



Department of Administration / Division of Purchases
One Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5855
Web Site: www.purchasing.ri.gov

7 Oct 11

Addendum #2

RFP #7449064

Title: (ARRA) Data Use Professional Development Services

Submission Deadline: 20 October 2011 @ 11:00 AM (Eastern)

- The remaining vendor questions, submitted prior to the published deadline, are posted, and answered, in this addendum.

- Interested parties are reminded to peruse this website, on a regular basis, for the latest information regarding this procurement initiative.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerome D. Moynihan'.

Jerome D. Moynihan, C.P.M., CPPO
Assistant Director for Special Projects
Dept. of Administration / Division of Purchases

Vendor A:

1. Can RIDE please indicate when vendors who are asked for a demonstration of services should expect to be notified?

Answer: If we ask vendors for an in-person demonstration we hope to notify them by Friday, November 4, 2011.

2. When does RIDE anticipate selecting a vendor for this project?

Answer: RIDE anticipates selecting a vendor by the end of November.

3. Does RIDE require vendors to subcontract 10% to MBEs to meet "the State's goal of ten percent (10%) participation by MBE's in all State procurements?"

Answer: After an award-recommended service provider has been selected, they will be required to work with the RI MBE to fulfill that 10% goal. In some instances, the MBE Officer may grant a waiver. If more information is needed, contact the MBE Office (contact information referenced in the solicitation).

Vendor B:

1. Page 12 of the RFP states "While the needs assessment is a critical first step in Data Use Professional Development, it is not meant to be a substantially time consuming or lengthy stage. The vendor must complete the needs assessment with each LEA in a quick and systematic way that allows the vendor to categorize a district based on its current data use and resources in order to develop and provide appropriate professional development." What is the anticipated timeframe for needs assessment (i.e. two weeks, a month, etc.)?

Answer: RIDE has tentatively scheduled four (4) weeks to conduct the LEA needs assessments. This work is expected to take place in February 2012, as specified in the RFP on page 19.

2. During the production phase of the Data Use Professional Development, the RFP states, "This phase will involve testing the Data Use Professional Development with select LEAs". Please clarify what is expected during the testing stage.

Answer: Time permitting, the testing stage will involve the vendor rolling out components of the Data Use Professional Development series to pilot districts so that the vendor can obtain a better understanding of Rhode Island LEAs with regard to data use *and* test out trainings that may still be in the development stage. The vendor is welcome to outline an appropriate plan for testing its trainings as it sees fit.

3. Who has the proprietary rights of the materials produced for the state by the approved vendor? If the state has proprietary rights to materials produced by approved vendor, will the approved vendor receive permission to use materials with other clients?

Answer: RIDE will have proprietary rights of the materials. Unless other copyright issues prohibit the vendor from using the materials, the vendor will receive permission to use the materials with other clients.

4. Page 15 of the RFP provides a model for the Data Use Professional Development program, stating, "Three days of off-site professional development workshops scheduled around the interim assessments." How is interim assessment defined here? Will the approved provider work with the contracted Interim assessment provider to train leadership in the use of Interim assessments?

Answer: Included in the interim assessments are two major types of assessments: diagnostic tests and progress tests. These assessments are used primarily for instructional planning and monitoring purposes. RIDE's interim assessment vendor is also creating a test-building engine so that educators at all levels are capable of creating their own Common Core-aligned interim assessments.

The interim assessment vendor will provide some technical training to school leadership around using the test-building engine and accessing the interim assessments. The training will not focus on the purposes of interim assessment and how to effectively use interim assessments within a comprehensive assessment system.

RIDE will ensure that the approved vendor has access to necessary information regarding the interim assessments. If the vendor feels it is appropriate, interested vendors may detail an interim assessment training component to the Data Use Professional Development trainings.

5. When submitting a response, should the Technical Proposal be bound separately from the Cost Proposal? If so, can the Technical Proposal be sealed in the same envelope as the Cost Proposal, or should they be sealed separately?

Answer: The Technical Proposal should be submitted with the Cost Proposal in the same envelope. It is helpful if the two proposals are not bound together as they are scored separately.

6. Pages 21-22 of the RFP provide a proposal format table. Item #8 describes an Appendix for the project plan. What should proposers include in the project plan appendix that isn't already included in the scope of work (item #4, page 21 of the RFP)?

Answer: A project plan should provide greater detail. It should not only include a timeline for deliverables, but of the steps involved in completing each deliverable.

Vendor C:

1. Is there a page limit for RFP Proposals?

Answer: There is no page limit for RFP proposals.

2. Is the IMS Vendor the same as the CAS Vendor?

Answer: There is no CAS vendor. Each LEA in Rhode Island is expected to create its own Comprehensive Assessment System (CAS) as defined in the Basic Education Plan given the guidance and tools that RIDE has provided. IMS vendor has not yet been finalized.

3. Have the IMS / CAS Vendors been identified yet? If so, who are they? If not, what is the timeline for vendor selection and project launch?

Answer: There is no CAS vendor. Each LEA in Rhode Island is expected to create its own Comprehensive Assessment System (CAS) as defined in the Basic Education Plan given the guidance and tools that RIDE has provided. The contract with the IMS vendor has not yet been finalized, but will be finalized prior to the selection of the Data Use Professional Development vendor. The interim assessments and IMS will launch fall 2012.

4. When looking at the five support systems (with the five different vendors) as outlined on page 7 of the RFP, System 1: Standards and Curriculum has the responsibility to "align curriculum with the Common Core State Standards and develop supports for students using information from the results of excellent formative and interim assessments." Yet, Support System 2: Instructional Improvement states (p. 13) that the vendor will "be responsible for building training modules, processes, and protocols for using data to accelerate student achievement." Could you please articulate the difference in scope between these two different systems/vendors/ efforts?

Answer: The work under Support System 1: Standards and Curriculum focuses mostly on Rhode Island's transition to the Common Core State Standards and the PARCC assessment.

The work under Support System 2: Instructional Improvement focuses more on the instructional systems and capacities necessary to support the rigorous standards and curriculum. Components included under this system are the Data Use Professional Development series, the Formative Assessment training modules, and the Interim Assessments.

5. The RFP states "the vender also should demonstrate an understanding of RIDE's desire to own any training content, including but not limited to online modules and training materials". Could you please clarify this? Does this mean that we cannot retain intellectual rights to the materials we develop and hence be able to use the content of those modules for other projects or does it mean

that we create a product that RIDE can continue to use without paying the developers after the project concludes?

Answer: It means that RIDE will continue to use the product without continuing to pay the vendor (i.e., RIDE will own any materials and products). Unless limited by other copyright issues, the vendor may use the materials for other projects.

6. What is the scope of this project in terms of grade levels and content areas?

Answer: School leadership teams from each building across the state will participate in this training. To that end, there will be representatives from elementary, middle, and high schools from a variety of content areas. The ultimate goal is that educators from any grade level, content area, or position will be able to effectively use data to inform their instructional practices.

7. What capacity does the data vendor have to influence assessment decisions at the LEA level and audit existing assessments for validity and redundancy?

Answer: Auditing existing assessments for validity and redundancy is outside the scope of work for the Data Use Professional Development series. If applicable, the vendor may choose to include training/guidance on selecting and/or creating appropriate, high-quality assessments from which to gather data.

END