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QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES # 1
PROJECT NO. Q0013030
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Inmate Dental Services
May 02, 2013

Ladies/Gentlemen:

This List of Questions and Responses #1, questions #1 through #5, is being issued to clarify certain information contained in the above named RFP.

In most instances the submitted questions and the Department's responses merely serve to clarify the existing requirements of the RFP. Sometimes, however, in submitting questions potential Offerors may make statements or express interpretations of contract requirements that may be inconsistent with the Department's intent. To the extent that the Department recognizes such an incorrect interpretation the provided answer will note that the interpretation is erroneous and either state that the question is moot once the correct interpretation is explained or provide the answer based upon the correct interpretation.

No provided answer to a question may in and of itself change any requirement of the RFP. If based upon a submitted question it is determined that any portion of the RFP should be changed, the actual change may only be implemented via a formal amendment to the RFP. In this situation the answer provided will reference the amendment which contains the RFP change.

The statements and interpretations of contract requirements which are stated in the following questions of potential Offerors are not binding on the State, unless the State expressly amends the RFP. Nothing in the State's responses to these questions is to be construed as agreement to or acceptance by the State of any statement or interpretation on the part of the vendor asking the question as to what the contract does or does not require.

1. Tab C, page 100 Executive Summary requires the Offeror to demonstrate how it meets the minimum qualifications Section 2.1 page 28. Since the RFP states certain numbers in each of the 3 identified minimum qualifications, will the State accept the names of those facilities that meet or exceed those minimum qualification numbers or is the State expecting something in greater detail? Can the State give an example of what is expected from an Offeror in order to meet the minimum qualifications?

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RESPONSE: The Offeror is to provide information for those contracts held for the past three continuous years that satisfy the three specific minimum qualifications listed in Section 2 – Minimum Qualifications of the RFP in Tab C- Executive Summary and all Dental Correctional contracts awarded since 2000 in Tab L – Offeror Experience, Capabilities and References.

Since prison contracts are held by governments, information about prisons and contracts is readily available in terms of being able to verify which vendor holds a particular contract, the number of Inmates in total and at individual facilities, and the number of facilities in the jurisdiction. To the extent it may be necessary to obtain more information from an Offeror to verify that the minimum qualifications have been satisfied, the Procurement Officer will contact the Offeror for any further required information.

2. a. *What is the protocol for incoming inmates, currently, in orthodontic treatment?*

RESPONSE: If a new arrestee that currently was being treated for orthodontic care (braces) enters a Department facility, either upon referral from the Medical Contractor at Intake, in response to a sick call slip, or at the required 90 days after admission examination, the Contractor will be responsible for assessing the ability of its treating dentist to accomplish basic routine hygiene (i.e, cleaning) and otherwise manage the orthodontics needs of the Inmate without referring the Inmate to the treating community orthodontist to modify or adjust the braces. As per Attachment S – Medical Evaluation Manual – Chapter 11 Oral Health Program, no further active and continual treatment/adjustments should be required. Should the Contractor find it necessary to remove the braces, it will do so in consultation with the DPSCS Dental Consultant and if required, the Medical Contractor’s Director of Utilization Management for any necessary Off-site care. Any conflicts regarding the proper treatment or disposition of an Inmate with braces will be brought to the attention of the DPSCS Chief Medical Officer for final disposition.

In the past ten years, the Department has had only 10 cases of Inmates with problems with their braces, none of which have required Off-site care.

b. *Does the treating orthodontist come to the facility for continuing care?*

RESPONSE: It would not be expected that the treating community orthodontist would come to the facility for continuing care. If Off-site care is deemed necessary and approved, the Inmate would be transported to the treating community orthodontist or other Off-site location for care.

c. *Does the vendor pay for ongoing treatment or the Department?*

RESPONSE: Payment for approved Off-site care not directly related to a medical situation that ordinarily would require Off-site care must initially be paid by the Contractor. The Contractor may then submit an invoice to the Department for reimbursement of the Off-site care. An upcoming Amendment will address this issue to reflect this answer.

5. *Can the Department provide justification for the minimum qualifications in Section 2.1 in the RFP?*

RESPONSE: The Maryland Department of Corrections is a large, complex system consisting of many correctional facilities and a city lock-up system. It is imperative that the selected Offeror have prior experience in a correctional system of reasonably comparable size, complexity and scope of work so that the provision of dental services to Inmates does not degrade during contract transition. The Minimum Qualifications listed in Section 2 already reflect significant reductions versus the comparable levels for the Department, as follows.

- The 10,000 Inmate requirement is 60% less than the Department's current Inmate population of over 25,000;
- The six separate facilities requirement is less than 25% of the number of Department facilities; and
- In comparison to the requirement that one of the six facilities house at least 1,500 inmates, the Department has seven facilities with at least that population, the largest of which has 2,600 Inmates, or over 70% more Inmates than the required level.

Remember proposals are due on May 30, 2013 (per Amendment #3) no later than 2:00 p.m.
If there are questions concerning this solicitation, please contact me via e-mail at ptracey@dbm.state.md.us or call me at (410) 260-7918 as soon as possible.

Date Issued: 05/02/2013

By:
Patti Tracey
Procurement Officer