

Questions and Answers

RE: Innovative Technological Tools Invitation for Bids (IFB) #102906

The questions below were submitted by potential respondents to the IFB. The supplied answers are neither an effort that alters the IFB, nor does the Q&A bind the Board to further requirements before or after this process.

1. Please advise how many individuals would be served/have access to the products and services sought in the IFB.

In the previous 12 months, Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas has provided assessment services (TAFE and Prove It) to approximately 1,232 customers. We cannot contemplate the number of future customers with heightened unemployment. Our goal through better technological resources is to extend services to a much greater number of customers.

2. Please break down the number of clients, by workforce center, that are anticipated to use the tools.

We cannot contemplate the number of future customers with heightened unemployment.

3. Please provide clarification on the following statement from page 3: "In addition, these services should include assistance in integrating tools in WFSDallas existing IT structure." Please specify any technical requirements that are anticipated.

Integration of systems, resources, and services is an ultimate principle that goes beyond co-location and technological access to provide a seamless, workforce solution to all potential customers, job seekers, and employers. The bidder who will receive the award to provide services/products must have technical personnel to assist with integration of system software with WFSDallas existing IT structure. We currently have a file server consisting of but not limited to the following software: Microsoft Office products, The Workforce Information System of Texas (TWIST). The Board is currently running a combination of Novell Netware and Microsoft Active Directory. Our goal is to transition all operations entirely to Active Directory by the end of 2010. The Board also uses the Microsoft Windows Server 2008.

4. Under section 1.2 Services/Products Solicited in this IFB "types of tools solicited" – please expand on and describe the requirements for "Individualized/accessible online portfolios." Also under the same section, please expand on and describe the term "Self-help assessment."

Portfolio – a product or service that allows a job seeker to prepare and access a Career Portfolio – an organized presentation of an individual's education, work samples and skills – to assist in future employment. It is preferable that the portfolio be available online.

Self-Assessment - As the name suggests, self-assessment is the process of looking at the self in order to weigh aspects that one may find important to their job search. We are seeking technological solutions to a smaller staff and limited space to handle a large number of job seekers. Self-assessment should be a virtual and/or online tool or set of tools to allow a job seeker the opportunity to measure skills, abilities and viability in the job market independently.

5. Under section 2.5 Selection Process, paragraph 1 – “We will make an effort to utilize small, minority and female-owned or operated businesses . . .”

A. Will extra consideration be given to bidders who utilize MWBE subcontractors?

No.

B. Is it required that MWBE subcontractors be certified in Texas?

No.

C. Can a certified MWBE from another state be utilized to provide subcontracted services?

We make no stipulation about the location of the vendor. According to 2.4 (Eligible Bidders) of the IFB, “any vendors with the capability to provide items described within this IFB with a record of integrity and good business ethics (.e., not debarred from doing business with state, federal or local government) are invited to respond.”

6. Please define the budget requirements and amount earmarked for this project.

There is no specific budget or earmark for these tools. Potential bidder should complete the budget summary (Attachment C) according to instructions on page 8 of the IFB. According to 2.7.2c (Budget Summary) of the IFB, “the Board is seeking services/products at the most competitive cost available, provided that the bidder can comply with all the limitations specified in the Invitation for Bids.”

7. The RFP asks for a “State Controller ID Number.” Please clarify what this number is.

This is the State of Texas Comptroller ID number. Please find the attached website for your assistance.
<https://ourcpa.cpa.state.tx.us/coa/Index.html>