



Solicitation Information

March 18, 2015

Addendum #1

RFP #7549366

TITLE: ARRA – TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2015 AT 2:00 PM (ET)

ATTACHED ARE VENDOR QUESTIONS WITH STATE RESPONSES. NO FURTHER QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED.

**Gail Walsh
Chief Buyer**

RFP #7549366 – Supporting Early Childhood Programs to Use Technology to Enhance Assessment Practices

Vendor A

1. This effort will require significant collaboration with RIDE staff over the 6-7 months of the project. Is it possible for the successful vendor's staff or consultant to work out of the RIDE office? **Yes**
2. The RFP describes a key task as: "creating and implementing an assessment plan based on the access to new technology." The development of a comprehensive child assessment plan is often a long term process that may require additional support from RIDE, the Center for Early Learning Professionals, and other entities. Will the successful vendor be expected to support programs in modifying and augmenting an existing assessment plan to incorporate technology use for programs to submit with their Assessment Technology Grant application? Or, is the successful vendor expected to provide TA to programs in developing an assessment plan (that does not currently exist) for programs to submit with their Assessment Technology Grant request? **Modifying and augmenting existing assessment plans to include use of technology**
3. It is apparent that Rhode Island has a significant investment and commitment to Teaching Strategies Gold. Will programs applying for an Assessment Technology Grant be permitted to request funds to support other technology-supported child assessment systems? **Yes**
4. Approximately how many grantees does RIDE estimate will receive these technology grants? What does RIDE estimate to be a funding cap for an Assessment Technology Grant award to a program? **TBD**
5. If a vendor that is interested in responding to RFP #7549366 has a federally approved overhead rate, will that rate be accepted? **Yes. Please submit a copy of the approval agreement. RIDE reserves the right to negotiate administrative costs down to a reasonable level.**
6. Can the vendor apply any costs for creating a system for managing and reporting on the grants including staff time to organize the applications and award processes to the \$300,000 slated for the Assessment Technology grants to programs, insuring that the remaining grant funds are sufficient for developing and implementing training and technical support for programs interested in applying for a grant and those programs that are successful in securing a grant? **The vendor is encouraged to maximize the amount of funding that will be available to provide to programs. A minimum of 75% of the total funding amount is expected to be provided to programs. If the vendor would like to propose providing less than 75% of the total funding to programs, a strong rationale should be included.**
7. Is the cost proposal counted as part of the 15-page limitation for the proposal? **The 15 page limitation is for the technical proposal.**

Vendor B

TECedge has the following questions regarding Bid 7549366:

- 1) We are interested in pursuing this as a MBE sub-contractor. Where we can post that we are interested? **This appendix serves as notification that TECedge is interested in being an MBE sub-contractor. Please visit www.mbe.ri.gov for contact information.**
- 2) Is a bid holders list available for this bid? **No**
- 3) Do you plan on awarding multiple vendors? **No**
- 4) On the procurement website, I noticed that a very similar bid (7549171) was released in December. Is this bid a re-release of the former? If so, why was the bid not awarded? **Yes this is a repost of the same bid; No bids were received in December.**
- 5) Are there early childhood assessment modules in place? **No**

Vendor C

Reference	Question
<p><u>BACKGROUND/OVERVIEW</u></p> <p>This solicitation requests proposals from qualified vendors to provide technological supports to early childhood programs, in order to facilitate seamless, effective child assessment data entry and allow programs to collect, enter, and use child assessment data without redundancy of effort.</p>	<p>1. Will travel be required? As needed to meet with staff at RIDE.</p>
<p><u>SCOPE OF WORK</u></p> <p>Tasks</p> <p>The organization which is awarded this contract will efficiently and effectively manage the resources necessary to achieve these assignments. This involves developing and communicating criteria for eligibility, providing technical assistance to programs to support them through the application process, creating and implementing an assessment plan based on the access to new technology, and assisting programs in purchasing new technology.</p> <p>The selected vendor will work collaboratively with RIDE staff to manage the federal resources to ensure</p>	<p>1. Clarification of Task 4. Please confirm whether “system” is used to denote process and procedure or includes the development of software. Process and procedure</p>

<p>completion of the following tasks and deliverables:</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with RIDE staff to develop eligibility criteria 2. Work with RIDE and BrightStars staff to identify and communicate with eligible programs regarding application process 3. Work with RIDE staff to review applications and determine grant awards 4. Develop a system for distributing, monitoring and reporting on grant awards 5. Provide technical assistance to programs in purchasing, installing, and planning training for use of new technology 6. Provide RIDE with required information through narrative and budget reports 7. Provide RIDE with summaries of work, including details regarding grant awardees, monitoring of grant awards, and programs' revised assessment plans. 	
<p>COST PROPOSAL/TERMS OF PAYMENT</p> <p>The contractor must prepare a cost proposal reflecting the hourly rate or other fee structure proposed for this scope of services using the Cost Proposal Forms contained in Appendix A. The total cost of the contract is not to exceed \$400,000. It is expected that a significant portion of the funds (at least 75%) will be allocated for grants to eligible sites. The total for administrative costs may not exceed 10% of the total grant and applicants are encouraged to submit proposals which reflect competitive administrative rates. Please ensure the budget is presented by state fiscal year, which runs from July 1st through June 30th.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Please clarify the statement "It is expected that a significant portion of the funds (at least 75%) will be allocated for grants to eligible sites." What specific funds are referenced? Its proximity to the \$400,000 contract cap could lead the reader to think a max of \$100,000 is available to the service provider. Service providers should aim to maximize the amount of funding that will be available to provide to programs. At least 75% of the available funding must go to programs. 3. Our current understanding is that "contract" refers to the proposed cost

	<p>of the service provider’s services and “grant” refers to funds available to be distributed to qualified RIDE constituents. How much is the total available grant fund?</p> <p>The total amount available is \$400,000. Service providers should aim to maximize the amount of funding that will be available to provide to programs. At least 75% of the available funding must go to programs.</p>
<p>TECHNICAL PROPOSAL REQUIRED ELEMENTS</p> <p>Part 1. RIDE expects the vendor to propose a plan for identifying recommended technological supports, along with pricing for hardware/software and any maintenance/ insurance. The vendor will also work with RIDE staff to identify best practices in using technology to support assessment practices and develop grant application requirements, review process, and monitoring protocol.</p>	<p>4. Our understanding is that we are to propose a plan for identifying appropriate technology and associated costs, not to provide pricing in the proposal. Please confirm.</p> <p>That is correct</p>