

****THIS RFQ/SOLICITATION CLOSING ON MONDAY, JULY 17, 2017 @ 3:00PM (EASTERN)****

Questions I:

- 1.) **Question:** Can transitional housing be provided in the form of scattered sites, cluster housing or apartment style housing?

Answer: Scattered sites are not preferred. Cluster housing or Apartment style housing is acceptable as long as the potential vendor agrees to provide all of the services and all of the units would still have to pass life safety code and be staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- 2.) **Question:** What is the expected start date if awarded?

Answer: Contracting cannot guarantee a start date. However, the contract will begin on or before October 1, 2017.

- 3.) **Question:** Is there a format for submitting RFP quotes/bids?

Answer: This is NOT a RFP, it is a RFQ (Request for Quotes). The instructions for what is expected in your submittal is located on page 47 through 49 of the RFQ (Please Read Carefully)

- 4.) **Question:** Completed Price Schedule: Is there any other criteria's, expectations, or performance indications the VA would like Vendors to use in determining our Price Schedule for the five (5) periods outlined in the RFQ?

Answer: The only "Price Schedule" that shall be used to submit a quote is located on Page 8 of the RFQ/Solicitation. Using any other price schedule will deem your offer unacceptable and your quote will not be considered for award.

- 5.) **Question:** Acknowledgement of any and all solicitation amendments:

Is there a formal process or form the VA would like offerors to use in their "Acknowledgement of any and all solicitation amendment?" The way this instruction is being read is that offerors will narratively acknowledge any and all solicitation amendment in the quote given. This this correct?

Answer: Page 5 of the RFQ is where "Acknowledgement of any and all solicitation amendment" will be completed.

6.) Question: Completion of FAR Provision 52.212-3, 52.209-5, and 52.209-7:

Is there any other way the VA would like vendors to verify the completion of these provisions other than submitting the email from SAM and a printout for the current Entity Overview from the SAM website?

Answer: On Page 47, under “**QUOTE SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:**” item 1e. through 1g. clearly states the following: **e.)** Completion of FAR Provision 52.212-3 Representations and Certifications or an attestation that the electronic Reps and Certs located at www.sam.gov is current. **f.)** Completion of FAR Provision 52.209-5 Representation by Corporations Regarding an Unpaid Tax Liability or a Felony Conviction under Any Federal Law (Deviation) (MARCH 2012) (**Provision located in this solicitation**) **g.)** Completion of FAR Provision 52.209-7 Information Regarding Responsibility Matters (JUL 2013) (**Provision located in this solicitation**). **Please make sure they are filled out correctly.**

7.) Question: Past Performance Questionnaires: What is the criteria or limitation the VA would like vendors to use in determine “contractor’s customers?” Can vendors use both referral sources and past residents to complete *Past Performance Questionnaires*?”

Answer: Page 47 clearly states: past performance questionnaires, (Maximum of 3) located in section D, completed by the **contractor’s customers** and emailed to the Contract Specialist, michelle.ford2@va.gov . Questionnaires shall be for contracts completed within the last **three years**. No, referral sources and past residents cannot complete Past Performance Questionnaires. They must be completed by your **CUSTOMERS**.

8.) Question: The RFQ does not specify the contract start date, exactly how many days after the bid award is the proposed contract expected to start?

Answer: Please refer to Question 2 above regarding start date. This is an RFQ (Request for Quotes), not a bid request.

9.) Question: The RFQ only mentions transitional housing “beds” for men, is there also a provision/allocation of Beds for homeless female Veterans as well? If so, can both Male/female clients reside in the same dwelling place?

Answer: No, there is no provision for female veterans. This shall be a male facility only.

10.) Question: The RFQ does not specify what the required staffing ratio for the program’s Case Manager, will one (1) case manager for twelve (12) veterans suffice? Please clarify.

Answer: Yes

11.) Question: The RFQ states the following services shall be provided under the “Technical Requirement:

- 1. Therapeutic, Rehabilitative, and Recovery Services shall be determined by the individual resident in conjunction with the contracted facility staff and in consultation with the VA Liaison. The Contractor shall develop a treatment plan with the veteran, and include the VA Liaison. Such plans shall be developed based on a psychosocial assessment, completed by contracted facility staff and shall be in compliance with Commission of Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) standards. Services which the Contractor shall be able to furnish include**
 - i. Professional counseling services shall be provided by licensed independent practitioners (LIPs) either employed by or sub-contracted by the contractor and shall address, at a minimum, self-care skills, adaptive coping skills, mental health/substance abuse treatment needs, and vocational rehabilitation counseling. Counseling services, including individual and group sessions, shall be provided based upon the individual needs of the residents. The Veteran may choose to use VA therapists or community services, but the facility must insure this is at no cost to the Veteran, and the contractor shall provide transportation to appointments at no cost to the Veteran.**

Can you please clarify whether or not therapeutic counseling services conducted through the use of a **“tele-health”** platform is permissible and will suffice for the delivery of this type of service requirement?

Answer: No, this is not permissible

- 12.) Question:** Does the proposed RFQ require the contractor to implement the “harm reduction” model in their transitional housing?

Answer: Yes

- 13.) Question:** What exactly is considered the time frame for contractor case management **“day-shift”** hours of work, 8am-4pm? Please clarify.

Answer: Yes, 8am-4:00pm

- 14.) Question:** Can you please explain the process of how an offeror can submit multiple offers on a single form SF 1449?

Answer: Multiple offers cannot be submitted on a single form SF1449. If a vendor has multiple facilities, the pricing shall be the same for both facilities. If the vendor has two facilities under different names, then, each facility shall submit their own quote. Also, the facility must be located in any of the counties stated in the RFQ/Solicitation.

- 15.) **Question:** Must an offeror provide/include copies of their completed PPQ forms that were emailed to the Contract Specialist, along with the requested items listed in the “Signed Quote”?

Answer: The Past Performance Questionnaires must be emailed to the Contract Specialist michelle.ford2@va.gov **by the Customer that filled it out.**

- 16.) **Question:** The RFQ does not state the process of how an offeror “**shall**” provide documentation of their Hub-zone certification for price discount? Please clarify.

Answer: Any offeror that is a certified Hubzone, must submit proof/certificate or a narrative stating they are Hubzone. The government will verify certification by contacting SBA or by doing an SBA Hubzone search.

- 17.) **Question:** Can a live-in House Manager also perform work in the role of an onsite addiction counselor employee/staff member in the operation of this contract?

Answer: Yes, as long as both jobs are done. In other words, if the house manager is responsible for supervising house maintenance, it cannot be at a time he/she is supposed to be providing addiction counseling.

****THIS RFQ/SOLICITATION CLOSING ON MONDAY, JULY 17, 2017 @ 3:00PM (EASTERN)****