



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

6 Harrington Road – Simpson Hall
Cranston, RI 02920

TEL: (401) 462-3421
FAX: (401) 462-2775

Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals Delegated Authority Thresholds Solicitation Question and Answer Memo

Q.1. Are you able to provide the estimated project funding available for the award?

A.1. Per the Division of Purchases guidance, Request for Proposals may not include or reference budget or anticipated award amounts.

Q.2. Do all persons who will live in the home have to move in at same time?

A.2. Admission timelines should be driven by clinical needs of the individuals.

Q. 3. Will there be enough Thresholds money so that provider is not required to have a mortgage on the property?

A.3. The funding amount per award will vary depending on the number and quality of proposals received, as well as the total funds available. While there is no fixed award amount, applicants are encouraged to request funding amounts that align with their project scope and demonstrated need.

Q. 4. Annual lease required – what will be the terms? Will financial aspects of lease be waived if provider has to hold a mortgage on the property?

A.4. If the property is vendor owned, there is no lease requirement between BHDDH and the vendor. The lease requirement is required between the tenant and vendor/landlord per CMS Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Final Settings Rule. The lease agreement between the tenant and the vendor has no impact or relationship to the agreement between BHDDH and the vendor.

Q.5. Is there any flexibility with number of people living in the home? Seems like each should have own room and finding 5-bedroom houses may prove challenging.

A.5. Proposals for occupancy of fewer than 3 residents will not be considered. Per CMS Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Final Settings Rule, individuals are required to have the choice of roommate.

Q.6. Please confirm I am understanding the sentence on p, 2 under scope of work – “the property needs to have at least one apartment or area that meets the needs of the defined population” to mean that only one person (out of the 5) needs to have this intense level of need.

A.6. All residents are expected to meet the defined population criteria of individuals with I/DD and complex co-occurring behavioral health needs and will require a high level of support. The apartment or designated area is intended for an individual with higher acuity needs who may require specialized supports and/or enhanced staffing.

Q. 7. Cyber security limits required will present a challenge to obtain. Where is this requirement coming from?

A. 7. Correction to original solicitation: Per Division of Purchases (General Conditions of Purchasing - ADDENDUM A GENERAL INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS, Scheule A3). The minimum amount of Cyber Privacy/Data Breach coverage required by the vendor is below:

Information Technology and/or Cyber/Privacy:

- 13i) Information Technology Cyber/Privacy – minimum limits of \$5,000,000 per occurrence and \$5,000,000 annual aggregate (Includes paper and digital media.). If Contract Party provides:
- b) if Contract Party has access to Protected Health Information as defined in HIPAA and its implementing regulations, Personal Information as defined in in R.I. Gen. Laws § 11-49.3-1, et seq., or as otherwise defined in the Contract (together Confidential Information”), Contract Party shall have as a minimum the per occurrence, per annual aggregate, the total rounded product of projected number of persons data multiplied by \$25 per person breach response expense per occurrence; but no less than \$5,000,000 per occurrence, per annual aggregate; or,

Note: Waivers or changes of any of the above requirements must be submitted via a written waiver request to Amanda Rivers (Deputy Purchasing Agent) or, if appropriate, the Grants Management Office. Please note that in requesting a waiver, the agency agrees to absorb the risk on behalf of the vendor and absorb the cost of any claims related to the above scopes of coverages.

Q. 8. Does an agency have to be certified by the State to meet ISBE qualifications?

A. 8. Yes, to meet Inclusionary Small Business Enterprise (ISBE) qualifications, a business must be certified by the State of Rhode Island through the Division of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (DEDI). Businesses outside of Rhode Island must be certified in their home state prior to qualifying for certification.

Q. 9. How much money is available through Thresholds?

A. 9. See response to Q1.

Q. 10. Client References: Need three client references, to include client names, addresses, contact info with emails and phone numbers, dates of services and types of service provided. Are you referring to needing the references of persons served? Contractors?

A. 10. The request refers to references for individuals supported by your agency that apply to the scope of work required. For this proposal, this specifically includes individuals residing in a group home setting.

Q. 11. Technical Proposal: Work Plan: Must the identified sub-contractors identified in the workplan be under option contract? Can those sub-contractors be changed if the identified sub is unavailable?

A. 11. Under the General Conditions of Purchase Section 13.25[A], subcontractors should be disclosed/included in proposal materials. Subject to change with the State’s consent.

13.25 Subcontracting, Assignment, Merger or Acquisition, Key Personnel, Third-Party Payment, and Prompt Payment of Subcontractors

A. Subcontracting

Vendors shall not subcontract with any third-party, except as set forth in its bid or proposal, without the prior written consent of the State Purchasing Agent. Such consent, if granted, shall not relieve the Vendor of any of its responsibilities under the Contract, nor shall it create privity of contract between the State and the sub-contractor. If a Vendor uses a sub-contractor to fulfill its responsibilities, then the Vendor shall be responsible for the sub-contractor's performance, compliance with the applicable terms of the Contract and all applicable statutes, rules, regulations, and these General Conditions of Purchase. Provided, however, for Rhode Island Department of Transportation ("RIDOT") road, bridge and heavy construction projects, approval of subcontractors shall be in accordance with "Bluebook" specifications issued by RIDOT. Upon request, contractors must submit to the Division of Purchases a list of all subcontractors to be employed in the performance of any Purchase Order or other contract arising from this Request.

Q. 12. Work Plan: What is meant by "provide appropriate background for each person or entity" - does that refer to the subcontractors? Does it refer to anyone identified under the Work Plan? Are these persons currently-employed staff or anticipated hires?

A. 12. The request to provide appropriate backgrounds refers to the subcontractor/entity identified in the Work Plan. Subcontractors may include currently employed staff and/or new hires. Subcontractors must possess the appropriate credentials and requirements, i.e., specialty license, proof of proper insurance coverage, and are registered with the Rhode Island Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board (RICRLB).

Q. 13. Approach/Methodology: By "onshore or offshore" do you mean on site/off site, or domestically/foreign?

A. 13. Onshore/offshore refers to whether the data will be stored in data centers in the United States or in a foreign country.

Q. 14. a. Cost Proposal: Can the actual costs in operation vary from the proposal?

A.14. a. Yes, requests may be for less than the actual costs of operations.

Q. 14.b. Is there a maximum variation that is tolerated?

A.14.b. No.

Q. 15. Insurance Requirements: General clarification - are the non-checked boxes (Crime, Environmental/Pollution Liability, Technology Errors and Omissions) not required?

A. 15. Insurance requirements are based upon the scope of work and Division of Purchasing's document, GENERAL CONDITIONS – ADDENDUM A GENERAL INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS, Schedules A2 and A3.

<https://ridop.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur616/files/documents/general-conditions-addendum-a.pdf>

Note: *Waivers or changes of any of the above requirements must be submitted via a written waiver request to Amanda Rivers (Deputy Purchasing Agent) or, if appropriate, the Grants Management Office. Please note that in requesting a waiver, the agency agrees to absorb the risk on behalf of the vendor and absorb the cost of any claims related to the above scopes of coverages.*

Q. 16. How many people are currently on the waitlist for placement for this service?

A. 16. There are currently 18 individuals awaiting this service.

Q. 17. What is the anticipated funding range per award (or typical Thresholds awards) for acquisition and/or facility rehabilitation?

A. 17. See response to Q3.

Q. 18. Are soft costs (architectural, legal, environmental assessments, furnishings) allowable within Thresholds funding?

A. 18. The Thresholds program provides capital funding for the acquisition, pre-development, development, construction and/or rehabilitation, equipping and furnishing of housing for individuals with I/DD.

Q. 19. What are considered allowable property types? Single family homes, multifamily homes, apartments, etc.

A. 19. The DDO may propose any property type - such as single-family homes, multifamily homes, or apartments - provided the setting meets all requirements outlined in the scope of work, as well as applicable state and federal regulations, including the CMS Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Final Settings Rule.

Q. 20. Does BHDDH have any geographic preferences or exclusions within Rhode Island for these projects?

A. 20. There are no geographical exclusions. It is important to accommodate and effectively address the needs of the target population and enhance access to necessary resources and supports.

Q. 21. Is there an expected or preferred timeline from award to service initiation?

A. 21. Service initiation is expected to occur within 60 days following acquisition and/or completion of any required renovations. As outlined in the solicitation, each proposal must include a clearly defined implementation timeline.

Q. 22. What is the required milestone reporting during acquisition and rehab phases before services begin?

A. 22. The awardee is required to report progress at key milestones throughout the acquisition and rehabilitation phases, as well as at regular intervals no less than monthly. Additional updates must be provided to BHDDH upon request.

Q. 23. If a DDO partners with an ISBE for procurement, can ISBE bonus points be awarded?

A. 23. No, for a business to qualify as an MBE or WBE in Rhode Island, at least 51% of the business must be owned by one or more individuals who meet the following criteria:

Control: The MBE/WBE owner(s) must control the day-to-day operations of the business and have decision-making authority. Further, their ownership of the business must be “real, substantial, and continuous.” [See 220-RICR-80-10-1.7\(A\)](#).

Economic Disadvantage: An MBE/WBE owner’s personal net worth cannot exceed \$1,320,000. See 49 CFR 26.67(a)(2)(i) (October 2014).

Membership in a Minority Group: The State of Rhode Island defines a member of a minority as an individual who is a citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent resident, who belongs to one of the racial or ethnic groups listed below. [See R.I. Gen. Laws § 37-14.1-3\(e\)](#). Note that women do not need to belong to a minority group in order to apply for WBE certification.

Q. 24. Can funds be used to buy property to build a facility?

A. 24. Yes. See response to Q3.

Q. 25. The agency is currently licensed as BH provider with BHDDH and this RFP indicates a requirement for a DDO license. Is there any opportunity to become a DDO licensed provider in this process?

A. 25. Yes.

Q. 26. As noted in the Solicitation, the facility would house at least 5 individuals to provide residential supports to those eligible for this level of care as well as one apartment or area dedicated to treat a more specialized population. Is the expectation that the identified facility would encompass both traditional residential supports as well as have a dedicated space to provide specialized treatment under the same roof?

A. 26. Yes. See response to Q6.

Q.27. If there is not a property currently identified or secured, would that impact eligibility for award of a contract?

A.27. It will not impact eligibility for an award – all responses to the proposal will impact selection.

Q. 28. Is there an opportunity to submit proposals for more than one location?

A. 28. Yes. See response to Q3.

Q. 29. Supportive housing definition (Referenced on page 2 of the Solicitation) – how would this program bill for services? Supported Living? Community Residence Supports?

A. 30. Billing for services will depend on the residential setting. For example, a single-family home will be licensed and billed under *Community Residence Supports*. *Supported Living* is not currently an implemented service; however, if and when it is implemented, apartment-based settings may be billed under Supported Living.

Q. 31. Is there a specific age range for targeted population?

A. 31. There is no specific age range for the targeted population.