



**EXPANDING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE:
Inventory of Programs and Policies to Enhance Recruitment and Retention**

BIDDER QUESTIONS

March 7, 2022

Q: What is the anticipated budget for this procurement?

A: There is no anticipated budget target for this procurement. Potential bidders should propose a budget that is reasonable, appropriate, and feasible to complete the work described in their proposal, and budgets will be evaluated based on those criteria.

March 8, 2022

Q. Please clarify: Is the application is for a consultant who will outline the steps and process needed to produce such an inventory, including timeline and budget for this process or is the application for a consultant who will produce the inventory itself for distribution?

A. The scope of work for this contract would include producing a comprehensive inventory of behavioral health recruitment and retention incentive and support programs available to individuals residing in Massachusetts. It is expected that the data will be organized in a way that can be sorted and analyzed. Proposals for this work should include all the components described in the RFA, including a proposed workplan, timeline, and budget to complete the work.

March 9, 2022

Q. Where should proposals be submitted?

A. Please submit proposals via email to jeniferurff@mamh.org.

March 14, 2022

Q. What role will MAMH play in sponsoring and providing on-going access to requested inventory? How does that role relate to the overall goals and functions of the MAMH?

A. MAMH is responsible for monitoring the work of the contractor to produce the inventory. This is consistent with our mission and policy goals of expanding access to effective behavioral health services across the Commonwealth. As noted in the RFA, the contractor will be asked to make recommendations

as to how information gleaned from the inventory can be used to further enhance the behavioral health workforce, including dissemination strategies, but any future development of websites or other ways to provide access to the inventory are outside the scope of the immediate project.

Q. Task 1 on page 2 of the solicitation references inclusion and exclusion criteria for programs included in the inventory. Is the solicitation requesting bidders to describe how those criteria would be created or requesting specific criteria to be proposed in the bidder's response?

A. Bidders should describe with as much specificity as possible how they define the scope of their proposed work (i.e., what kinds of workforce recruitment, retention, and incentive programs would be included and what programs would be excluded) and/or what steps they will take to define the scope.

Q. Can you provide examples of "other project sponsors" as referenced in bullet 4 on page 2 of the solicitation?

A. This project is funded by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, the MetroWest Foundation, and the C.F. Adams Charitable Trust. Some or all of these sponsors may be involved or provide input into some aspects of this project.

Q. Does MAMH have a specific timeframe for completion of the bidder's proposed workplan?

A. There is no specific timeframe for completion of this work. Bidders should propose a timeframe that is appropriate and feasible for the project.

March 19, 2022

Q. When will an award decision be made?

A. We anticipate that an award decision will be made by mid-April, 2022.

March 21, 2022

Q. The RFA says that the inventory should focus on "Scholarship and loan repayment programs that are specific to behavioral health and specifically designated for Massachusetts residents". Is this intended to exclude federal programs (in which MA residents could participate) and only focus on MA-specific BH loan repayment programs?

A. We did not intend to require exclusion for any federal or privately-funded programs for which MA residents are eligible. Bidders should describe the scope of programs they intend to include and/or how they will make that determination. Proposals will be evaluated based on the feasibility and comprehensiveness of the approach, timeline, and budget.

Q. Are you planning to extend the deadline for proposals for this project?

A. There are no plans to extend the deadline for proposals. They are due Wednesday, March 23 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time.