

Would the South Dakota Department of Human Services consider extending the deadline to allow for at least seven business days between receipt of answer to questions and the proposal submission date?

Per Section 1.3 of the Request for Proposals, answers to the questions received will be provided on or before March 22, 2023 and proposal submissions are due April 12, 2023 at 5 pm.

Our financial statements are more than 100 pages per year. To reduce the environmental impact of this solicitation, would you be willing to accept the required financial documents in an electronic submittal, in addition to a link to the investor tab of our website, where the public has 24/7 access to the financial documents?

Yes, however, as noted in Section 4.3, the offeror may be required to submit a copy of their most recent audited financial statements upon the State's request. That request would be made after the proposal has been submitted. Therefore, the audited financial statements should not be included in the offeror's initial proposal.

What is the budget that has been approved or allocated for this effort?

There is no set budget for this effort. Per Sections 5.2.4 and 7.0, we are asking respondents to submit accurate and realistic cost proposals for this project.

What amount of time do you expect the vendor to work onsite?

We do not anticipate the vendor to be onsite for this work, as we expect all required work can be completed remotely and meetings will be conducted via video conference.

Can you clarify if the three references requested in Section 4.4 should be current only or can they be a combination of current and expired?

Please provide at least three previous and current service/contracts performed by offeror. This can be a combination.

Is Section 5.2.3.2 referring to the requirements listed in Section 4.0?

No, Section 5.2.3.2 is referring to the requirements in Section 3.0 Scope of Work.

Section 3.0 Scope of Work, pg. 9 Based on our review of approved waivers in South Dakota it appears that this rate review is related to the 1915 (c) HOPE waiver. Can the Department please confirm? Section 3.0 Scope of work states, "in the evaluation and design of rate methodologies as related to home and community-based services, specific to adult day services, assisted living, structured family caregiving and meal programs." Based on our review, we noted there are additional services beyond those listed in the RFP that are covered under the approved HOPE waiver. Will the rate study include only those services

outlined in the RFP? If not, can the Department provide a comprehensive list of all services to be included in the rate study?

The rate methodology review will only cover assisted living, structured family caregiving, adult day services, community living homes, and meals. These are existing HOPE waiver services; however, some of the services are also services available through other funding sources including state general funds and Title III grant funding. The methodology review will include consideration of the methodology for each program the service is available through.

Section 3.0 Scope of Work, pg. 9 The RFP states the contractor will make recommendations for changes to the HCBS reimbursement methodology, which addresses the unique needs of a predominantly rural state, through a prospective analysis. Does the Department expect the contractor to complete an access to services analysis in order to meet this requirement?

No, an access to services analysis is not required.

Per the approved HOPE waiver, it is our understanding that cost report information is submitted on an annual basis. Is this correct? If yes, what is the last cost report period that data is available? Is the cost data compiled and available to the contractor in an electronic format, or will the contractor be provided individual cost reports and be required to compile the data for analysis? Does the cost report gather cost data for all the services that are to be reviewed under this rate study? If not, for what services is cost not currently collected? Can the Department provide a copy of the current cost report?

Cost report information is submitted annually for assisted living, adult day and meals. Currently, DHS has access to provider fiscal year 2021 and the remainder of cost reports are due May 31, 2023 for provider fiscal year 2022. Cost report data is compiled and available in an electronic format.

With community living homes and structured family caregiving services being relatively new programs in South Dakota, we do not have cost report information. Cost reports need to be developed for these programs for the future by the offeror in partnership with DHS.

Current cost reports will be provided to the selected offeror.

When was the last time the HCBS waiver rates that are to be included in the rate study updated?

Rates have been adjusted each year.

When was the previous rate study to comply with Senate Bill 147 completed for the HCBS HOPE waiver rates? Did this include a review of rates for all the services provided under the HOPE waiver?

As noted in Section 1.1, the programs under review for the rate methodology encompass reimbursement through Medicaid, state funded and Title III grants. The assisted living rate methodology review was conducted in 2018. The remaining services (structured family caregiving, adult day services, community living homes, and meals) either implemented since 2017 or are being considered as other types of providers deemed appropriate for inclusion per Senate Bill 147 and have not yet been reviewed.