



Date of Issuance: 07/24/2024

Solicitation No. EV00000498

Requisition No. 2650014106

Amendment No. 1

Hour and date specified for receipt of offers is changed: No Yes, to: 07/31/2024 1:00 PM CST

Pursuant to OAC 260:115-7-30(d), this document shall serve as official notice of amendment to the solicitation identified above. Such notice is being provided to all suppliers to which the original solicitation was sent.

Suppliers submitting bids or quotations shall acknowledge receipt of this solicitation amendment prior to the hour and date specified in the solicitation as follows:

- (1) Sign and return a copy of this amendment with the solicitation response being submitted; or,
- (2) If the supplier has already submitted a response, this acknowledgement must be signed and returned prior to the solicitation deadline. All amendment acknowledgements submitted separately shall have the solicitation number and bid opening date printed clearly in the subject line of the email.

RETURN TO: [Supplier Portal \(oklahoma.gov\)](http://supplierportal.oklahoma.gov)

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Description of Amendment:

a. This is to incorporate the following:

On behalf of the State of Oklahoma, the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) gives notice of the following questions concerning this solicitation, received during the Q&A period, which closed on 7/10/2024. All questions and procurement/agency responses are detailed below:

****Also please note:** The bid close date has been extended to **7/31/2024**.

1. Attachment A-3.3 indicates "Programs must provide a two-to-one match," yet on June 2nd, 2023, SB29x became law in Oklahoma (effective July 1, 2023), modifying the ratio at which private sector donors must match the State Board of Education's contributions to the early childhood pilot program for at-risk children to "a one and one half-to-one basis." Please confirm that the required private matching ratio is 1.5 to 1 (with a minimum of at least \$10M dollars).

ANSWER: The 1.5 to 1 ratio is correct based on 70 O.S. 10-105.4.

2. In order to propose a single price, including required private match funds and detailed costs, please confirm the amount of state funds available for use during the initial contract term through June 30, 2025. Monies appropriated in the 2nd Session of the 59th Oklahoma Legislature (see Enrolled Senate Bill No. 1122) totaled \$14M for the Early Childhood Initiative for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Please also clarify whether \$14M will be pro-rated from the date of the award (which may be post July 1, 2024) or available in entirety throughout the entire fiscal year retroactively to July 1, 2024?

ANSWER: The current target start date for this contract is November 1, 2024, to end June 30, 2025. Funds will be available at a pro-rated rate from the date of the award. The awarded supplier will submit monthly invoices that provide evidence of completion of the contract deliverables for payment to be made.

3. In addition to submitting a firm, fixed price (with an associated budget detailing proposed costs) for the initial contract term, should ten additional annual prices plus associated budgets also be provided for each of the one-year options to renew the contract?

ANSWER: Yes.

4. Attachment A-3.2 and -4.3 indicate “Children enrolled in the programs must be identified as at-risk as determined by the Federal Poverty Guidelines” and “families of children served must be at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.” Because the Oklahoma Early Childhood Program (OECF) was originally modeled after the federal Early Head Start program, which allows providers to have 10% of their enrollment be over the poverty line (including children with special needs whose families may be over the income threshold); and because most of the participating providers in the OECF to date have also been Head Start/Early Head Start providers enrolling up to 10% of families over the income threshold, please confirm the same over-income allowance will continue to be acceptable? Note that Head Start/Early Head Start also encourages grant recipients to consider utilizing the over-income allowance to facilitate continuity of care so that more children may remain consistently and continuously engaged in high-quality early learning experiences as they age, recognizing a family’s income may increase slightly during enrollment.

ANSWER: Yes, it would be allowable to have 10% of their enrollment to be over the poverty line if needed.

5. Attachment A-4.5 indicates “All Supplier’s staff are expected to participate in initial training and annual training in infant and toddler development, curriculum, and parent education,” and -4.6 indicates “Supplier’s curriculum is expected to be aligned with Oklahoma’s Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers.” Please confirm: a) that only staff working with children and parents in OECF-funded classrooms are expected to receive training on infants and toddlers (i.e., not administrators or support staff); b) the expectations for training and alignment with Oklahoma’s Early Learning Guidelines are for all providers of early childhood programs receiving OECF funding, not only the Supplier; and c) training for infant and toddler development is meant for teaching staff serving infants and toddlers, but not for those serving three-year-olds for which the training would not be age appropriate?

ANSWER:

A) All staff working with OECF classrooms are expected to participate in training. Other staff that are not directly involved with the OECF classroom would not need to attend training.

B) Training and alignment to the Early Learning Guidelines is for all providers that are licensed through the OK Department of Human Services.

C) Yes, infant and toddler training are for infant and toddler teachers. Three-year-old teachers would receive training appropriate for the children they serve.

6. Attachment B-8.1-D. indicates a Supplier shall provide “Security and Privacy Liability insurance, including coverage for failure to protect confidential information and failure of the security of Supplier’s computer systems... with limits \$5,000,000 per occurrence.” Please clarify whether coverage of \$5M is recommended or required. Recently, another state agency indicated \$5M was a recommendation that did not prohibit a Supplier from entering into a contract with the State of Oklahoma.

Answer: Any requested exceptions or revisions to the States’ Terms and Conditions should be included in the Supplier’s response in the section designated for them in the Bidder Instructions.

7. Attachment A-4.4 indicates “Related services may include but is not limited to home visiting... Prior to any provision of related services, vendor will gain approval from OSDE.” Since evidence-based home visiting services have previously been provided as part of early childhood programs participating in the Oklahoma Early Childhood Program, would a description of these continued related services in a Supplier’s response serve to formally gain approval from OSDE, or should such a request be sought separately upon selection as the vendor?

ANSWER: Yes, the related services, home visiting or English learner services, that are described in the Supplier’s response would be considered formally approved. Other services will need to be submitted to the OSDE after the award.

8. Attachment A-4.3 indicates “Supplier is expected to provide early childhood programs to consist of private donations and state funds that will serve at-risk children,” while -4.4 indicates “Supplier may use private match funding for related services supporting at-risk children. Related services may include... home visiting.” Please clarify whether state funds may also be used to provide home visiting services to at-risk children (upon approval from OSDE).

ANSWER: Yes, funds could be used for home visiting.

9. Following prior approval from OSDE, partner providers receiving professional development have also participated in the OECP in the past, but with lesser requirements and funding support compared to traditional partners. Since not explicitly addressed in the solicitation, please confirm providers receiving professional development remains acceptable as part of a Supplier’s proposed approach to enhance and expand the quality of early education services in Oklahoma.

ANSWER: Yes, that would be acceptable.

b. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Supplier Company Name (**PRINT**)

Date

Authorized Representative Name (**PRINT**) Title

Authorized Representative Signature