



**State of Rhode Island
Department of Administration / Division of Purchases
One Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5855
Tel: (401) 574-8100 Fax: (401) 574-8387**

**Solicitation Information
2/19/2020**

ADDENDUM# 1

RFP #7602776

TITLE: Interpreting and Translation Services (MPA-54/CR-34)

Bid Closing Date & Time: Thursday, March 12, 2020 @ 11:00 AM Eastern Time (ET)

Notice to Vendors

The Scoring Criteria for proposals have been adjusted – ISBE Participation points (6 Bonus Points) have been removed from the Scoring Criteria.

**Anthony Venditelli
Buyer I**

Interested parties should monitor this website, on a regular basis, for any additional information that may be posted.

Per the attached Memo from Cheryl Burrell, Associate Director of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity (ODEO), to Nany McIntyre, State Purchasing Agent.

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: NANCY MCINTYRE

FROM: CHERYL A. BURRELL

SUBJECT: ISBE UTILIZATION ON RFPs FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN MPA

DATE: APRIL 1, 2019

CC: MIKE MITCHELL, MAX RIGHTER, DORINDA KEENE

Pursuant to the meeting held on March 20, 2019 between the Division of Purchases and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity (ODEO), it was agreed that the ISBE Participation Criteria as identified in 220-RICR-80-10-2 § 2.7 would not be utilized for any RFP issued to establish a listing of prequalified vendors for a Master Price Agreement (MPA).

Solicitations issued to establish an MPA vendor list do not include any specific projects, nor is there any guarantee on behalf of the Division of Purchases that any prequalified vendor will receive work under the MPA. Based upon the lack of a specific project, it is not possible for any vendor to provide MBE participation at this stage, and, therefore, it is not possible for any vendor to receive ISBE points as part of the evaluation process. This would include a certified MBE or WBE firm bidding as the prime, since they would not be able to definitively identify how much work they would be self-performing vs. subcontracting, as, again, there is no actual project at this stage.

Consequently, ODEO respectfully requests that the Division of Purchases modify the existing RFP template when utilized to establish an MPA vendor list to eliminate all references to the ISBE points system. This would include Section 4(C) of the Proposal, as well as Item No. 12 in the “Instructions and Notifications to Offerors” which reads as follows:

“In accordance with R. I. Gen. Laws §§ 37-14.1-1 and 37-2.2-1 it is the policy of the State to support the fullest possible participation of firms owned and controlled by minorities (MBEs) and women (WBEs) and to support the fullest possible participation of small disadvantaged businesses owned and controlled by persons with disabilities (Disability Business Enterprises a/k/a “DisBE”)(collectively, MBEs, WBEs, and DisBEs are referred to herein as ISBEs) in the performance of State procurements and projects. As part of the evaluation process, vendors will be scored and receive points based upon their proposed ISBE utilization rate in accordance with 150-RICR-90-10-1, “Regulations Governing Participation by Small Business Enterprises in State Purchases of Goods and Services and Public Works Projects”. As a condition of contract award vendors shall

agree to meet or exceed their proposed ISBE utilization rate and that the rate shall apply to the total contract price, inclusive of all modifications and amendments. Vendors shall submit their ISBE participation rate on the enclosed form entitled “MBE, WBE and/or DisBE Plan Form”, which shall be submitted in a separate, sealed envelope as part of the proposal. ISBE participation credit will only be granted for ISBEs that are duly certified as MBEs or WBEs by the State of Rhode Island, Department of Administration, Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity or firms certified as DisBEs by the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities. The current directory of firms certified as MBEs or WBEs may be accessed at <http://odeo.ri.gov/offices/mbeco/mbe-wbe.php>. Information regarding DisBEs may be accessed at www.gcd.ri.gov.

For further information, visit the Office of Diversity, Equity & Opportunity’s website, at <http://odeo.ri.gov/> and see R.I. Gen. Laws Ch. 37-14.1, R.I. Gen. Laws Ch. 37-2.2, and 150-RICR-90-10-1. The Office of Diversity, Equity & Opportunity may be contacted at (401) 574-8670 or via email Dorinda.Keene@doa.ri.gov .” [Note: 150-RICR-90-10-1 has been renumbered as 220-RICR-80-10-2.]

Rather, ODEO recommends that the following language be substituted:

“In accordance with RI Gen. Law § 37-14.1-1, it is the policy of the State of Rhode Island to support the fullest possible participation of firms owned and controlled by minorities (MBEs) and women (WBEs). Pursuant to §§ 37-14.1-2 and 37-14.1-6, MBEs and WBEs shall be included in all state purchasing, including, but not limited to, the procurement of goods, services, construction projects, or contracts funded in whole or in part with state funds, or funds which, in accordance with a federal grant or otherwise, the state expends or administers. MBEs and WBEs shall be awarded a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the dollar value of the entire procurement or project. Vendors should be aware that each time an award is issued off this Master Price Agreement, an MBE Utilization Plan shall be submitted to the Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity for review and approval. Please note that MBE participation credit shall only be granted for firms duly certified as MBEs or WBEs by the State of Rhode Island, Department of Administration, Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity, MBE Compliance Office (MBECO). The current directory of firms certified as MBEs or WBEs may be accessed at <http://odeo.ri.gov/offices/mbeco/mbe-wbe.php> or by contacting Dorinda Keene at the MBECO at (401) 574-8670 or via email at Dorinda.Keene@doa.ri.gov .”

ODEO recognizes that this exception to the utilization of the ISBE points system was inadvertently excluded when 220-RICR-80-10-2 was issued, and we will be requesting that those regulations be amended accordingly. In the meantime, please accept this memo as documentation regarding our agreement with respect to this matter.