

MH Q & A

Q: If a provider submits an RFP that has an error, will they be notified and allowed to correct it?

A: Initial proposals submitted by the deadline will be evaluated first to determine if they are technically acceptable. What we do next depends on the circumstances:

- If multiple proposals are received and only one is technically acceptable, the technically acceptable proposal will continue in the process. The remaining unsuccessful proposals will receive no further consideration.
- If multiple proposals are received and none are technically acceptable, each vendor will be notified in writing of the deficiencies and permitted to correct them within a short deadline for further consideration. All corrections will be re-evaluated to determine if they are technically acceptable, and if so, are then reviewed for lowest price.
- If only one proposal is received, there is no competition. If the proposal is not technically acceptable initially, the vendor will be contacted in writing and provided instructions for submitting corrections to make the proposal technically acceptable.

Q: Does an agency have to bid for all treatment services (i.e. AODA, MH, and SOT)?

A: No, RFPs are specific to each treatment area; however, you must bid for all services listed for that treatment area.

Q: Does the agency have to offer all treatment codes?

A: Yes, the awarded vendor must provide services for each treatment code. If your agency does not have a specific provider to fulfill a particular service, you may subcontract but the subcontractor information must be included in the RFP.

Q: Are counselors in training allowed to provide services?

A: Yes, but counselors in training must be supervised by a fully licensed clinician.

Q: What are the typical rates vendors are bidding?

A: Specific rate cannot be provided, but the vendor should submit a bid that covers the cost of services and is comfortable for the agency to maintain their operations.

Q: Who should the vendor use for a reference?

A: Any person or agency that can speak to your agency's quality of service.

Q: Do we need to submit references if we work with the Bureau of Prisons (BOP)?

A: Yes, you must still submit references.

Q: What level of confidentiality does the vendor have when working with persons under supervision?

A: The standards of confidentiality associated with behavioral health is always maintained, unless there is a threat of danger to the person or others. In addition, all referred clients will sign a release of information authorizing the assigned officer to communicate with the treatment provider. In general, the assigned officer is seeking information about the client's attendance, compliance with the treatment provider, the identified treatment goals, and progress toward identified treatment goals. There may be exceptions to the release of confidential information based on the specific treatment area.

Q: Can you have multiple treatment providers in the same area?

A: Yes, depending on the needs of the U. S. Probation Office there may be more than one vendor providing treatment in one area.