

Questions and Answers

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Revision Consultation - 1/8/2019 7:37:00 AM

Number: 2019-12

Questions and Answers:

Q: Anticipated Budget

Posted On: 1/22/2019 11:50:37 AM

Is there an anticipated budget for this work?

A: The Department of Education is seeking a fair proposal that meets the specifications provided and will negotiate with the selected vendor to determine a final amount should a budgetary gap exist.

Answered On: 1/28/2019 9:39:07 AM

Q: Guiding Principles

Posted On: 1/22/2019 11:51:30 AM

On page 3, OEL lists the guiding principles for the revision from the data collection process. The first guiding principle is "The existing structure of Stars shows improvement in children's executive functioning." Can you provide further detail on this guiding principle? Is the intent behind this guiding principle to ensure that the structure includes components that assess children's executive functioning? Evidence-based practices that support improved executive functioning? Additional context would be greatly appreciated.

A: The intent behind the guiding principle related to executive functioning is to ensure that existing components of the QRIS which have shown improvement in children's executive functioning are maintained or bolstered in the revision process.

Answered On: 1/28/2019 9:39:38 AM

Q: Five questions

Posted On: 1/22/2019 5:34:06 PM

Question 1

Section Number Section II – Scope of Services

Paragraph Number Paragraphs 1-4

Page Number (s) Page 2

Text of Passage "Delaware Stars for Early Success (Delaware Stars) was created in 2008 as a response to both the national trend of implementing Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) and the local desire to ensure the availability of high quality early learning programs to all children. Initially a building block QRIS model, Delaware Stars was revised in 2012 to be a hybrid model QRIS with required observation components. Delaware Stars was last revised in 2014 as a result of Delaware receiving a Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant. That revision's primary emphasis was on the implementation of six essential standards in Delaware's hybrid model QRIS.

Also as a result of the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant, Delaware contracted with an independent evaluator to conduct an evaluation of Delaware Stars. The purpose of the evaluation was to support Delaware in its efforts to design and implement an effective, robust system for measuring and reporting on the quality of early learning and care programs in home and center settings. The evaluation further aimed to inform efforts to improve the quality of programs in ways that are beneficial for participating children and their families. The project entailed a series of interrelated research tasks designed to provide objective and rigorous empirical evidence of the extent to which rating tiers reflect relevant differences in the quality of home- and center-based programs and whether the system is operating effectively in terms of technical assistance (TA), financial support, and other features.

The independent evaluation was completed in 2016 and resulted in several recommendations, including:

- Learn from other QRIS validation studies;
- Consider further refinements to the Delaware Stars rating structure;
- Strengthen the marketing of Delaware Stars to families;
- Enhance administrative data systems to support ongoing system monitoring and quality improvement.

The Delaware Department of Education (DDOE), Office of Early Learning (OEL) began the process of further revising Delaware Stars at the end of 2017. The initial phase of the revision included the formation of a leadership team to oversee the revision and several modes of data collection focused primarily on the collection of stakeholder feedback. Data collection focused on topic areas including general feedback, standards, assessment and verification, financial incentives, and family engagement. Data collection methods/resources include:

- Listening sessions/focus groups, conducted by the Mid-Atlantic Comprehensive Center;
- Community conversations, conducted by OEL and partners; and
- Survey of Providers and Stakeholders, conducted by the University of Delaware

Question # 1 Scope and Budget for Prior Revisions: Can you provide a detailed scope of work for the reviews/revisions/evaluations highlighted above, along with the budget for each?

Question 2-3

Section Number Section II – Scope of Services

Paragraph Number Paragraph 7

Page Number (s) Page 3

Text of Passage "Armed with these guiding principles and conclusions, OEL is prepared to begin the next phase of revision. They desire to engage a research/evaluation partner to assist with facilitation. Activities will include:

1. Review and synthesize data from previous Delaware Stars evaluation(s) and initial phase of the revision process;
2. Review and synthesize data from other states' QRIS evaluations;
3. With OEL and the leadership team, create and manage a process for the review and revision of existing standards;
4. With OEL and the leadership team, create a communication plan for marketing the revised QRIS to partners, providers, and the general public;
5. With OEL and the leadership team, create an implementation plan for the revised QRIS; and
6. With OEL and the leadership team, create an evaluation plan for the revised QRIS."

Question #2 Vendor services include review and synthesis of data from other states' QRIS evaluations. How many comparative state reviews does Delaware DOE envision?

Question #3 In the event two or more vendors are awarded, does the State have preferred templates for creating consistency among status reports, communications/marketing plans, implementation plans and evaluation plans? Or, can vendors use their own templates?

Question 4

Section Number Section IV - Professional Services RFP Administration Information

Paragraph Number Sub-Section B/ RFP Submissions

Paragraph 24 (a)

Page Number (s) Page 12

Text of Passage "After reviews of the evaluations committee report and its recommendation, and once the contract terms and conditions have been finalized, the State of Delaware will award the contract."
Question #4 Timeline: Can you provide the estimated start date for services?

Question 5
Section Number Section IV - Professional Services RFP Administration Information
Paragraph Number Sub-Section C/ RFP Evaluation Process
Paragraph 5
Page Number (s) Page 15

Text of Passage "After initial scoring and a determination that vendor(s) are qualified to perform the required services, selected vendors may be invited to make oral presentations to the Evaluation Team. All vendor(s) selected will be given an opportunity to present to the Evaluation Team."
Question #5 Time Frame for Oral Presentations: Can you provide an estimate time frame when oral presentations will be scheduled?

A: Answer to Question 1: Detailed scopes of work and budgets are not available for prior revisions. The chart below includes information about the evaluation, for which the budget was approximately \$928,000.00. Additional information on the evaluation can be found at https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1426.html

Answered On: 1/28/2019 12:43:09 PM

Please see attached PDF.

Answer to Question 2: The Department of Education is seeking a comprehensive review of other states' QRIS evaluations. A specific number of states' has not been identified. The Department will work with the awarded vendor to identify appropriate states to review.

Answer to Question 3: In the event two or more vendors are awarded, the state will work with those vendors to ensure consistency among reports.

Answer to Question 4: The Department of Education will work with the awarded vendor to select a start date. However, the Department would like services to start as early as possible.

Answer to Question 5: The Department anticipates oral presentations to occur in late-February and early-March.

Objective: To conduct an evaluation of Delaware Stars that addresses nine research questions pertaining to two study components: a validation study and a child outcome study.

Deliverables:	Staff:	Timeline:	Intended Results:
<p>Through eight study tasks, conduct research and analysis that produces the following products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 working papers for Tasks 2 and 3 and Year 1 report covering findings from Tasks 2, 3, 4, and 5 • Year 2 report covering analysis of fall 2014 data collection for Tasks 6 and 7 • Year 3 report covering findings from all prior tasks plus the analysis of fall 2014 and spring 2015 data collection for Tasks 6 and 7 	<p>Key RAND research personnel are Karoly, Schwartz, Acosta, Le, and Zellman</p>	<p>June 15, 2013 – December 31, 2015</p>	<p>To provide OEL with independent, objective, and rigorous empirical evidence regarding nine research questions that will support a process of continuous quality improvement for the design and operation of Delaware Stars.</p>