaning or scope of the IRFP;
- are trivial, negligible, or immaterial in nature;
- do not reflect a material change in the work; or
- do not constitute a substantial reservation against a requirement or provision;

may be waived by the procurement officer.

The state reserves the right to refrain from making an award if it determines that to be in its best interest. **A proposal from a debarred or suspended offeror shall be rejected.**

SEC. 6.09 STATE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARATION COSTS

The state will not pay any cost associated with the preparation, submittal, presentation, or evaluation of any proposal.

SEC. 6.10 DISCLOSURE OF PROPOSAL CONTENTS

All proposals and other material submitted become the property of the State of Alaska and may be returned only at the state's option. AS 40.25.110 requires public records to be open to reasonable inspection. All proposal information, including detailed price and cost information, will be held in confidence during the evaluation process and prior to the time a Notice of Intent to Award is issued. Thereafter, proposals will become public information.

Trade secrets and other proprietary data contained in proposals may be held confidential if the offeror requests, in writing, that the procurement officer does so, and if the procurement officer agrees, in writing, to do so. The offeror's request must be included with the proposal, must clearly identify the information they wish to be held confidential, and include a statement that sets out the reasons for confidentiality. Unless the procurement officer agrees in writing to hold the requested information confidential, that information will also become public after the Notice of Intent to Award is issued.

SEC. 6.11 ASSIGNMENT

Per 2 AAC 12.480, the contractor may not transfer or assign any portion of the contract without prior written approval from the procurement officer.

SEC. 6.12 DISPUTES

A contract resulting from this IRFP is governed by the laws of the State of Alaska. If the contractor has a claim arising in connection with the agreement that it cannot resolve with the State by mutual agreement, it shall pursue the claim, if at all, in accordance with the provisions of AS 36.30.620 – AS 36.30.632. To the extent not otherwise governed by the preceding, the claim shall be brought only in the Superior Court of the State of Alaska and not elsewhere.

SEC. 6.13 SEVERABILITY

If any provision of the contract or agreement is declared by a court to be illegal or in conflict with any law, the validity of the remaining terms and provisions will not be affected; and, the rights and obligations of the parties will be construed and enforced as if the contract did not contain the particular provision held to be invalid.

SEC. 6.14 SUPPLEMENTAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Proposals must comply with Section 6.08 Right of Rejection. However, if the state fails to identify or detect supplemental terms or conditions that conflict with those contained in this RFP or that diminish the state's rights under any contract resulting from the IRFP, the term(s) or condition(s) will be considered null and void. After award of contract:

If conflict arises between a supplemental term or condition included in the proposal and a term or condition of the IRFP, the term or condition of the IRFP will prevail; and

If the state's rights would be diminished as a result of application of a supplemental term or condition included in the proposal, the supplemental term or condition will be considered null and void.

Public notice has been provided in accordance with 2 AAC 12.220.

SEC. 6.15 SITE INSPECTION

SEC. 6.16 CLARIFICATION OF OFFERS

In order to determine if a proposal is reasonably susceptible for award, communications by the procurement officer or the proposal evaluation committee (PEC) are permitted with an offeror to clarify uncertainties or eliminate confusion concerning the contents of a proposal. Clarifications may not result in a material or substantive change to the proposal. The evaluation by the procurement officer or the PEC may be adjusted as a result of a clarification under this section.

SEC. 6.17 DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFERORS

The state may conduct discussions with offerors in accordance with AS 36.30.240 and 2 AAC 12.290. The purpose of these discussions will be to ensure full understanding of the requirements of the IRFP and proposal. Discussions will be limited to specific sections of the IRFP or proposal identified by the procurement officer. Discussions will only be held with offerors who have submitted a proposal deemed reasonably susceptible for award by the procurement officer. Discussions, if held, will be after initial evaluation of proposals by the procurement officer or the PEC. If modifications are made as a result of these discussions they will be put in writing. Following discussions, the procurement officer may set a time for best and final proposal submissions from those offerors with whom discussions were held. Proposals may be reevaluated after receipt of best and final proposal submissions.

If an offeror does not submit a best and final proposal or a notice of withdrawal, the offeror's immediate previous proposal is considered the offeror's best and final proposal.

Offerors with a disability needing accommodation should contact the procurement officer prior to the date set for discussions so that reasonable accommodation can be made. Any oral modification of a proposal must be reduced to writing by the offeror.

SEC. 6.18 CONTRACT NEGOTIATION

After final evaluation, the procurement officer may negotiate with the offeror of the highest-ranked proposal. Negotiations, if held, shall be within the scope of the request for proposals and limited to those items which would not have an effect on the ranking of proposals.

If the selected offeror:

- fails to provide the information required to begin negotiations in a timely manner; or
- fails to negotiate in good faith; or
- indicates they cannot perform the contract within the budgeted funds available for the project; or
- if the offeror and the state, after a good faith effort, simply cannot come to terms,

The state may terminate negotiations with the offeror initially selected and commence negotiations with the next highest ranked offeror.

SEC. 6.19 FEDERALLY IMPOSED TARIFFS

Changes in price (increase or decrease) resulting directly from a new or updated federal tariff, excise tax, or duty, imposed after contract award may be adjusted during the contract period or before delivery into the United States via contract amendment.

- **Notification of Changes:** The contractor must promptly notify the procurement officer in writing of any new, increased, or decreased federal excise tax or duty that may result in either an increase or decrease in the contract price and shall take appropriate action as directed by the procurement officer.
- **After-imposed or Increased Taxes and Duties:** Any federal excise tax or duty for goods or services covered by this contract that was exempted or excluded on the contract award date but later imposed on the contractor during the contract period, as the result of legislative, judicial, or administrative action may result in a price increase provided:
 - a) The tax or duty takes effect after the contract award date and isn't otherwise addressed by the contract;
 - b) The contractor warrants, in writing, that no amount of the newly imposed federal excise tax or duty or rate increase was included in the contract price, as a contingency or otherwise.
- **After-relieved or Decreased Taxes and Duties:** The contract price shall be decreased by the amount of any decrease in federal excise tax or duty for goods or services under the contract, except social security or other employment [taxes](#), that the contractor is required to pay or bear, or does not obtain a refund of, through the contractor's fault, negligence, or failure to follow instructions of the procurement officer.
- **State's Ability to Make Changes:** The state reserves the right to request verification of federal excise tax or duty amounts on goods or services covered by this contract and increase or decrease the contract price accordingly.
- **Price Change Threshold:** No adjustment shall be made in the contract price under this clause unless the amount of the adjustment exceeds \$250.

SEC. 6.20 PROTEST

2 AAC 12.695 provides that an interested party may protest the content of the IRFP or the award of a contract.

An interested party is defined in 2 AAC 12.990(a)(7) as “an actual or prospective bidder or offeror whose economic interest might be affected substantially and directly the issuance of a contract solicitation, the award of a contract, or the failure to award a contract.”

Per 2 AAC 12.695, an interested party must first attempt to informally resolve the dispute with the procurement officer. If that attempt is unsuccessful, the interested party may file a written protest to the solicitation or the award of the contract. The protest must be filed with the Commissioner of the purchasing agency or the Commissioner’s designee. The protester must also file a copy of the protest with the procurement officer. The protest must include the following information:

- the name, address, and telephone number of the protester;
- the signature of the protester or the protester's representative;
- identification of the contracting agency and the solicitation or contract at issue;
- a detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds of the protest including copies of relevant documents; and
- the form of relief requested.

If an interested party wishes to protest the content of a solicitation, the protest must be filed before the date and time that proposals are due.

If an offeror wishes to protest the award of a contract not greater than \$50,000, the protest must be filed within 10 days from the date of the solicitation or award, whichever is later.

A protester must have submitted a proposal to have sufficient standing to protest the award of a contract.

The procurement officer shall immediately give notice of the protest to the contractor or, if no award has been made, to all offerors who submitted proposals.

If the protestor agrees, the Commissioner of the purchasing department or the Commissioner’s designee may assign the protest to the procurement officer or other state official for alternate dispute resolution. In other cases, the Commissioner or the Commissioner’s designee may issue a decision denying the protest and stating the reasons for denial, issue a decision sustaining the protest, in whole or in part, and instruct the procurement officer to implement an appropriate remedy, or conduct a hearing using procedures set out in AS 36.30.670(b).

SECTION 7. ATTACHMENTS

SEC. 7.01 ATTACHMENTS

Attachments:

- 1) Submittal Form H – Cost Proposal
- 2) Submittal Forms A – G
- 3) Standard Agreement Form - Appendix A

APPENDIX A

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Definitions.

- 1.1 In this contract and appendices, "Project Director" or "Agency Head" or "Procurement Officer" means the person who signs this contract on behalf of the Requesting Agency and includes a successor or authorized representative.
- 1.2 "State Contracting Agency" means the department for which this contract is to be performed and for which the Commissioner or Authorized Designee acted in signing this contract.

Article 2. Inspections and Reports.

- 2.1 The department may inspect, in the manner and at reasonable times it considers appropriate, all the contractor's facilities and activities under this contract.
- 2.2 The contractor shall make progress and other reports in the manner and at the times the department reasonably requires.

Article 3. Disputes.

- 3.1 If the contractor has a claim arising in connection with the contract that it cannot resolve with the State by mutual agreement, it shall pursue the claim, if at all, in accordance with the provisions of AS 36.30.620 – 632.

Article 4. Equal Employment Opportunity.

- 4.1 The contractor may not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, national origin, or because of age, disability, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy or parenthood when the reasonable demands of the position(s) do not require distinction on the basis of age, disability, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, or parenthood. The contractor shall take affirmative action to insure that the applicants are considered for employment and that employees are treated during employment without unlawful regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy or parenthood. This action must include, but need not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training including apprenticeship. The contractor shall post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting out the provisions of this paragraph.
- 4.2 The contractor shall state, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees to work on State of Alaska contract jobs, that it is an equal opportunity employer and that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy or parenthood.
- 4.3 The contractor shall send to each labor union or representative of workers with which the contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding a notice advising the labor union or workers' compensation representative of the contractor's commitments under this article and post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to all employees and applicants for employment.
- 4.4 The contractor shall include the provisions of this article in every contract, and shall require the inclusion of these provisions in every contract entered into by any of its subcontractors, so that those provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor. For the purpose of including those provisions in any contract or subcontract, as required by this contract, "contractor" and "subcontractor" may be changed to reflect appropriately the name or designation of the parties of the contract or subcontract.
- 4.5 The contractor shall cooperate fully with State efforts which seek to deal with the problem of unlawful discrimination, and with all other State efforts to guarantee fair employment practices under this contract, and promptly comply with all requests and directions from the State Commission for Human Rights or any of its officers or agents relating to prevention of discriminatory employment practices.
- 4.6 Full cooperation in paragraph 4.5 includes, but is not limited to, being a witness in any proceeding involving questions of unlawful discrimination if that is requested by any official or agency of the State of Alaska; permitting employees of the contractor to be witnesses or complainants in any proceeding involving questions of unlawful discrimination, if that is requested by any official or agency of the State of Alaska; participating in meetings; submitting periodic reports on the equal employment aspects of present and future employment; assisting inspection of the contractor's facilities; and promptly complying with all State directives considered essential by any office or agency of the State of Alaska to insure compliance with all federal and State laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to the prevention of discriminatory employment practices.
- 4.7 Failure to perform under this article constitutes a material breach of contract.

Article 5. Termination.

- 5.1 The Procurement Officer, by written notice, may terminate this contract, in whole or in part, when it is in the best interest of the State. In the absence of breach of contract by the contractor, the State is liable only for payment in accordance with the payment provisions of this contract for services rendered before the effective date of termination.
- 5.2 The Procurement Officer may also, by written notice, terminate this contract under Administrative Order 352 if the contractor supports or participates in a boycott of the State of Israel.

Article 6. No Assignment or Delegation.

The contractor may not assign or delegate this contract, or any part of it, or any right to any of the money to be paid under it, except with the written consent of the Project Director and the Agency Head.

Article 7. No Additional Work or Material.

No claim for additional services, not specifically provided in this contract, performed or furnished by the contractor, will be allowed, nor may the contractor do any work or furnish any material not covered by the contract unless the work or material is ordered in writing by the Project Director and approved by the Agency Head.

Article 8. Independent Contractor.

The contractor and any agents and employees of the contractor act in an independent capacity and are not officers or employees or agents of the State in the performance of this contract.

Article 9. Payment of Taxes.

As a condition of performance of this contract, the contractor shall pay all federal, State, and local taxes incurred by the contractor and shall require their payment by any Subcontractor or any other persons in the performance of this contract. Satisfactory performance of this paragraph is a condition precedent to payment by the State under this contract.

Article 10. Ownership of Documents.

All designs, drawings, specifications, notes, artwork, and other work developed in the performance of this agreement are produced for hire and remain the sole property of the State of Alaska and may be used by the State for any other purpose without additional compensation to the contractor. The contractor agrees not to assert any rights and not to establish any claim under the design patent or copyright laws. Nevertheless, if the contractor does mark such documents with a statement suggesting they are trademarked, copyrighted, or otherwise protected against the State's unencumbered use or distribution, the contractor agrees that this paragraph supersedes any such statement and renders it void. The contractor, for a period of three years after final payment under this contract, agrees to furnish and provide access to all retained materials at the request of the Project Director. Unless otherwise directed by the Project Director, the contractor may retain copies of all the materials.

Article 11. Governing Law; Forum Selection

This contract is governed by the laws of the State of Alaska. To the extent not otherwise governed by Article 3 of this Appendix, any claim concerning this contract shall be brought only in the Superior Court of the State of Alaska and not elsewhere.

Article 12. Conflicting Provisions.

Unless specifically amended and approved by the Department of Law, the terms of this contract supersede any provisions the contractor may seek to add. The contractor may not add additional or different terms to this contract; AS 45.02.207(b)(1). The contractor specifically acknowledges and agrees that, among other things, provisions in any documents it seeks to append hereto that purport to (1) waive the State of Alaska's sovereign immunity, (2) impose indemnification obligations on the State of Alaska, or (3) limit liability of the contractor for acts of contractor negligence, are expressly superseded by this contract and are void.

Article 13. Officials Not to Benefit.

Contractor must comply with all applicable federal or State laws regulating ethical conduct of public officers and employees.

Article 14. Covenant Against Contingent Fees.

The contractor warrants that no person or agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee except employees or agencies maintained by the contractor for the purpose of securing business. For the breach or violation of this warranty, the State may terminate this contract without liability or in its discretion deduct from the contract price or consideration the full amount of the commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee.

Article 15. Compliance.

In the performance of this contract, the contractor must comply with all applicable federal, state, and borough regulations, codes, and laws, and be liable for all required insurance, licenses, permits and bonds.

Article 16. Force Majeure:

The parties to this contract are not liable for the consequences of any failure to perform, or default in performing, any of their obligations under this Agreement, if that failure or default is caused by any unforeseeable Force Majeure, beyond the control of, and without the fault or negligence of, the respective party. For the purposes of this Agreement, Force Majeure will mean war (whether declared or not); revolution; invasion; insurrection; riot; civil commotion; sabotage; military or usurped power; lightning; explosion; fire; storm; drought; flood; earthquake; epidemic; quarantine; strikes; acts or restraints of governmental authorities affecting the project or directly or indirectly prohibiting or restricting the furnishing or use of materials or labor required; inability to secure materials, machinery, equipment or labor because of priority, allocation or other regulations of any governmental authorities.