

Request for Information



State of Alaska
Department of Health
Division of Behavioral Health

RFI Number: 26-005
Date Issued: 4/10/2026

PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE

Introduction:

The project involves the ongoing administration and enhancement of a Peer Support Specialist Certification Program. Key components include maintaining an advisory group of stakeholders, maintaining policies and procedures for certification and recertification, updating a comprehensive certification manual, managing a database to track applicants and certified individuals, and creating and maintaining a public-facing website. The project also includes public outreach and education efforts, regular processing of applications and renewals, and overall program management to ensure consistent certification operations statewide. The Department is seeking information from qualified vendors who may be able to provide the services and support necessary to carry out these functions.

Background Information:

Alaska's peer support system is rooted in a long-standing tradition of individuals with lived experience supporting others in recovery from mental health and substance use challenges. Prior to formal certification, peer support operated through grassroots efforts such as mutual aid groups, community-based recovery programs, and organizations like the Alaska Peer Support Consortium and NAMI Alaska. These efforts, supported in part by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and statewide advocacy groups, established a strong foundation for peer-led services and helped elevate the role of lived experience within Alaska's behavioral health system.

In 2011, Alaska formally incorporated peer support into its Medicaid State Plan, marking a significant step toward system integration. However, early implementation faced challenges, including limited guidance for employers, lack of standardized training and competencies, and unclear role definitions. As broader behavioral health reforms emerged—such as the Medicaid 1115 Behavioral Health Waiver and statewide responses to the opioid crisis—there was growing recognition of the need for a structured, statewide certification program. Beginning in 2017, the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) led a collaborative, stakeholder-driven process to design a certification framework that would support workforce development, ensure quality, and promote consistency across services.

This work culminated in the launch of Alaska's Peer Support Specialist Certification Program in 2021, administered by the Alaska Commission for Behavioral Health Certification. The program established a multi-level certification structure, accessible entry requirements, and a focus on practical skills rather than formal testing. It also introduced a Traditional Peer Support designation to ensure culturally responsive services for Alaska Native communities. Today, peer support is a fully integrated and Medicaid-reimbursable service, contributing to the sustainability and growth of the workforce. With ongoing state investment, increasing certification numbers, and continued emphasis on training and recertification, Alaska is well-positioned to further strengthen and expand its peer support system.

Response Information:

Interested parties are invited to submit responses to the following:

1. Provide the vendor's complete company name, address, telephone number and email address for the vendor's contact person for its RFI response.
2. Please provide an overview of your organization's qualifications, including its experience and capabilities in administering certification programs for individuals.
3. Describe your organization's experience supporting individuals with lived experience in becoming peer support professionals, including any relevant programs or outcomes.
4. Summarize your organization's experience in developing, managing, and maintaining databases, including the number of years and types of systems utilized.
5. Outline your proposed staffing approach, estimated costs, and overall project timeline. Please also include a transition plan and your organization's availability to initiate work within the next six months.
6. Describe your approach to supporting a board or panel of subject matter experts responsible for reviewing and approving certification applications.
7. Provide details on your organization's experience developing and maintaining websites, including at least one example of a current or past website you manage.
8. Describe your organization's experience working with Alaska Medicaid, including any relevant projects, billing, compliance, or program administration activities.
9. Provide a brief summary of any concerns regarding the project as described. What potential obstacles should be anticipated.

Interested parties who believe they can provide the services described in this RFI must submit their response in writing via email by **2:00 PM Tuesday, April 21, 2026**, to the following person:

Haley Wilkinson

Procurement Specialist
Department of Health
Division of Finance and Management Services

Phone: 907-759-3312

Email: haley.wilkinson@alaska.gov

Please also copy doh.procurement.proposals@alaska.gov on the submission.

Responses in Microsoft format are preferred, with attachments submitted in pdf, Microsoft Word, Adobe, Microsoft Excel or PowerPoint file.

It is the responsibility of the interested party to follow up with the person listed above to ensure your

response was received prior to the time and date specified. Please ensure the response includes your company's name and contact information (email) for the individual(s) who should be notified if DOH releases a solicitation or seeks an alternative procurement method.

Important Notice:

This RFI does not extend any rights to prospective vendors or obligate the state to conduct a solicitation or execute a contract. Nor will the State be financially responsible for any costs associated with the preparation of any response to 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 solicitation or contract in the future.

Disclosure of Response Contents:

All responses to this RFI are considered public records and the Alaska Public Records Act (ARPA) requires public records to be open to reasonable inspection. However, all response information, including the name of the respondent, will be held confidential unless the RFI results in a solicitation or contract. If a solicitation is conducted, responses will be held confidential until the time a Notice of Intent to Award is issued. If a contract is executed, responses will be held confidential until the time of contract execution. Thereafter, responses will become public information.

Trade secrets and other proprietary data contained in responses may be held confidential if the respondent requests that in writing to the procurement officer, and if the procurement officer agrees in writing. The respondent's request must be included with the response, must clearly identify the information to be held confidential, and include the reasons for confidentiality.