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Place du Portage, Phase III

Core 0B2 / Noyau 0B2

11 Laurier St./11, rue Laurier

Gatineau, Québec K1A 0S5

Bid Fax: (613) 997-9776

**SOLICITATION AMENDMENT
MODIFICATION DE L'INVITATION**

The referenced document is hereby revised; unless otherwise indicated, all other terms and conditions of the Solicitation remain the same.

Ce document est par la présente révisé; sauf indication contraire, les modalités de l'invitation demeurent les mêmes.

Comments - Commentaires

Vendor/Firm Name and Address

Raison sociale et adresse du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur

Issuing Office - Bureau de distribution

Health Services Project Division (XF)/Division des

projets de services de santé (XF)

Place du Portage, Phase III, 12C1

11 Laurier St./11 rue, Laurier

Gatineau

Gatineau

K1A 0S5

Title - Sujet Nursing Agency Services	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation HT426-172611/C	Amendment No. - N° modif. 002
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client HT426-172611	Date 2017-11-17
GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG PW-\$\$XF-005-31945	
File No. - N° de dossier 005xf.HT426-172611	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM on - le 2017-12-13	
Time Zone Fuseau horaire Eastern Standard Time EST	
F.O.B. - F.A.B. Plant-Usine: <input type="checkbox"/> Destination: <input type="checkbox"/> Other-Autre: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à: Chapple, Jeremy	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur 005xf
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (819) 420-2226 ()	FAX No. - N° de FAX () -
Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction: Destination - des biens, services et construction:	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

Delivery Required - Livraison exigée	Delivery Offered - Livraison proposée
Vendor/Firm Name and Address Raison sociale et adresse du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur	
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone Facsimile No. - N° de télécopieur	
Name and title of person authorized to sign on behalf of Vendor/Firm (type or print) Nom et titre de la personne autorisée à signer au nom du fournisseur/ de l'entrepreneur (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)	
Signature	Date

**NURSING AGENCY SERVICES TO REMOTE, ISOLATED, AND SEMI ISOLATED
FIRST NATION (FN) COMMUNITIES ON BEHALF OF HEALTH CANADA (HC)**

SOLICITATION NO. HT426-172611/C

AMENDMENT 002

This amendment contains the following sections:

1. Questions and Answers
2. Modifications to the Solicitation

Section 1: Questions and Answers

Note: Questions are numerically sequenced upon arrival at PSPC. A question and its answer will be provided via BuyandSell as the response becomes available. Potential Bidders are therefore advised that questions and answers may be issued via BuyandSell out of sequence. The following questions have been received. In accordance with Article 13 of the 2003 Standard Instructions - Goods or Services - Competitive Requirements (2017-04-27), which has been incorporated into the RFP, the questions and corresponding answers are provided to all potential Bidders as set out below:

Question 3:

In Attachment 1 to Part 4, Technical Criteria for All Regions, 1.0-Glossary of Terminology, Canada defines Healthcare Professionals as: "Individuals who provide preventative, curative, promotional and/or rehabilitative health care services in a systematic way to individuals, families or communities".

Does the proposed definition extend to Personal Support Workers, and if so, can the Bidder include this designation in its list of Healthcare Providers in order to satisfy the mandatory requirement for 2.1.2 Mandatory Technical Criteria: MT1-Capacity to Provide and Manage a Roster?

Answer 3:

Personal Support Workers will be accepted by Canada as "Healthcare Professionals" for the purposes of demonstrating mandatory technical criteria A-MT1, M-MT1, O-MT1 and Q-MT1.

Question 4:

Attachment 1 to Part 4, Technical Criteria, for All Regions, 2.1.1 Evaluation of Experience states the following:

"In instances where the Bidder has proposed the experience of the same Contract Nurse to demonstrate compliance with evaluation criteria in more than one Region, that experience will only be accepted for the first Region, based on the following order: Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec, and Alberta, and will not be considered for any other Regions that the Bidder has bid on."

Does this requirement apply to RT1.2: Bidder's experience in providing Contract Nurses in Remote, Semi-Isolated or Isolated Communities, or does it apply exclusively to 2.1.2 Mandatory Technical Criteria?

Answer 4:

The requirement in Attachment 1 to Part 4, subsection 2.1.1, bullet 3 which states: "If the Bidder is bidding on the provision of Nursing Agency Services in more than one Region, the Bidder must only propose a Contract Nurse, or list a Contract Nurse's experience for demonstration of evaluation criteria, in one Region

only. In instances where the Bidder has proposed the experience of the same Contract Nurse to demonstrate compliance with evaluation criteria in more than one Region, that experience will only be accepted for the first Region, based on the following order: Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec, and Alberta, and will not be considered for any other Regions that the Bidder has bid on." applies exclusively to the RT1.1 point rated technical criteria.

Please see modifications 10 to 13.

Question 5:

If a Bidder bids on two regions (for example, Manitoba and Alberta), the responses for A-MT1 and M-MT1, A-RT1.1 and M-RT1.1, and A-RT1.2 and M-RT1.2 will be included specific to each geography.

For clarity, is it intended that the Bidder will have separate answers for A-MT2 and M-MT2, A-MT3 and M-M3, A-RT2.2 and M-RT2.2 and ART2.3 and M-RT2.3, even though the content for each pair of answers will be nearly identical? Or can the Bidder be clear that the response to RT2.2 is also applicable to A-RT2.2 and M-RT2.2?

Answer 5:

Bidders should address clearly, and in sufficient depth, the points that are subject to the evaluation criteria against which the bid will be evaluated. In order to facilitate the evaluation of the bid, Canada requests that Bidders address and present topics in the order of the evaluation criteria under the same headings. To avoid duplication, Bidders may refer to different sections of their bids by identifying the specific paragraph and page number where the subject topic has already been addressed.

Question 6:

Has the use of telemedicine been considered in the context of providing services as part of this RFP?

Many of these services could be provided more cost-effectively via phone, video, or text consults with qualified nurses.

Is there any consideration to set aside an "innovation" component to this RFP, allowing newer telemedicine providers with nursing rosters to bid on such services?

Given the length of the contract and the rapidly advancing pace of technology, it seems incumbent upon Canada to consider more cost-effective options as part of this process.

Answer 6:

The use of telemedicine is not within scope of the requirement for this RFP. Canada does not anticipate amending the existing Statement of Work (SOW) to incorporate telemedicine as a tool for delivery of nursing relief services in Remote, Isolated and Semi-Isolated communities.

Question 7:

Annex B – Ontario, Basis of Payment, page 4 of 7, 4.1 Professional Fees, 4.1.2 states:

“Where a TA is either terminated by Canada, or where the period of services of a TA is reduced by Canada, less than 14 calendar days prior to the period of service start date, as indicated in an authorized TA, and alternative assignments of similar duration and timeline to the period reduced, or terminated, have not been offered to the Contractor, the Contractor may invoice Canada at rate of \$250 per day for each day of the period of service that was reduced or terminated up to, a maximum of 10 days.”

Annex E- TA Form states that the cancellation fee is \$100.00.

Please clarify, which rate is correct?

Answer 7:

In accordance with Annex B, basis of payment, subsection 4.1.2, for all regions, the Contractor may invoice Canada at rate of \$250 per day for each day of the period of service that was reduced or terminated up to, a maximum of 10 days.

Please see modification 14.

Question 8:

As a follow-up question to Amendment 001, Answer 2 a) The RN educational requirement for the Ontario Region is a Bachelor's degree in Nursing as stated in article 8 of the SOW.

The educational requirement of a BScN was introduced in Ontario in 2003. Diploma-prepared nurses who graduated before 2003 were 'grandfathered* in' and permitted to continue practicing. We have many highly experienced diploma-prepared nurses who have earned all of the Advance Practice Certifications required in the SOW and have extensive experience working in Remote, Isolated and/or Semi-isolated communities (considerably more than the required 1,500 regular working hours in the past five years).

Please clarify, will these nurses have 'grandfather' rights (in Ontario) in this contract? In other words, can they be included in our roster of proposed nurses in Ontario?

* Definition: A grandfather clause (or grandfather policy) is a provision in which an old rule continues to apply to some existing situations while a new rule will apply to all future cases. Those exempt from the new rule are said to have grandfather rights or acquired rights, or to have been grandfathered in.

Answer 8:

The educational requirement for the Ontario Region, as noted in the SOW, is a Bachelor Degree in nursing; there will be no exceptions. Canada does not intend on amending the SOW to accept diploma prepared nurses who graduated before 2003 as being "grandfathered in" under this contract.

Section 2: Modifications to the Solicitation

The Request for Proposals (RFP) is hereby modified as follows:

10. At Attachment 1 to Part 4, Ontario Region, Page 2 of 15, subsection 2.1.1, bullet 3:

DELETE: If the Bidder is bidding on the provision of Nursing Agency Services in more than one Region, the Bidder must only propose a Contract Nurse, or list a Contract Nurse's experience for demonstration of evaluation criteria, in one Region only. In instances where the Bidder has proposed the experience of the same Contract Nurse to demonstrate compliance with evaluation criteria in more than one Region, that experience will only be accepted for the first Region, based on the following order: Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec, and Alberta, and will not be considered for any other Regions that the Bidder has bid on.

INSERT: For the O-RT1.1 point rated technical criterion only: if the Bidder is bidding on the provision of Nursing Agency Services in more than one Region, the Bidder must only propose a Contract Nurse, or list a Contract Nurse's experience for demonstration of the RT1.1 evaluation criterion (i.e. A-RT1.1, M-RT1.1, Q-RT1.1), in one Region only. In instances where the Bidder has proposed the experience of the same Contract Nurse to demonstrate compliance with the RT1.1 evaluation criterion in more than one Region, that experience will only be accepted for the first

Region, based on the following order: Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec, and Alberta, and will not be considered for any other Regions that the Bidder has bid on.

11. At Attachment 1 to Part 4, Manitoba Region, Page 2 of 15, subsection 2.1.1, bullet 3:

DELETE: If the Bidder is bidding on the provision of Nursing Agency Services in more than one Region, the Bidder must only propose a Contract Nurse, or list a Contract Nurse's experience for demonstration of evaluation criteria, in one Region only. In instances where the Bidder has proposed the experience of the same Contract Nurse to demonstrate compliance with evaluation criteria in more than one Region, that experience will only be accepted for the first Region, based on the following order: Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec, and Alberta, and will not be considered for any other Regions that the Bidder has bid on.

INSERT: For the M-RT1.1 point rated technical criterion only: if the Bidder is bidding on the provision of Nursing Agency Services in more than one Region, the Bidder must only propose a Contract Nurse, or list a Contract Nurse's experience for demonstration of the RT1.1 evaluation criterion (i.e. A-RT1.1, O-RT1.1, Q-RT1.1), in one Region only. In instances where the Bidder has proposed the experience of the same Contract Nurse to demonstrate compliance with the RT1.1 evaluation criterion in more than one Region, that experience will only be accepted for the first Region, based on the following order: Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec, and Alberta, and will not be considered for any other Regions that the Bidder has bid on.

12. At Attachment 1 to Part 4, Alberta Region, Page 2 of 15, subsection 2.1.1, bullet 3:

DELETE: If the Bidder is bidding on the provision of Nursing Agency Services in more than one Region, the Bidder must only propose a Contract Nurse, or list a Contract Nurse's experience for demonstration of evaluation criteria, in one Region only. In instances where the Bidder has proposed the experience of the same Contract Nurse to demonstrate compliance with evaluation criteria in more than one Region, that experience will only be accepted for the first Region, based on the following order: Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec, and Alberta, and will not be considered for any other Regions that the Bidder has bid on.

INSERT: For the A-RT1.1 point rated technical criterion only: if the Bidder is bidding on the provision of Nursing Agency Services in more than one Region, the Bidder must only propose a Contract Nurse, or list a Contract Nurse's experience for demonstration of the RT1.1 evaluation criterion (i.e. O-RT1.1, M-RT1.1, Q-RT1.1), in one Region only. In instances where the Bidder has proposed the experience of the same Contract Nurse to demonstrate compliance with the RT1.1 evaluation criterion in more than one Region, that experience will only be accepted for the first Region, based on the following order: Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec, and Alberta, and will not be considered for any other Regions that the Bidder has bid on.

13. At Attachment 1 to Part 4, Quebec Region, Page 2 of 15, subsection 2.1.1, bullet 3:

DELETE: If the Bidder is bidding on the provision of Nursing Agency Services in more than one Region, the Bidder must only propose a Contract Nurse, or list a Contract Nurse's experience for demonstration of evaluation criteria, in one Region only. In instances where the Bidder has proposed the experience of the same Contract Nurse to demonstrate compliance with evaluation criteria in more than one Region,

that experience will only be accepted for the first Region, based on the following order: Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec, and Alberta, and will not be considered for any other Regions that the Bidder has bid on.

INSERT: For the Q-RT1.1 point rated technical criterion only: if the Bidder is bidding on the provision of Nursing Agency Services in more than one Region, the Bidder must only propose a Contract Nurse, or list a Contract Nurse's experience for demonstration of the RT1.1 evaluation criterion (i.e. A-RT1.1, M-RT1.1, O-RT1.1), in one Region only. In instances where the Bidder has proposed the experience of the same Contract Nurse to demonstrate compliance with the RT1.1 evaluation criterion in more than one Region, that experience will only be accepted for the first Region, based on the following order: Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec, and Alberta, and will not be considered for any other Regions that the Bidder has bid on.

14. At Annex E, TA Form, Page 1 of 3, Cost of Task, Cancellation Fee:

DELETE: \$100

INSERT: \$250

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED