

Q&A #1– CIC 146745

Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) Forecasting Model

Question 1: *Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) presently licenses sophisticated forecasting software that meets all of the technical requirements specified in the RFP. Would the crown accept a response using a software platform other than Microsoft Excel?*

Answer 1: The crown would accept the utilization of a software other than MS Excel as long as the input data can easily be entered in the IFHP forecasting model and the output can be exported in Excel.

No additional cost must be incurred to the department and the Branch for the utilization of software/licenses other than what is currently used.

In Appendix D – Statement of Work , Article D4 Item Milestone 1 (c)

DELETE: *In its entirety*

INSERT:

- c) Develop an expenditure forecasting model to reflect April 1, 2016 changes to the IFHP in an MS Excel spreadsheet (or acceptable equivalent) form. The spreadsheet form must include notes and assumptions, with capability for IRCC users to enter and update information and variables on key parameters including current and expected population, demographic variables and inflation by type of care.

Question 2: *As per section 2.3 of the above mentioned Solicitation, please find below an Enquiry referring to Appendix A, item A.3, CIC-SI-001 (2016-05-26), Section A26 Liability:*

Aon has reviewed the proposed general terms and conditions set forth by [CANADA] in the Request for Proposal. Some of these terms differ from those that “potential bidders name “maintains in a typical [consulting/business] relationship, including the limitation of liability. We note that Section A26 of the General Terms and Conditions provides that no limitation of liability or indemnity provision applies to the Contract unless it is specifically incorporated in full text in the Articles of Agreement. Will [Canada] accept a limitation of liability equal to the amount of fees payable to “potential bidder’s name“ under the contract? Such limitation would not apply to “potential bidder’s name “willful, fraudulent or criminal misconduct or any third party claims regarding infringement of intellectual property.

Answer 2: No. This is standard and cannot be deviated from.

Question 3: *With respect to Section 5.2.1 Integrity Provisions*

Ineligibility and Suspension Policy (<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ciif/politique-policy-eng.html>), could you please provide additional information or confirm the required documentation that must be provided?

Answer 3: Appendix "G" Vendor Information and Authorization form is the only required documentation with the bid. Any other necessary documentation will be requested before contract award by CIC, and must be provided at that point.

Question 4: *In the Federal Government, departments with significant health benefits expenditures (namely Health Canada and Veterans Affairs Canada) engage in direct health benefits expenditure forecasting. Both of these departments have built and implemented their expenditure forecasting models in-house, however as such they have previously used external contractors primarily to complete Independent/Third Party Reviews of their Forecasting Processes, Methodologies and Models in an effort to improve forecasting accuracy, effectiveness and alignment with best practices. Therefore, would the crown consider previous experience in providing Independent/Third Party Reviews of these models that required technical review and recommended changes to the model implementation as an equivalent to or as meeting the stated mandatory and rated requirements?*

Answer 4: No, the Crown would not consider experience in providing independent/third party reviews of similar models. We are looking for experience in the development of an expenditure model.

Question 5: *Would the Crown consider Independent/Third Party Reviews of Expenditure Forecasting Methodologies and Models for Federal Government Health Benefits Programs as satisfying the requirements of M2 or would the Crown consider amending M2 to include Independent/Third Party Reviews of Forecasting Methodologies and Models for Federal Government Health Benefits Programs?*

Answer 5: No, the Crown would not consider experience in providing independent/third party reviews of similar models. We are looking for experience in the development of an expenditure model.

Question 6: *Under Appendix “D”, D2. Objective states that “...(IIRC) has a requirement for a Contractor to update the automated Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) expenditure forecasting model.”; however M2 is asking for the bidder to provide “...at least one (1) project that was similar in scope and nature in developing expenditure forecasting models for health insurance plans”, and R3 states that “The Bidder should have experience in leading the development of expenditure forecasting models for health insurance plans.*

In order for us to properly complete M1, R1, and R2 (Proposed approach / methodology / user interface), we would like clarification in the following two (2) areas:

- a) Does the “Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) Expenditure Forecasting Model” include the full costs (i.e. Direct & Indirect Costs) associated with the delivery of the IFHP or just the costs associated with the provision of health services included in the program?*
- b) Is the Crown looking for a contractor to enhance the existing forecasting model that is used to forecast health expenditures as per D2? Or is the Crown looking for a contractor to develop an entirely new model?*

Answer 6 a): The Expenditure Forecasting Model only includes the costs associated with the delivery of health services. It does not include the indirect costs.

Answer 6 b): The Crown is looking for an expenditure forecasting model that will help forecast health costs. The new model can take the form of a similar model to the one currently used, incorporating recent changes to coverage and eligibility criteria, or it can be a completely new forecasting model. The Crown is open to either option, but is definitely looking for a contractor with experience in the development of such model.

Question 7: *If the expectation is for the contractor to update the existing forecasting model, would the Crown accept previous experience evaluating and updating excel-based forecasting tools as meeting criteria M2 and R3 and / or would the Crown consider amending M2 and R3 to that effect?*

Answer 7: No the Crown would not consider experience in providing evaluating and updating Excel-based forecasting tools. The Crown is looking for an expenditure forecasting model that will help forecasting health costs. The new model can take the form of a similar model to the one currently used, incorporating recent changes to coverage and eligibility criteria, or it can be a completely new forecasting model. The Crown is open to either option, but is definitely looking for a contractor with experience in the development of such model.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED