



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND PURCHASING POOL
MANAGEMENT

SOLICITATION NUMBER – BPM039929

1. As a follow up to the pre-bid conference on TUE Jan 29, please provide a detailed timeline of all deliverable deadlines and the associated components required. Upon review of the Key Information Summary Sheet on Page 3 of the PBM MS-IFB 2024 document, we do not see the discussed deadline for the Minimum Qualifications submission in RFP360 (mentioned to be March 12th) nor do we see the deadline for the PBA submission in RFP360 (mentioned to be March 28th). Further, to the extent any specific exhibits or forms are required to accompany the Minimum Qualifications or PBA submissions, please confirm that matrix of Attachments and Appendices in Section 7 MS-IFB Attachments and Appendices fully reflects the required attachments with each RFP360 submission.

Response: Please refer to the table below for key dates.

		Reference
MS-IFB Activity	Target Date	Attachment
Questions Due	2/13/2024	
NDA & Intent to Bid	2/21/2024	Appendix 3
PBM Registration & Accessibility	2/21/2024	
Phase I: Minimum Qualifications Begins	3/1/2024	Attachment P
Phase I: Minimum Qualifications Due	3/12/2024	
Phase II: Participant Bidding Agreement (PBA) Begins	3/21/2024	Attachment T
Phase II: Participant Bidding Agreement (PBA) Due	3/28/2024	
Phase III: Reverse Auction - Round 1 Begins	4/9/2024	Attachment B
Phase III: Reverse Auction - Round 1 Due	4/15/2024	
Phase III: Reverse Auction - Round 2 Begins	4/29/2024	
Phase III: Reverse Auction - Round 2 Due	5/2/2024	
Phase III: Reverse Auction - Round 3 Begins	5/10/2024	
Phase III: Reverse Auction - Round 3 Due	5/15/2024	

2. With regard to the Questions Due Date and Time on Page 3 of the MS-IFB, 1) please confirm the deadline of February 13th is the deadline in which a bidder must submit any clarification questions to the State and 2) please advise on the anticipated timing for the State's responses to bidders' questions.

Response: 2/13/2024 @ 11:59 p.m. is the deadline for all questions to the State. 3/1/2024 is the anticipated date for posting answers to all questions. Questions may be answered in multiple rounds.

3. Additionally, we respectfully request that the State consider providing an additional vendor question round for bidders in order to ensure we are able to gain the most complete clarity of the requirements outlined in the MS-IFB and the PBA. As the procurement process does not allow for any deviation to any requirements, a bidder may be able to best structure its proposal if provided additional time and/or question rounds to seek clarity on given requirements.

Response: The State does not plan to add any additional rounds of questions at this time.

4. Is there a due date for NDA and Intent to Bid?

Response: 2/21/2024

5. Can you confirm that April 15th, 2024, is the start date for bidding and is also the due date for questions?

Response: Bidding opens 4/9/2024. The due date for questions is 2/13/2024. Please refer to the table in response to question 1 for key dates.

6. The section on reciprocal preference regarding the State hiring local vendors. It seems there are certain States where reciprocal preferences are made. What States would those be?

Response: Please see the following links from NASPO (National Association of State Procurement Officials) in regard to State's Reciprocal Preferences.

<https://airtable.com/appcmdeneJM0peZ71/shrFd5d5vIPTkjVCU/tblZrhrNLVXwTB6xv>

<https://airtable.com/appcmdeneJM0peZ71/shrE1jW2JaLHKL6Iq/tbl4DvtKHZx7DGImm/viw2uUZrXInPKcH0S?blocks=hide>

7. Privacy - Which section is that referring to?

Response: Please refer to section 3.9 under the SOC2 Type 2 Audit report for internal controls. For this contract, you are required to meet 5 trust services: Privacy, Security, Availability, Processing, and Confidentiality. This is required not only for prime but also for subcontractors where PHI or PII is imported or exported. All subcontractors receiving this must be identified in your report.

8. Would any pharmacy in your network be considered a subcontractor?

Response: No, network affiliates are not necessarily subcontractors. The nature of the business relationship between the prime contractor and any subcontractor is based on the subcontracting

agreement. Maryland would not treat any affiliates as subcontractors unless subcontracting agreements exist.

9. The MS-IFB mentions a market assessment after the award, what is the timing of the market assessment?

Response: While not definitive, the State would expect to conduct the market assessment in late September or early October as we prepare for the effective date of January 1, 2025.

10. We would like to request to bid on a slice Rx (Fully Insured Guaranteed rates) covering the Kaiser Permanente population. Will the State consider more than one Rx awardee based on access, cost, and value metrics?

Response: We cannot accommodate a sliced Rx proposal through the Revers Auction Platform. The requirements were set forth in HB 1150 of 2020 and designed for a single bid. See Section 2.2.10 of the MS-IFB *“DBM intends to make a single award to one bidder for a planned go-live date of January 1, 2025”* No partial or sliced bids will be accepted. Please reference COMAR 21.04.01.02 and 21.05.02.22.