



DELAWARE HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Management Services
1901 N. DuPont Highway
New Castle, DE 19720

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. HSS-14-028

FOR

HEALTHCARE NAVIGATORS/BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT SPECIALISTS

FOR

**Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
1901 North DuPont Highway
New Castle, DE 19720**

Deposit	Waived
Performance Bond	Waived

**Date Due: July 11, 2014
11:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME**

There will be no Pre-Bid meeting for this RFP; bidders will submit all questions to the dsamhbusinessoperations@state.de.us email address. All questions will be due by the date shown within the proposed timetable of this RFP. All questions and their answers will be posted to the www.bids.delaware.gov website.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL # HSS-14-028

Sealed Proposals for HEALTHCARE NAVIGATORS/BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT SPECIALISTS for the DIVISION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH will be **received** by:

Delaware Health and Social Services
Herman M. Holloway Sr. Campus
Procurement Branch
Main Administration Bldg, Sullivan Street
Second Floor, Room #257
1901 North DuPont Highway, New Castle, Delaware 19720

Proposals will be accepted until **11:00a.m., July 11, 2014**. At which time the proposals will be opened and recorded.

Obtaining Copies of the RFP

This RFP is available in electronic form [only] through the State of Delaware Procurement Website at <http://bids.delaware.gov>.

Public Notice

Public notice has been provided in accordance with 29 *Del. C.* § 6981

NOTIFICATION TO BIDDERS

Bidder shall list all contracts awarded to it or its predecessor firm(s) by the State of Delaware; during the last three years, by State Department, Division, Contact Person (with address/phone number), period of performance and amount. In addition, Bidder shall list any contract awarded to it or its predecessor firm(s) by the State of Delaware during the past ten (10) years if such contract was terminated by the State for cause, and shall include an explanation of the circumstances of such termination.

The Evaluation/Selection Review Committee will consider these Additional references and may contact each of these sources. Information regarding bidder performance gathered from these sources may be included in the Committee's deliberations and factored in the final scoring of the bid. Failure to list any contract as required by this paragraph may be grounds for immediate rejection of the bid."

There will be a ninety (90) day period during which the agency may extend the contract period for renewal if needed.

IMPORTANT: ALL PROPOSALS MUST HAVE OUR HSS NUMBER ON THE OUTSIDE ENVELOPE. IF THIS NUMBER IS OMITTED YOUR PROPOSAL WILL IMMEDIATELY BE REJECTED.

FOR FURTHER BIDDING INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Kieran Mohammed
Kieran.mohammed@state.de.us
DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
PROCUREMENT BRANCH
MAIN ADMIN BLD, SULLIVAN STREET
2ND FLOOR –ROOM #257
1901 NORTH DUPONT HIGHWAY
HERMAN M. HOLLOWAY SR. HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SERVICES CAMPUS
NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE 19720
PHONE: (302) 255-9290

IMPORTANT: DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BIDDER TO ENSURE THAT THE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE PROCUREMENT UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BY THE DEADLINE.

ATTENTION BIDDERS: Your proposal must include a cover letter and the forms in Appendices A,B and C signed and with all information on the forms complete.

The issuance of this Request for Proposals (RFP) neither commits the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, DIVISION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH, to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a proposal or subsequent negotiations, nor to procure or contract for the proposed services. The Division reserves the right to reject or accept any or all proposals or portion thereof, to cancel in part or in its entirety this Request for Proposals, or to delay implementation of any contract which may result, as may be necessary to meet the Department's funding limitations and processing constraints. The Department and Division reserve the right to terminate any contractual agreement upon fifteen (15) days notice in the event that the State determines that State or Federal funds are no longer available to continue the contract.

Organizations Ineligible to Bid

Any individual, business, organization, corporation, consortium, partnership, joint venture, or any other entity including subcontractors currently debarred or suspended is ineligible to bid. Any entity ineligible to conduct business in the State of Delaware for any reason is ineligible to respond to the RFP.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR
HEALTHCARE NAVIGATORS/BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT SPECIALISTS
FOR
DIVISION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH**

Availability of Funds

Funds are available for the selected vendor(s) to provide services in the area of HEALTHCARE NAVIGATORS/BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT SPECIALISTS as set forth herein. The contract term is **one (1) year** renewable up to four additional years as long as sufficient funding is available and the contractor's performance is satisfactory, consistently meets performance targets, and continues to meet the service system design needs of the DSAMH.

Further Information

Inquiries regarding this RFP should be addressed to:

Ceasar McClain
Contracts Manager
dsamhbbusinessoperations@state.de.us

Restrictions on Communications with State Staff

From the issue date of this RFP until a contractor is selected and the selection is announced, bidders are NOT allowed to contact any **DIVISION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH** staff, except those specified in this RFP, regarding this procurement.

Bidder communication is limited to Kieran Mohammed, Delaware Health and Social Services. The central phone number for the Procurement office is (302) 255-9290. Failure to adhere to this limitation will be grounds for disqualification from the bidding process and the immediate rejection of the offending party's proposal.

Contact with State Employees

Direct contact with State of Delaware employees other than the State of Delaware Designated Contact(s) regarding this RFP is expressly prohibited without prior consent. Vendors directly contacting State of Delaware employees risk elimination of their proposal from further consideration. Exceptions exist only for organizations currently doing business in the State who require contact in the normal course of doing that business. In the case of such exception, communication may not include an active RFP.

Collusion or Fraud

Any evidence of agreement or collusion among Vendor(s) and prospective Vendor(s) acting to illegally restrain freedom from competition by agreement to offer a fixed price, or otherwise, will render the offers of such Vendor(s) void.

By responding, the Vendor shall be deemed to have represented and warranted that its proposal is not made in connection with any competing Vendor submitting a separate response to this RFP, and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud; that the Vendor did not participate in the RFP development process and had no knowledge of the specific contents of the RFP prior to its issuance; and that no employee or official of the State of Delaware participated directly or indirectly in the Vendor's proposal preparation.

Advance knowledge of information which gives any particular Vendor advantages over any other interested Vendor(s), in advance of the opening of proposals, whether in response to advertising or an employee or representative thereof, will potentially void that particular proposal.

Lobbying and Gratuities

Lobbying or providing gratuities shall be strictly prohibited. Vendors found to be lobbying, providing gratuities to, or in any way attempting to influence a State of Delaware employee or agent of the State of Delaware concerning this RFP or the award of a contract resulting from this RFP shall have their proposal immediately rejected and shall be barred from further participation in this RFP.

The selected Vendor will warrant that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure a contract resulting from this RFP upon agreement or understanding for a commission, or a percentage, brokerage or contingent fee. For breach or violation of this warranty, the DSAMH shall have the right to annul any contract resulting from this RFP without liability or at its discretion deduct from the contract price or otherwise recover the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee.

All contact with State of Delaware employees, contractors, vendors or agents of the State of Delaware concerning this RFP shall be conducted in strict accordance with the manner, forum and conditions set forth in this RFP.

Solicitation of State Employees Prohibited

Until contract award, Vendors shall not, directly or indirectly, solicit any employee of the State of Delaware to leave the State of Delaware's employ in order to accept employment with the Vendor, its affiliates, actual or prospective contractors, or any person acting in concert with Vendor, without prior written approval of the DHSS' contracting officer. Solicitation of State of Delaware employees by a Vendor may result in rejection of the Vendor's proposal.

This paragraph does not prevent the employment by a Vendor of a State of Delaware employee who has initiated contact with the Vendor. However, State of Delaware employees may be legally prohibited from accepting employment with the Vendor or subcontractor under certain circumstances. Vendors may not knowingly employ a person who cannot legally accept employment under State or Federal law. If a Vendor discovers that they have done so, they must terminate that employment immediately.

Independent contractors

The parties to the contract shall be independent contractors to one another, and nothing herein shall be deemed to cause this agreement to create an agency, partnership, joint venture or employment relationship between parties. Each party shall be responsible for compliance with all applicable workers compensation, unemployment, disability insurance, social security withholding and all other similar matters. Neither party shall be liable for any debts, accounts, obligations or other liability whatsoever of the other party or any other obligation of the other party to pay on the behalf of its employees or to withhold from any compensation paid to such employees any social benefits, workers compensation insurance premiums or any income or other similar taxes. It may be at the DHSS' discretion as to the location of work for the contractual support personnel during the contract period.

Licenses and Permits

In performance of the contract, the Vendor will be required to comply with all applicable Federal, State and local laws, ordinances, codes, and regulations. The cost of permits and other relevant costs required in the performance of the contract shall be borne by the successful Vendor. The Vendor shall be properly licensed and authorized to transact business in the State of Delaware as provided in 30 *Del. C.* § 2301.

Prior to receiving an award, the successful Vendor shall either furnish the DSAMH with proof of State of Delaware Business Licensure or initiate the process of application where required. An application may be requested in writing to: Division of Revenue, Carvel State Building, P.O. Box 8750, 820 N. French Street, Wilmington, DE 19899 or by telephone to one of the following numbers: (302) 577-8200—Public Service, (302) 577-8205—Licensing Department.

Information regarding the award of the contract will be given to the Division of Revenue. Failure to comply with the State of Delaware licensing requirements may subject Vendor to applicable fines and/or interest penalties.

Indemnification

1. General Indemnification.

Vendor will hold harmless, indemnify and defend the Department, the State of Delaware and their agents, employees, or officers of the State of Delaware from any and all suits, actions, losses, liability, damages (including punitive damages), expenses, reasonable

attorney fees (including salaries of attorneys regularly employed by the State of Delaware), judgments, or settlements incurred by the Department, the State of Delaware or their agents, employees, or officers arising out of the provision of services by vendor, its employees, or subcontractors under the contract, including direct or indirect negligence or intentional acts of omission or commission, and professional malpractice regardless of any negligence by employees or officials of the Department. The legal duties and responsibilities set forth in this paragraph include the duty to cooperate with the Department, its employees, and attorneys in the defense of any legal action against the State, its agents, employees, or officers arising out of the provision of services by Vendor, which involve claims related to an offender's medical care, or which require information or testimony from vendor's employees or contractors.

2. Proprietary Rights Indemnification

Vendor shall warrant that all elements of its solution, including all equipment, software, documentation, services and deliverables, do not and will not infringe upon or violate any patent, copyright, trade secret or other proprietary rights of any third party. In the event of any claim, suit or action by any third party against the State of Delaware or DHSS, DHSS shall promptly notify the Vendor in writing and Vendor shall defend such claim, suit or action at Vendor's expense, and Vendor shall indemnify the State of Delaware and the DHSS against any loss, cost, damage, expense or liability arising out of such claim, suit or action (including, without limitation, litigation costs, lost employee time, and counsel fees) whether or not such claim, suit or action is successful.

If any equipment, software, services (including methods) products or other intellectual property used or furnished by the Vendor (collectively "Products") is or in Vendor's reasonable judgment is likely to be, held to constitute an infringing product, Vendor shall at its expense and option either:

- (a) Procure the right for the DHSS to continue using the Product(s);
- (b) Replace the product with a non-infringing equivalent that satisfies all the requirements of the contract; or
- (c) Modify the Product(s) to make it or them non-infringing, provided that the modification does not materially alter the functionality or efficacy of the product or cause the Product(s) or any part of the work to fail to conform to the requirements of the Contract, or only alters the Product(s) to a degree that the DHSS agrees to and accepts in writing.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR
HEALTHCARE NAVIGATORS/BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT SPECIALISTS
FOR
DIVISION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH

I SCOPE OF SERVICES

Healthcare Navigators/Benefit Entitlement Specialists (Navigators) work with individuals in DSAMH treatment programs to ensure that individuals have insurance for Medicaid or qualified health plans offered through Delaware's health care marketplace (Choose Health Delaware) and other entitlement programs available such as Social Security.

Navigators provide information to individuals in an impartial manner regarding program eligibility requirements, benefits, and the application process. Navigators assist individuals with completing their applications, including obtaining needed documentation. Navigators are responsible for coordinating and following up on referrals to other government agencies to complete program applications, ensure timely processing of applications and to resolve issues that may arise in the application process.

The contractor will:

- Verify Medicaid and insurance covering the individual.
- If the individual does not have Medicaid or insurance, interview the beneficiary to screen for eligibility for Medicaid, Medicare, Healthcare Exchange and all entitlement programs in the State of Delaware. Especially with regard to persons who have qualified for Medicare but may qualify for additional services and to identify persons who are disqualified due to refusal to spend down assets.
- Counsel individuals on the application process, program eligibility requirements, and program benefits.
- Provide information that is up-to-date, accurate, objective, and fair.
- Based on the screening information, refer individual to appropriate entity to begin application process.
- For individuals interested in obtaining health coverage through Delaware's health care marketplace, assist individuals in choosing a qualified health plan.
- Assist the applicant with completing and filing his/her application as necessary. Ensure appropriate signatures are obtained on all necessary forms. Initiate telephone calls and/or emails to the applicant and family members, employers, and others to obtain information and documentation required to complete the application.

- Maintain proper follow-up with the applicant to ensure timely processing and completion of all applications and accompanying documentation.
- Refer Medicaid applicants to the portal to access the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance's (DMMA's) eligibility unit.
- Make field visits to applicants' homes and Delaware government offices as necessary to file and follow up on applications.
- Perform accurate data entry, recording all actions taken, and posting information in computer systems.
- Demonstrate excellent customer service skills.
- Know, understand, and comply with Federal and State regulations, including but not limited to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- Participate in ongoing, comprehensive training programs as required.
- All other duties as assigned.

II FUNDING AND PAYMENT METHODOLOGY

DSAMH is interested in contracting with individuals or organizations to provide these services. Individuals will be reimbursed on an hourly basis. Organizations will utilize a cost reimbursement process.

III SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A. Length of Contract

The contract term is **one (1) year** renewable up to four additional years as long as sufficient funding is available and the contractor's performance is satisfactory, consistently meets performance targets, and continues to meet the service system design needs of the DSAMH.

B. Subcontractors

The use of subcontractors will be permitted for this project.

C. Funding Disclaimer Clause

State Appropriations Mandatory Condition of State Performance. Validity and enforcement of any resulting Contract is subject to appropriations by the General Assembly of the State of Delaware of the specific funds necessary for Contract performance. Should such funds not be so appropriated Delaware may immediately terminate this Contract, and absent such action this Contract shall be terminated as to any obligation of the State requiring the expenditure of money for which no specific appropriation is available, at the end of the last fiscal year for which no appropriation is available or upon the exhaustion of funds. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this

RFP, any resulting Contract shall terminate and Delaware's obligations under it shall be extinguished at the start of the fiscal year in which Delaware fails to appropriate monies for the ensuing fiscal year sufficient for the payment of all amounts which will then become due.

D. Reserved Rights

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the Department reserves the right to:

- Reject any and all proposals received in response to this RFP;
- Select a proposal other than the one with the lowest cost;
- Waive or seek clarification on any information, irregularities, or inconsistencies in proposals received;
- Negotiate as to any aspect of the proposal with the bidder and negotiate with more than one bidder at a time;
- If negotiations fail to result in an agreement within two (2) weeks, the Department may terminate negotiations and select the next most responsive bidder, prepare and release a new RFP, or take such other action as the Department may deem appropriate.

E. Termination Conditions

The Department may terminate the contract resulting from this RFP at any time that the vendor fails to carry out its provisions or to make substantial progress under the terms specified in this RFP and the resulting proposal.

Prior to taking the appropriate action as described in the contract, the Department will provide the vendor with thirty (30) days notice of conditions endangering performance. If after such notice the vendor fails to remedy the conditions contained in the notice, the Department shall issue the vendor an order to stop work immediately and deliver all work and work in progress to the State. The Department shall be obligated only for those services rendered and accepted prior to the date of notice of termination.

The Contract may be terminated in whole or part:

- a) by the Department upon five (5) calendar days written notice for cause or documented unsatisfactory performance,
- b) by the Department upon fifteen (15) calendar days written notice of the loss of funding or reduction of funding for the stated Contractor services,

c) by either party without cause upon thirty (30) calendar day's written notice to the other Party, unless a longer period is specified.

F. Contractor Monitoring/Evaluation

The contractor may be monitored/evaluated on-site on a regular basis. Failure of the contractor to cooperate with the monitoring/evaluation process or to resolve any problem(s) identified in the monitoring/evaluation may be cause for termination of the contract.

G. Payment:

The agencies involved will authorize and process for payment each invoice within thirty (30) days after the date of receipt. The contractor or vendor must accept full payment by procurement (credit) card and or conventional check and/or other electronic means at the State's option, without imposing any additional fees, costs or conditions.

H. W-9 Information Submission

Awarded vendors will be required to submit their Form W-9 by accessing this website, <http://accounting.delaware.gov/>. The vendor will complete the secure form, read the affirmation, and submit the form by clicking the "Submit" button. Delaware Division of Accounting staff will review the submitted form for accuracy, completeness, and standardization. Once all the requirements are met, the form will be uploaded to the vendor file and approved. The vendor is then able to be paid for services provided.

For those vendors that do not have internet access, a printable version of the Delaware Substitute Form W-9 can be faxed or mailed to the vendor. Upon completion, the vendor will then fax or mail the form directly to the vendor staff at the Delaware Division of Accounting. All vendor requests, additions and changes, will come directly from the vendor. Questions for vendors who do not have internet access, contact vendor staff at (302) 734-6827. However, all potential vendors are expected to have basic Internet access.

This applies only to the successful bidder and should be done when successful contract negotiations are completed. It is not a required to be done as part of the submission of the bidder's proposal.

I. Applicant Organization Eligibility

Any individual, business, organization, corporation, consortium, partnership, joint venture, or any other entity including subcontractors currently debarred or suspended is

ineligible to bid. Any entity ineligible to conduct business in the State of Delaware for any reason is ineligible to respond to the RFP.

Applications for this RFP will be accepted from any individuals, non-profit, for profit or faith based organizations whose hiring and operational practices comply with all federal and State of Delaware laws and regulations. The organization will be required to provide evidence that both the applicant organization and the lead management staff proposed for the program have the knowledge and experience, as well as the depth of staffing, to provide the required services.

VI. State of Delaware Required Reporting

One of the primary goals in administering this contract is to keep accurate records regarding its actual value/usage. This information is essential in order to update the contents of the contract and to establish proper bonding levels if they are required. The integrity of future contracts revolves around our ability to convey accurate and realistic information to all interested Vendors.

A Usage Report (Attachment 1) shall be furnished on the 15th (or next business day after the 15th day) of each month by the successful Vendor **Electronically in Excel format** detailing the purchasing of all items on this contract. The reports (Appendix H) shall be submitted electronically in EXCEL and sent as an attachment to dsamhbussinessoperations@state.de.us. It shall contain the six-digit department and organization code. Any exception to this mandatory requirement may result in cancellation of the award. Failure to provide the report with the minimum required information may also negate any contract extension clauses. Additionally, Vendors who are determined to be in default of this mandatory report requirement may have such conduct considered against them, in assessment of responsibility, in the evaluation of future proposals.

In accordance with Executive Orders 14 and 29 – Increasing Supplier Diversity Initiatives within State Government and Ensuring Representation of Veteran-Owned Businesses (VOBE) including Service Disabled Veteran Owned Businesses (SDVOBE), the State of Delaware is committed to supporting its diverse business industry and population. The successful Vendor will be required to accurately report on the participation by Diversity Suppliers which includes: minority (MBE), woman (WBE), veteran owned business (VOBE), or service disabled veteran owned business (SDVOBE) under this awarded contract. The reported data elements shall include but not be limited to; name of state contract/project, the name of the Diversity Supplier, Diversity Supplier contact information (phone, email), type of product or service provided by the Diversity Supplier and any minority, women, veteran, or service disabled veteran certifications for the subcontractor (State OSD certification, Minority Supplier Development Council,

Women's Business Enterprise Council, VetBiz.gov). The format used for Subcontracting 2nd Tier report is shown as in Attachment1.

Accurate 2nd tier reports shall be submitted to the contracting Agency's Office of Supplier Diversity at vendorusage@state.de.us on the 15th (or next business day) of the month following each quarterly period. For consistency quarters shall be considered to end the last day of March, June, September and December of each calendar year. Contract spend during the covered periods shall result in a report even if the contract has expired by the report due date.

Data Submission

Effective 7/1/2012 all providers submitting electronic data will be required to use the state's Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) site. Providers who are not able to install the SFTP software must submit a request to use other reporting methods. Other reporting methods include encrypted message or hand carried. The request must clearly explain the provider's inability to use the SFTP site. Contact the DSAMH Management Information Systems (MIS) unit for information on creating an account and any other questions or concerns about data reporting requirements.

Data submission elements will be specified in the scope of work for each contract.

To accomplish this several authorization forms need to be completed and returned to the DSAMH MIS unit. In addition, SFTP client software is required to be installed on your computer for the file transfer. This software is available free on the Internet.

The following links contain instructions necessary for setting up the software and authorization forms.

1. Secure File Transfer Memorandum of Agreement
<http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dms/irm/files/sftpmoa01292010.pdf>
2. Secure File Transfer User Procedures
http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dms/irm/files/sftpuserprocedures_20120611.pdf
3. DHSS SFTP Quick Start Guide
<http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dms/irm/files/sftpquickstartguide06112012.pdf>
4. Biggs Data Center User Authorization Form (UAF)
<http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dms/files/authoriz.pdf>
5. Instructions for completing Biggs Data Center UAF
<http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dms/files/uafinstructions011007.pdf>
6. Biggs Data Center Non-Disclosure Form

<http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dms/files/irmnon-d02072013.pdf>

7. DTI State Information Transport Network (SITN) Acceptable Use Policy
<http://dti.delaware.gov/pdfs/pp/AcceptableUsePolicy.pdf>

Providers requiring access to the SFTP site must identify an organizational point of contact and list all employees who will require site access. The Provider will maintain the accuracy of the list providing updates to DSAMH as changes occur.

VII TECHNICAL PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS:

Definitions of Requirements

To prevent any confusion about identifying requirements in this RFP, the following definition is offered: The words *shall*, *will* and/or *must* are used to designate a mandatory requirement. Vendors must respond to all mandatory requirements presented in the RFP. Failure to respond to a mandatory requirement may cause the disqualification of your proposal.

Proposals shall contain the following information, adhering to the order as shown:

A. Bidder's Signature Form

This form, found in the Appendix A, must be completed and signed by the bidder's authorized representative.

B. Title Page

The Title page shall include: 1) the RFP subject; 2) the name of the applicant; 3) the applicant's full address; 4) the applicant's telephone number; 5) the name and title of the designated contact person; and 6) bid opening date (listed on page one of this RFP).

C. Table of Contents

The Table of Contents shall include a clear and complete identification of information presented by section and page number.

D. Confidential Information

The following items, if required in response to this RFP, are to be included in a separate section of your proposal and marked as confidential. These items are: 1) any financial information relating to the company or organization (not the RFP pricing or budget); 2) Organization Charts.

E. Qualifications and Experience

This section shall contain sufficient information to demonstrate experience and staff expertise to carry out the project. A statement must be included that the vendor either has or certifies he/she will secure a Delaware Business License prior to initiation of the project. Attach articles of incorporation and IRS certification of tax exempt status if applicable.

In addition to the above staff assigned to this project must possess the following:

Knowledge: Working knowledge of Federal and/or State benefits program eligibility requirements is highly desirable; must have basic understanding of patient confidentiality laws, practices, and procedures.

Experience: Minimum three years of related experience. Federal or State benefits program eligibility experience is highly desirable.

Competencies: Demonstrated verbal and written communication skills, with the ability to understand applicants' questions and effectively disseminate technical information. Excellent problem solving skills. Ability to collect, synthesize, and research complex or diverse information. Computer data entry or word processing skills and ability to operate routine office equipment. Bilingual/Spanish preferred.

Other: Valid Delaware driver's license. Valid proof of Delaware auto insurance coverage. Travel to behavioral health programs in geographic area of responsibility is required.

The specific individuals who will work on this project must be identified, along with the nature and extent of their involvement. The qualifications of these individuals shall be presented (in resumes or other formats). If conducting this project will require hiring of one or more individuals who are not currently employed by the bidding organization, applications shall provide detailed job descriptions, including required qualifications and experience.

If subcontractors are to be used, the proposal shall also contain similar information regarding each subcontractor.

F. Bidder References

The names and phone numbers of at least three (3) organizations/agencies for whom the vendor carried out a similar project must be included. If no similar project has been conducted, others requiring comparable skills can be used.

Bidder shall list all contracts awarded to it or its predecessor firm(s) by the State of Delaware; during the last three years, by State Department, Division, Contact Person (with address/phone number), period of performance and amount. In addition, Bidder shall list any contract awarded to it or its predecessor firm(s) by the State of Delaware during the past ten (10) years if such contract was terminated by the State for cause, and shall include an explanation of the circumstances of such termination.

The Evaluation/Selection Review Committee will consider these Additional references and may contact each of these sources. Information regarding bidder performance gathered from these sources may be included in the Committee's deliberations and factored in the final scoring of the bid. Failure to list any contract as required by this paragraph may be grounds for immediate rejection of the bid."

There will be a ninety (90) day period during which the agency may extend the contract period for renewal if needed.

VIII GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Resumes must be sent under cover of a brief letter of interest specifying availability, and proposed annual salary.

Both the Letter of Interest and the outer mailing envelope must reference RFP HSS-14-028. Any submission without the required information will not be reviewed. Applications will be accepted only from both individual and organizational applicants. Actual service location, hours and rate of compensation is subject to negotiation. **Two (2) copies of resumes and letters of interest are to be submitted to:**

Mr. Kieran Mohammed
Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Management Services, Procurement Branch
Herman M. Holloway Sr. Health and Social Services Campus
1901 N. DuPont Highway
Administration Building, 2nd Floor, Rm 257
New Castle, DE 19720

A. Closing Date

All responses must be received no later than **11:00 a.m., July 11, 2014**. Later submission will be cause for disqualification.

B. Opening of Proposals

The State of Delaware will receive proposals until the date and time shown in this RFP. Proposals will be opened only in the presence of the State of Delaware personnel. Any unopened proposals will be returned to Vendor.

There will be no public opening of proposals but a public log will be kept of the names of all vendor organizations that submitted proposals. The contents of any proposal shall not be disclosed to competing vendors prior to contract award.

C. Proposal Expiration Date

Prices quoted in the proposal shall remain fixed and binding on the bidder at least through **June 30, 2015**. The State of Delaware reserves the right to ask for an extension of time if needed.

D. Acknowledgement of Understanding of Terms

By submitting a bid, each vendor shall be deemed to acknowledge that it has carefully read all sections of this RFP, including all forms, schedules and exhibits hereto, and has fully informed itself as to all existing conditions and limitations.

E. Realistic Proposals

It is the expectation of the State of Delaware that vendors can fully satisfy the obligations of the proposal in the manner and timeframe defined within the proposal. Proposals must be realistic and must represent the best estimate of time, materials and other costs including the impact of inflation and any economic or other factors that are reasonably predictable.

The State of Delaware shall bear no responsibility or increase obligation for a vendor's failure to accurately estimate the costs or resources required to meet the obligations defined in the proposal.

F. Non-Conforming Proposals

Non-conforming proposals will not be considered. Non-conforming proposals are defined as those that do not meet the requirements of this RFP. The determination of whether an RFP requirement is substantive or a mere formality shall reside solely within the State of Delaware

G. Notification of Acceptance

Notification of the Department's intent to enter into contract negotiations will be made in writing to all bidders.

H. Questions

All questions concerning this Request for Proposal must reference the pertinent RFP section(s) and page number(s). Questions must be in writing and can be either faxed, or emailed to:

Cesar McClain
Community Mental Health Contracts Manager
dsamhbusinessoperations@state.de.us
Fax: (302)-255-9395

I. Amendments to Proposals

Amendments to proposals will not be accepted after the deadline for proposal submission has passed. The State reserves the right at any time to request clarification and/or further technical information from any or all applicants submitting proposals.

J. Proposals Become State Property

All proposals become the property of the State of Delaware and will not be returned to the bidders. The State will not divulge any information identified as confidential at the time of proposal submission provided the information resides solely on the CD (s) marked confidential.

K. Non-Interference Clause

The awarding of this contract and all aspects of the awarded bidders contractual obligations, projects, literature, books, manuals, and any other relevant materials and work will automatically become property of the State of Delaware. The awarded bidder will not in any manner interfere or retain any information in relationship to the contractual obligations of said contract, at the time of the award in the future tense.

L. Investigation of Bidder's Qualifications

Delaware Health and Social Services may make such investigation as it deems necessary to determine the ability of the bidder to furnish the required services, and the bidder shall furnish such data as the Department may request for this purpose.

M. No Press Releases or Public Disclosure

Vendors may not release any information about this RFP. The DSAMH reserves the right to pre-approve any news or advertising releases concerning this RFP, the resulting contract, the work performed, or any reference to the State of Delaware or the DSAMH with regard to any project or contract performance. Any such news or advertising releases pertaining to this RFP or resulting contract shall require the prior express written permission of the DSAMH.

N. Penalties

The DSAMH may include in the final contract penalty provisions for non-performance, such as liquidated damages. Any factually or legally applicable penalty or liquidated damage shall not be the exclusive remedy available for breach of contract

O. RFP and Final Contract

The contents of the RFP will be incorporated into the final contract and will become binding upon the successful bidder. If the bidder is unwilling to comply with any of the requirements, terms, and conditions of the RFP, objections must be clearly stated in the proposal. Objections will be considered and may be subject to negotiation at the discretion of the state.

P. Proposal and Final Contract

The contents of each proposal will be considered binding on the bidder and subject to subsequent contract confirmation if selected. The contents of the successful proposal will be included by reference in the resulting contract.

All terms, and conditions contained in the proposal will remain fixed and valid for 5 year(s) after proposal due date.

Q. Cost of Proposal Preparation

All costs for proposal preparation will be borne by the bidder.

R. Proposed Timetable

The Department's proposed schedule for reviewing proposals is outlined as follows:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Date</i>
RFP Advertisement	06/20/2014
Questions Due	06/25/2014
Answers Due	06/27/2014
Bid Opening	07/11/2014
Selection Process Begins	07/14/2014
Vendor Selection (tentative)	07/25/2014
Project Begins	08/01/2014

S. Confidentiality and Debriefing

All documents submitted as part of the Vendor's proposal will be deemed confidential during the evaluation process to the extent permitted by law. Vendor proposals will not be available for review by anyone other than DHSS or its designated agents. There shall be no disclosure of any Vendor's information to a competing Vendor prior to award of the contract unless required by law.

DHSS is a public agency as defined by State law, and as such, it is subject to the Delaware Freedom of Information Act, 29 *Del. C.* Ch. 100. Under State law, certain classes of DHSS' records are presumptively confidential. Vendor(s) are advised that once a proposal is received by the DHSS and a decision on contract award is made, the proposals' contents may become public record and nothing contained in the proposal will be deemed to be confidential unless supported by law.

Vendor(s) shall not include any information in its proposal that is proprietary in nature or that it would not want to be released to the public unless such information is specifically identified and separated. Proposals must contain sufficient information to be evaluated and a contract written without reference to any proprietary information. If a Vendor feels that it cannot submit its proposal without including proprietary information, it must adhere to the following procedure or their proposal may be deemed non-responsive and will not be recommended for selection. Vendor(s) must submit any required proprietary information in a separate, sealed envelope labeled "Proprietary Information" with the

RFP number. The envelope must contain a letter from the Vendor's legal counsel describing the documents in the envelope, representing in good faith that the information in each document is not "public record" as defined by 29 *Del. C.* § 10002(g), and briefly stating the reasons that each document meets the said definitions. The opinions of Vendor's legal counsel shall not be binding upon DHSS.

Upon receipt of a proposal accompanied by such a separate, sealed envelope, the DHSS will open the envelope to determine whether the procedure described above has been followed. All data, documentation, and innovations developed as a result of these contractual services shall become the property of the State of Delaware.

If a bidder wishes to request a debriefing, he must submit a formal letter to the Procurement Administrator, Herman M. Holloway Campus, Delaware Health and Social Services Main Building, 2nd Floor, Room 257, 1901 N. DuPont Highway, New Castle, Delaware 19720 within 10 days after receipt of Notice of Award. The letter must specify reasons for the request. The debriefing will not be conducted until the Request for Proposal process is completed.

IX SELECTION PROCESS

A. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Category	Weight
Meets mandatory RFP provisions	Pass/Fail
Hard Copies Properly Submitted	
Forms properly submitted	
Knowledge	30
Experience	40
Competencies	30
Total	100

Upon selection of a vendor or vendors, a **Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health** representative will enter into negotiations with the bidder to establish a contract. As stated above, DHSS reserves the right to simultaneously negotiate with several selected vendors.

B. Consultants and Legal Counsel

The State of Delaware may retain consultants or legal counsel to assist in the review and evaluation of this RFP and the vendors' responses. Bidders shall not contact consultant or legal counsel on any matter related to the RFP.

C. Exclusions

The Proposal Evaluation Team reserves the right to refuse to consider any proposal from a vendor who:

Has been convicted for commission of a criminal offense as an incident to obtaining or attempting to obtain a public or private contract or subcontract, or in the performance of the contract or subcontract;

Has been convicted under State or Federal statutes of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, receiving stolen property, or other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or business honesty that currently and seriously affects responsibility as a State contractor;

Has been convicted or has had a civil judgment entered for a violation under State or Federal antitrust statutes;

Has violated contract provisions such as:

Knowing failure without good cause to perform in accordance with the specifications or within the time limit provided in the contract; or

Failure to perform or unsatisfactory performance in accordance with terms of one or more contracts;

Has violated ethical standards set out in law or regulation; and

Any other cause listed in regulations of the State of Delaware determined to be serious and compelling as to affect responsibility as a State contractor, including suspension or debarment by another governmental entity for a cause listed in the regulations.

D. State's Right to Award Multiple Source Contracting

Pursuant to 29 *Del. C.* § 6986, DHSS may award a contract for a particular professional service to two or more Vendors if the agency head makes a determination that such an award is in the best interest of the State of Delaware.

E. Project Costs and Proposed Scope of Service

The Department reserves the right to award this project to a bidder other than the one with the lowest cost or to decide not to fund this project at all. Cost will be balanced against the score received by each bidder in the rating process. The State of Delaware reserves the right to reject, as technically unqualified, proposals that are unrealistically low if, in the judgment of the evaluation team, a lack of sufficient budgeted resources would jeopardize project success.

APPENDIX A:
BIDDERS SIGNATURE FORM



**DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

BIDDERS SIGNATURE FORM

NAME OF BIDDER: _____
SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED PERSON: _____
TYPE IN NAME OF AUTHORIZED PERSON: _____
TITLE OF AUTHORIZED PERSON: _____
STREET NAME AND NUMBER: _____
CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE: _____
CONTACT PERSON: _____
TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____
FAX NUMBER: _____
DATE: _____
BIDDER'S FEDERAL EMPLOYERS IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: _____

THE FOLLOWING MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE VENDOR:

AS CONSIDERATION FOR THE AWARD AND EXECUTION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES OF THIS CONTRACT, THE (COMPANY NAME) _____

_____ HEREBY GRANTS, CONVEYS, SELLS, ASSIGNS, AND TRANSFERS TO THE STATE OF DELAWARE ALL OF ITS RIGHTS, TITLE AND INTEREST IN AND TO ALL KNOWN OR UNKNOWN CAUSES OF ACTION IT PRESENTLY HAS OR MAY NOW HEREAFTER ACQUIRE UNDER THE ANTITRUST LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE OF DELAWARE, RELATING THE PARTICULAR GOODS OR SERVICES PURCHASED OR ACQUIRED BY THE DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, PURSUANT TO THIS CONTRACT.

APPENDIX B:
CERTIFICATION SHEET



**DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

CERTIFICATION SHEET

As the official representative for the proposer, I certify on behalf of the agency that:

- a. They are a regular dealer in the services being procured.
- b. They have the ability to fulfill all requirements specified for development within this RFP.
- c. They have independently determined their prices.
- d. They are accurately representing their type of business and affiliations.
- e. They will secure a Delaware Business License.
- f. They have acknowledged that no contingency fees have been paid to obtain award of this contract.
- g. The Prices in this offer have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement, for the purpose of restricting competition, as to any matter relating to such prices with any other contractor or with any competitor;
- h. Unless otherwise required by Law, the prices which have been quoted in this offer have not been knowingly disclosed by the contractor and prior to the award in the case of a negotiated procurement, directly or indirectly to any other contractor or to any competitor; and
- i. No attempt has been made or will be made by the contractor in part to other persons or firm to submit or not to submit an offer for the purpose of restricting competition.
- j. They have not employed or retained any company or person (other than a full-time bona fide employee working solely for the contractor) to solicit or secure this contract, and they have not paid or agreed to pay any company or person (other than a full-time bona fide employee working solely for the contractor) any fee, commission percentage or brokerage fee contingent upon or resulting from the award of this contract.

- k. They (check one) operate ___an individual; ___a Partnership ___a non-profit (501 C-3) organization; ___a not-for-profit organization; or ___for profit corporation, incorporated under the laws of the State of _____.
- l. The referenced offerer has neither directly or indirectly entered into any agreement, participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with this bid submitted this date to Delaware Health and Social Services.
- m. The referenced bidder agrees that the signed delivery of this bid represents the bidder's acceptance of the terms and conditions of this invitation to bid including all Specifications and special provisions.
- n. They (check one): _____are; _____are not owned or controlled by a parent company. If owned or controlled by a parent company, enter name and address of parent company:

Violations and Penalties:

Each contract entered into by an agency for professional services shall contain a prohibition against contingency fees as follows:

1. The firm offering professional services swears that it has not employed or retained any company or person working primarily for the firm offering professional services, to solicit or secure this agreement by improperly influencing the agency or any of its employees in the professional service procurement process.
2. The firm offering the professional services has not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual or firm other than a bona fide employee working primarily for the firm offering professional services, any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or any other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this agreement; and
3. For the violation of this provision, the agency shall have the right to terminate the agreement without liability and at its discretion, to deduct from the contract price, or otherwise recover the full amount of such fee, commission, percentage, gift or consideration.

The following conditions are understood and agreed to:

- a. No charges, other than those specified in the cost proposal, are to be levied upon the State as a result of a contract.

- b. The State will have exclusive ownership of all products of this contract unless mutually agreed to in writing at the time a binding contract is executed.

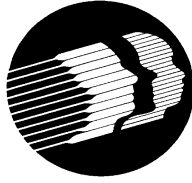
Date

Signature & Title of Official Representative

Type Name of Official Representative

APPENDIX C

STATEMENTS OF COMPLIANCE FORM



**DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

STATEMENTS OF COMPLIANCE FORM

As the official representative for the contractor, I certify on behalf of the agency that_____ (Company Name) will comply with all Federal and Delaware laws and regulations pertaining to equal employment opportunity and affirmative action. In addition, compliance will be assured in regard to Federal and Delaware laws and regulations relating to confidentiality and individual and family privacy in the collection and reporting of data.

Authorized Signature:_____

Title:_____

Date:_____

Attachment 1

Monthly Usage Report

State of Delaware											
Monthly Usage Report											
Supplier Name:				Insert Contract No.	Report Start Date:						
Contact Name:			Report End Date:								
Contact Phone:			Today's Date:								
Agency Name or School District	Division or Name of School	Budget Code	UNSPSC	Item Description	Contract Item Number	Unit of Measure	Qty	Environmentally Preferred Product or Service N Y	Additional Discount Granted	Contract Proposal Price/Rate	Total Spend
											\$0.00
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State of Delaware Subcontracting (2nd tier) Quarterly Report

Prime Name:							Report Start Date:											
Contract Name/Number							Report End Date:											
Contact Name:							Today's Date:											
Contact Phone:							*Minimum Required		Requested detail									
Prime Contract or Name*	Prime Contract or TaxID*	Contract Name/Number*	Prime Contact Name*	Prime Contact Phone*	Report Start Date*	Report End Date*	Amount Paid to Subcontractor*	Work Performed by Subcontractor UNSPSC	M/WBE Certifying Agency	Veteran/Service Disabled Veteran Certifying Agency	2nd tier Supplier Name	2nd tier Supplier Address	2nd tier Supplier Phone Number	2nd tier Supplier email	Description of Work Performed	2nd tier Supplier Tax Id	Date Paid	

The following definitions are from the State Office of Supplier Diversity

Vendors wishing to apply for certification or gain more information on Supplier Diversity programs may do so at:

<http://gss.omb.delaware.gov/osd/certify.shtml>

<http://gss.omb.delaware.gov/osd/index.shtml>

Definitions

Women Owned Business Enterprise (WBE):

At least 51% is owned by women, or in the case of a publicly owned enterprise, a business enterprise in which at least 51% of the voting stock is owned by women; or any business enterprise that is approved or certified as such for purposes of participation in contracts subject to women-owned business enterprise requirements involving federal programs and federal funds.

Minority Business Enterprise (MBE):

At least 51% is owned by minority group members; or in the case of a publicly owned enterprise, a business enterprise in which at least 51% of the voting stock is owned by minority group members; or any business enterprise that is approved or certified as such for purposes of participation in contracts subjects to minority business enterprises requirements involving federal programs and federal funds.

Corporation:

An artificial legal entity treated as an individual, having rights and liabilities distinct from those of the persons of its members, and vested with the capacity to transact business, within the limits of the powers granted by law to the entity.

Partnership:

An agreement under which two or more persons carry on a business, sharing in the profit or losses, but each liable for losses to the extent of his or her personal assets.

Individual:

Self-explanatory

For certification in one of above, the bidder must contract:

Michelle Morin

Office of Supplier Diversity

(302) 857-4554

Fax (302) 677-7086