



RFP #121919
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for
Furniture Solutions with Related Accessories and Services

Proposal Due Date: December 19, 4:30 p.m., Central Time

Sourcewell, a State of Minnesota local government agency and service cooperative, is requesting proposals for Furniture Solutions with Related Accessories and Services to result in a contracting solution for use by its members. Sourcewell members include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, not-for-profit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada. A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal [<https://proportal.sourcewell-mn.gov>]. Only proposals submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered. Proposals are due no later than December 19, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. Central Time, and late proposals will not be considered.

Solicitation Schedule

Public Notice of RFP Published:	October 31, 2019
Pre-proposal Conference:	November 21, 2019 10:00 a.m., Central Time
Question Submission Deadline:	December 12, 2019, 4:30 p.m., Central Time
Proposal Due Date:	December 19, 2019 4:30 p.m., Central Time Late responses will not be considered.
Opening:	December 19, 2019, 6:30 p.m., Central Time **

** SEE RFP SUB-SECTION V. G. "OPENING"

I. ABOUT SOURCEWELL AND MEMBERS

A. SOURCEWELL

Sourcewell is a State of Minnesota local government agency and service cooperative created under the laws of the State of Minnesota (Minnesota Statutes Section 123A.21) that facilitates a competitive public solicitation and contract award process for the benefit of its 50,000+ members across the United States and Canada. Sourcewell's solicitation process complies with Minnesota law and policies, and results in cooperative contracting solutions from which Sourcewell's members procure equipment, products, and services.

Cooperative contracting provides members and vendors increased administrative efficiencies and the power of combined purchasing volume that result in overall cost savings. At times, Sourcewell also partners with other purchasing cooperatives to combine the purchasing volume of their membership into a single solicitation and contract expanding the reach of contracted vendors potential pool of end users.

Sourcewell uses a website-based platform, the Sourcewell Procurement Portal, through which all proposals to this RFP must be submitted.

B. MEMBERS AND USE OF RESULTING CONTRACTS

Membership in Sourcewell is open to government and non-profit entities across the United States and Canada; such as municipal, state/province, K-12 and higher education, tribal government, and other public entities. Access to contracted equipment, products, or services by Members is typically through a purchase order issued directly to the applicable vendor. A Member may request additional terms or conditions related to a purchase. Use of Sourcewell contracts is voluntary and Members retain the right to obtain similar equipment, products, or services from other sources.

To meet Members' needs, public notice of this RFP has been broadly published, including notification to each state-level procurement departments for possible re-posting. As required by certain states, an Appendix of Members is included in this RFP and can be found in the Sourcewell Procurement Portal. Proof of publication will be available at the conclusion of the solicitation process.

For Canadian entities: This RFP is intended to include municipalities and publicly-funded academic institutions, school boards, health authorities, and social services (MASH sectors); including members of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), and their represented Associations: Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), and Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM).

II. EQUIPMENT, PRODUCTS, AND SERVICES

A. SOLUTIONS-BASED SOLICITATION

This RFP and contract award process is a solutions-based solicitation; meaning that Sourcewell is seeking equipment, products, or services that meet the general requirements of the scope of this RFP and that are commonly desired or are required by law or industry standards.

B. REQUESTED EQUIPMENT, PRODUCTS, OR SERVICES

It is expected that Proposers offer a wide array of equipment, products, or services at lower prices and with better value than what they would ordinarily offer to a single government entity, a school district, or a regional cooperative.

1. Sourcewell is seeking proposals for Furniture Solutions with Related Accessories and Services, for applications such as a) office, conference, lobby, lounge, common, collaboration, multi-purpose, and meeting spaces; b) classroom, lab, studio, and maker spaces; c) library, media, technology, or computer centers; and, d) food service or dining areas, student union spaces, and residence halls. Comprehensive solutions are sought for furniture types to include, but not be limited to:

- a. Desks, chairs (folding and stackable), tables, modular walls, cubicles, seating (benches, fixed, stools, etc.), patio or outdoor, cabinets or integrated storage, and residential hall furnishings;
- b. Related services including rental, design, installation, assembly, safety inspection, repair, renovation, refurbishment, and re-manufacture, retrofit or recycling services for the furniture solutions described above; and
- c. Complementary offerings may include: office related storage and technology integrated furniture solutions.

A Proposer may elect to offer a materials-only solution, a turn-key solution, or an alternative solution. Generally, a turn-key solution is most desirable to Sourcewell and its Members, however, it is not mandatory or required.

This solicitation does not include those equipment, products, or services covered under categories included in contracts currently maintained by Sourcewell:

1. RFP#091719 Event Seating and Staging Solutions with Related Accessories and Services
2. RFP#040215 Storage Products or Systems with Related Accessories
3. RFP#081419 Technology Catalog Solutions

Proposers may include related equipment, accessories, and services to the extent that these solutions are complementary to the equipment, products, or service(s) being proposed.

Generally, the solutions for Sourcewell Members are turn-key solutions, providing a combination of equipment, products and services, delivery, and installation to a properly operating status. However, equipment or products only solutions may be appropriate for situations where Sourcewell Members possess the ability, either in-house or through local third-party contractors, to properly install and bring to operation those equipment/products being proposed.

Sourcewell prefers vendors that provide a sole source of responsibility for the products and services provided under a resulting contract. If Proposer requires the use of dealers, resellers, or subcontractors to provide the products or services, the Proposal should address how the products or services will be provided to Members and describe the network of dealers, resellers, and/or subcontractors that will be available to serve Sourcewell Members under a resulting contract.

Sourcewell desires the broadest possible selection of products/equipment and services being proposed over the largest possible geographic area and to the largest possible cross-section of Sourcewell current and potential Members.

C. REQUIREMENTS

It is expected that Proposers have knowledge of all applicable industry standards, laws, and regulations and possess an ability to market and distribute the equipment, products, or services to Members.

1. Safety Requirements. All items proposed must comply with current applicable safety or regulatory standards or codes.
2. Deviation from Industry Standard. Deviations from industry standards must be identified with an explanation of how the equipment, products, and services will provide equivalent function, coverage, performance, and/or related services.
3. New Equipment and Products. Proposed equipment and products must be for new, current model; however, Proposer may offer certain close-out equipment or products if it is specifically noted in the Pricing proposal.
4. Delivered and operational. Unless clearly noted in the Proposal, equipment and products must be delivered to the Member as operational.
5. Warranty. All equipment, products, supplies, and services must be covered by a warranty that is the industry standard or better.

D. ANTICIPATED CONTRACT TERM

Sourcewell anticipates that the term of any resulting contract(s) will be four (4) years. An extension may be offered based on the best interests of Sourcewell and its members.

E. ESTIMATED CONTRACT VALUE AND USAGE

Based on past volume of similar contracts, the estimated annual value of all transactions from contracts resulting from this RFP are anticipated to be USD \$200M therefore, proposers are expected to propose volume pricing. Sourcewell anticipates considerable activity under the contract(s) awarded from this RFP; however, sales and sales volume from any resulting contract are not guaranteed.

F. MARKETING PLAN

Proposer's sales force will be the primary source of communication with Members. The Proposer's Marketing Plan should demonstrate Proposer's ability to deploy a sales force or dealer network to Members, as well as Proposer's sales and service capabilities. It is expected that Proposer will promote and market any contract award.

G. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Contracts will be awarded to Proposers able to best meet the need of Members. Proposers should submit their complete line of equipment, products, or services that are applicable to the scope of this RFP.
2. Proposers should include all relevant information in its proposal. Sourcewell cannot consider information that is not provided in the Proposal. Sourcewell reserves the right to verify Proposer's information and may request clarification from a Proposer, including samples of the proposed equipment or products.
3. Depending upon the responses received in a given category, Sourcewell may need to organize responses into subcategories in order to provide the broadest coverage of the requested equipment, products, or services to Members. Awards may be based on a subcategory.
4. A Proposer's documented negative past performance with Sourcewell or its Members occurring under a previously awarded Sourcewell contract may be considered in the evaluation of a proposal.

III. PRICING

A. REQUIREMENTS

All proposed pricing must be:

1. Either Line-Item Pricing or Percentage Discount from Catalog Pricing, or a combination of these:

- a. **Line-item Pricing** is pricing based on each individual product or services. Each line must indicate the Vendor's published "List Price," as well as the "Contract Price."
 - b. **Percentage Discount from Catalog or Category** is based on a percentage discount from a catalog or list price, defined as a published Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) for the products or services. Individualized percentage discounts can be applied to any number of defined product groupings. Proposers will be responsible for providing and maintaining current published MSRP with Sourcewell, and this pricing must be included in its proposal and provided throughout the term of any Contract resulting from this RFP.
2. The Proposer's ceiling price (Ceiling price means that the proposed pricing will be considered as the highest price for which equipment, products, or services may be billed to a Member). However, it is permissible for vendors to sell at a price that is lower than the contracted price;
 3. Stated in U.S., and Canadian dollars for Proposers intending to sell in Canada (as applicable); and
 4. Clearly understood, complete, and fully describe the total cost of acquisition (e.g., the cost of the proposed equipment, products, and services delivered and operational for its intended purpose in the Member's location).

Proposers should clearly identify any costs that are NOT included in the proposed product or service pricing. This may include items such as installation, set up, mandatory training, or initial inspection. Include identification of any parties that impose such costs and their relationship to the Proposer. Additionally, Proposers should clearly describe any unique distribution and/or delivery methods or options offered in the Proposal.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

Proposers are expected to pay to Sourcewell an administrative fee in exchange for Sourcewell facilitating the resulting contracts. The administrative fee is normally calculated as a percentage of the total sales to Members for all contracted equipment, products, or services made during a calendar quarter, and is typically one percent (1%) to two percent (2%). In some categories, a flat fee may be an acceptable alternative.

IV. CONTRACT

Proposers awarded a contract will be required to execute a contract with Sourcewell. Only those modifications the Proposer indicates in its proposal will be available for discussion. Much of the language in the Contract reflects Minnesota legal requirements and cannot be altered. Numerous and/or onerous exceptions that contradict Minnesota law may result in a proposal being disqualified from further review and evaluation.

To request a modification to the Contract terms, conditions, or specifications, a Proposer must complete and submit an Exceptions to Terms, Conditions, or Specifications Form, with all

requested modifications, through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal at the time of submitting the Proposer's response.

V. RFP PROCESS

A. PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE

Sourcewell will hold an optional, non-mandatory pre-proposal conference via webcast on the date and time noted on page one of this RFP and on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal. The purpose of this conference is to allow potential Proposers to ask questions regarding this RFP and Sourcewell's competitive contracting process. Information about the webcast will be sent to all entities that requested a copy of this RFP through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal. Pre-proposal conference attendance is optional.

B. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP AND ORAL COMMUNICATION

Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal. The deadline for submission of questions is found in the Solicitation Schedule and on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal. Answers to questions will be issued through an addendum to this RFP. Repetitive questions will be summarized into a single answer and identifying information will be removed from the submitted questions.

All questions, whether specific to a Proposer or generally related to the RFP, must be submitted using this process. Do not contact individual Sourcewell staff to ask questions or request information as this may disqualify the Proposer from responding to this RFP. Sourcewell will not respond to questions submitted after the deadline.

C. ADDENDA

Sourcewell may modify this RFP at any time prior to the proposal due date by issuing an addendum. Addenda issued by Sourcewell become a part of the RFP and will be delivered to potential Proposers through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal. Sourcewell accepts no liability in connection with the delivery of any addenda.

Before a proposal will be accepted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal, all addenda, if any, must be acknowledged by the Proposer by checking the box for each addendum. It is the responsibility of the Proposer to check for any addenda that may have been issued up to the time for solicitation closing.

If an addendum is issued after a Proposer submitted its proposal, the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will WITHDRAW the submission and change the Proposer's proposal status to INCOMPLETE. The Proposer can view this status change in the "MY BIDS" section of the Sourcewell Procurement Portal Vendor Account. The Proposer is solely responsible to:

Sourcewell RFP #121919

Furniture Solutions with Related Accessories and Services

Page 7

- i) make any required adjustments to its proposal;
- ii) acknowledge the addenda; and
- iii) Ensure the re-submitted proposal is RECEIVED through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal no later than the closing time and date shown in the Solicitation Schedule.

D. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposer's complete proposal must be submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal no later than the date and time specified in the Solicitation Schedule. Any other form of proposal submission, whether electronic, paper, or otherwise, will not be considered by Sourcewell. **Only complete proposals that are timely submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered. Late proposals will not be considered.** It is the Proposer's sole responsibility to ensure that the proposal is received on time.

All proposals must be received through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal no later than the Proposal Due Date and time noted in the Solicitation Schedule above. It is recommended that Proposers allow sufficient time to upload the proposal and to resolve any issues that may arise. The closing time and date is determined by the Sourcewell Procurement Portal web clock.

In the event of problems with the Sourcewell Procurement Portal, follow the instructions for technical support posted in the portal. It may take up to twenty-four (24) hours to respond to certain issues.

Upon successful submission of a proposal, the Portal will automatically generate a confirmation email to the Proposer. If the Proposer does not receive a confirmation email, contact Sourcewell's support provider at support@bidsandtenders.ca.

To ensure receipt of the latest information and updates via email regarding this solicitation, or if the Proposer has obtained this solicitation document from a third party, the onus is on the Proposer to create a Sourcewell Procurement Portal Vendor Account and register for this solicitation opportunity.

All proposals must be acknowledged digitally by an authorized representative of the Proposer attesting that the information contained in the proposal is true and accurate. By submitting a proposal, Proposer warrants that the information provided is true, correct, and reliable for purposes of evaluation for potential contract award. The submission of inaccurate, misleading, or false information is grounds for disqualification from a contract award and may subject the Proposer to remedies available by law.

E. GENERAL PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must be:

- In substantial compliance with the requirements of this RFP or it will be considered nonresponsive and be rejected.
- Complete. A proposal will be rejected if it is conditional or incomplete.
- Submitted in English.
- Valid and irrevocable for ninety (90) days following the Proposal Due Date.

Any and all costs incurred in responding to this RFP will be borne by the Proposer.

F. PROPOSAL WITHDRAWAL

Prior to the proposal deadline, a Proposer may withdraw its proposal.

G. OPENING

The Opening of Proposals will be conducted electronically through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal. A list of all Proposers will be made publicly available in the Sourcewell Procurement Portal after the Proposal Due Date, but no later than the Opening time listed in the Solicitation Schedule.

To view the list of Proposers, verify that the Sourcewell Procurement Portal opportunities list search is set to "All" or "Closed." The solicitation status will automatically change to "Closed" after the Proposal Due Date and Time.

VI. EVALUATION AND AWARD

A. EVALUATION

It is the intent of Sourcewell to award one or more contracts to responsive and responsible Proposer(s) offering the best overall quality, selection of equipment, products, and services, and price that meet the commonly requested specifications of Sourcewell and its Members. The award(s) will be limited to the number of offerors that Sourcewell determines is necessary to meet the needs of Sourcewell members. Factors to be considered in determining the number of contracts to be awarded in any category may include the following:

- The number of and geographic location of:
 - Proposers necessary to offer a comprehensive selection of equipment, products, or services for Members' use.
 - A Proposer's sales and service network to assure availability of product supply and coverage to meet Members' anticipated needs.
- Total evaluation scores.
- The attributes of Proposers, and their equipment, products, or services, to assist Members achieve environmental and social requirements, preferences, and goals. Information submitted as part of a proposal should be as specific as possible when

responding to the RFP. Do not assume Sourcewell's knowledge about a specific vendor or product.

B. AWARD(S)

Award(s) will be made to the Proposer(s) whose proposal conforms to all conditions and requirements of the RFP, and consistent with the award criteria defined in this RFP.

Sourcewell may request written clarification of a proposal at any time during the evaluation process.

Proposal evaluation will be based on the following scoring criteria and the Sourcewell Evaluator Scoring Guide (available in the Sourcewell Procurement Portal):

Conformance to RFP Requirements	50
Financial Viability and Marketplace Success	75
Ability to Sell and Deliver Service	100
Marketing Plan	50
Value Added Attributes	75
Warranty	50
Depth and Breadth of Offered Equipment, Products, or Services	200
Pricing	400
TOTAL POINTS	1000

C. PROTESTS OF AWARDS

Any protest made under this RFP by a Proposer must be in writing, addressed to Sourcewell's Executive Director, and delivered to the Sourcewell office located at 202 12th Street NE, P.O. Box 219, Staples, MN 56479. The protest must be received no later than ten (10) calendar days' following Sourcewell's notice of contract award(s) or non-award and must be time stamped by Sourcewell no later than 4:30 p.m., Central Time.

A protest must include the following items:

- The name, address, and telephone number of the protester;
- The original signature of the protester or its representative;
- Identification of the solicitation by RFP number;
- A precise statement of the relevant facts;
- Identification of the issues to be resolved;
- Identification of the legal or factual basis;
- Any additional supporting documentation; and
- Protest bond in the amount of \$20,000.

Protests that do not address these elements will not be reviewed.

D. RIGHTS RESERVED

This RFP does not commit Sourcewell to award any contract and a proposal may be rejected if it is nonresponsive, conditional, incomplete, conflicting, or misleading. Proposals that contain false statements or do not support an attribute or condition stated by the Proposer may be rejected.

Sourcewell reserves the right to:

- Modify or cancel this RFP at any time;
- Reject any and all proposals received;
- Reject proposals that do not comply with the provisions of this RFP;
- Select, for contracts or for discussion, a proposal other than that with the lowest cost;
- Waive or modify any informalities, irregularities, or inconsistencies in the proposals received;
- Discuss any aspect of the proposal with any Proposer and negotiate with more than one Proposer;
- Award a contract if only one responsive proposal is received if it is in the best interest of Members; and
- Award a contract to one or more Proposers if it is in the best interest of Members.

E. DISPOSITION OF PROPOSALS

All materials submitted in response to this RFP will become property of Sourcewell and will become public record in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Section 13.591, after negotiations are complete. Sourcewell determines that negotiations are complete upon execution of the resulting contract. If the Proposer submits information in response to this RFP that it believes to be trade secret materials, as defined by the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Section 13.37, the Proposer must:

- Clearly mark all trade secret materials in its proposal at the time the proposal is submitted;
- Include a statement with its proposal justifying the trade secret designation for each item; and
- Defend any action seeking release of the materials it believes to be trade secret, and indemnify and hold harmless Sourcewell, its agents and employees, from any judgments or damages awarded against Sourcewell in favor of the party requesting the materials, and any and all costs connected with that defense. This indemnification survives Sourcewell's award of a contract. In submitting a proposal to this RFP, the Proposer agrees that this indemnification survives as long as the trade secret materials are in possession of Sourcewell.

Sourcewell will not consider the prices submitted by the Proposer to be proprietary or trade secret materials. Financial information provided by a Proposer is not considered trade secret under the statutory definition.



10/31/2019

Addendum No. 1

Solicitation Number: RFP 121919

Solicitation Name: Furniture Solutions with Related Accessories and Services

Consider the following Questions and Answers to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

Question 1:

Can you advise for this RFP the details of this solicitation? I see the basic requirements for fulfillment, but do not see the details.

Answer 1:

Sourcewell utilizes a competitive, solutions-based solicitation approach that is not based on detailed specifications or finite quantities for our cooperative contract awards. A respondent is allowed to propose the entire line of products and services falling within the scope of the RFP. Section II. B. of the RFP addresses the requested equipment, products or services for this solicitation.

End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 121919 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 10/31/2019, is required at the time of proposal submittal.



11/4/2019

Addendum No. 2

Solicitation Number: RFP 121919

Solicitation Name: Furniture Solutions with Related Accessories and Services

Consider the following Questions and Answers to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

Question 1:

Is it a requirement to pay the administrative fee on services? Would it be possible to pay the admin fee on products only?

Answer 1:

Refer to RFP Section III. B. – Administrative Fees, for directions on proposing an administrative fee. It is left to the discretion of each proposer to determine and propose an administrative fee that is consistent with its business and its industry.

End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 121919 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 11/4/2019, is required at the time of proposal submittal.



11/8/2019

Addendum No. 3

Solicitation Number: RFP 121919

Solicitation Name: Furniture Solutions with Related Accessories and Services

Consider the following Questions and Answers to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

Question 1:

Pursuant to the Question and subsequent Addendum No. 1, in understanding that the "respondent is allowed to propose the entire line of products and services falling within the scope of the RFP", and referring to Section II. B., can you clarify that there is no specific template, Excel sheet or other required format in the submission of the responses?

Answer 1:

All proposals must be submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal. Guidance on preparing a response in the Portal can be found in the "Submit Response Guide" found on the "Bids Homepage" in the Resource Materials section.

Question 2:

Section III PRICING, A. describes the requirements for pricing proposals. Is a proposer who distributes via a dealer network, required to provide the dealer pricing/discount/margin and the Sourcewell member pricing/discounting in their submission?

Answer 2:

It is left to the discretion of each proposer to articulate and propose the pricing approach that aligns with their business methods and satisfies all the requirements of RFP Article III - Pricing. Proposals are evaluated based on the criteria stated in the RFP.

Question 3:

Since delivery and installation of product is generally facilitated by the dealer, how shall the cost of labor be handled vis a vis this RFP submission? Can the dealer add their cost of labor on a case by case basis?

Answer 3:

It is left to the discretion of each proposer to determine and propose the pricing approach that aligns with their business methods and satisfies all the requirements of RFP Article III - Pricing. Proposals are evaluated based on the criteria stated in the RFP.

Question 4:

Although financial information does not fall under Minnesota Statutes Section 13.37, some of the financial information requested, is not public information. Will Sourcewell execute a confidentiality agreement prior to a proposer's release of this information?

Answer 4:

Sourcewell is subject to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and will not execute a confidentiality agreement for a proposer. It is left to the discretion of each proposer to determine the documentation necessary to best demonstrate their ability to serve Sourcewell members and that they are willing to include. The solicitation is a competitive process and proposals are evaluated on the content submitted. Reference Section VI. E. of Sourcewell RFP.

Question 5:

Is there a list of narrative questions in the form of a pdf? If not, is there a way to download the questions from the portal to pdf?

Answer 5:

After selecting "Start Submission", a proposer may navigate to Step 4 – "Preview Bid" and select "Preview My Bid in PDF" if a downloadable PDF of the questionnaire tables is desired.

End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 121919 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 11/8/2019, is required at the time of proposal submittal.



11/11/2019

Addendum No. 4

Solicitation Number: RFP 121919

Solicitation Name: Furniture Solutions with Related Accessories and Services

Consider the following Questions and Answers to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

Question 1:

Is this bid is intended for Saskatchewan and Alberta entities only? On pg.2 it says it is for MASH, RMA, SARM and SUMA AMM?

Answer 1: Sourcewell is seeking solutions to serve the largest possible cross-section of current and potential Sourcewell Members. Refer to RFP Article I., Section B – Members and Use of the Resulting Contracts. In Canada, this includes municipalities and publicly-funded academic institutions, school boards, health authorities, and social services (MASH sectors), which may include the members of RMA, SARM, SUMA, and AMM, as examples.

Question 2:

If you are looking for turnkey solutions, does this mean you would like all products proposed and not just one (like seating)?

Answer 2:

Each proposer, in its discretion, will propose the equipment, products, and services that it deems to fall within Sourcewell's requested equipment, products, and services as described in RFP Section II. B (Requested Equipment, Products and Services). Sourcewell is seeking "... the broadest possible selection of products/equipment and services being proposed over the largest possible geographic area and to the largest possible cross-section of Sourcewell current and potential Members." Proposals are evaluated based on the criteria as stated in the RFP.

Question 3:

The solicitation states the Administrative Fees are typically 1% to 2%. What determines the calculated percentage? How is that communicated to the supplier?

Answer 3:

Refer to RFP Section III. B. – Administrative Fees, and Addendum No. 2, Answer 1, with respect to administrative fees.

End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 121919 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 11/11/2019, is required at the time of proposal submittal.



11/12/2019

Addendum No. 5

Solicitation Number: RFP 121919

Solicitation Name: Furniture Solutions with Related Accessories and Services

Consider the following Questions and Answers to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

Question 1:

To clarify, is Sourcewell is asking for a Drop Ship (Dock Delivery) discount or a Delivered and Installed Discount? Do we need to submit highest product price for all of our products in a separate document or will Price Books suffice?

Answer 1:

Refer to RFP Section III. – PRICING, and Addendum No. 3, Answer 2, with respect to pricing.

End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 121919 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 11/11/2019, is required at the time of proposal submittal.



11/18/2019

Addendum No. 6

Solicitation Number: RFP 121919

Solicitation Name: Furniture Solutions with Related Accessories and Services

Consider the following Questions and Answers to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

Question 1:

What is the Membership size in Canada? Is it optional for us to sell to Canadian Members?

Answer 1:

Each proposer is expected to complete the tables in Step 1, entitled "Ability to Sell and Service Nationwide" and "Value-Added Attributes", describing their ability to serve Sourcewell members in the United States and Canada. Proposals are evaluated based on the criteria stated in the RFP. Sourcewell members include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, not-for-profit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada.

Question 2:

Are we able to utilize our current Price Books but include the US-Canadian Dollar Conversion Calculation on the cover page of the Price Book?

Answer 2:

Refer to RFP Section III. A. 3. – Pricing Requirements, for directions applicable to pricing for Proposers intending to sell in Canada. It is left to the discretion of each proposer to determine and propose a pricing model that is consistent with the RFP terms and their own business methods.

Question 3:

Within the scope of the RFP, under III. Pricing, all pricing quoted must reflect a Member's total cost of acquisition. Is it acceptable to submit pricing for product only,

with shipping and handling charges to be calculated and added at time of quote? Will Sourcwell accept any exceptions or deviations to the terms.

Answer 3:

Refer to RFP Section III. A. 3. – Pricing Requirements, for directions applicable to pricing. It is left to the discretion of each proposer to determine and propose a pricing model that is clearly understood, complete, and fully describes the total cost of acquisition.

A request for modification to the Sourcwell contract template may only be submitted with a proposal. To request a modification to the template Contract terms, conditions, or specifications, a Proposer may complete and submit the Exceptions to Terms, Conditions, or Specifications Form, which is found as the final Table of Step 1 in the proposal submission process. The contract template will be completed and sent to each awarded vendor, with inclusion of any exceptions stated in the proposer’s Exceptions to Terms, Conditions, or Specifications Form that are acceptable to Sourcwell, with the award notification.

Question 4:

If we have products that have been used for Technology benching, and also used for Science or Art tables in K-12 market, and training classes, can we include our products on the Office Furniture contract? The RFP states: This solicitation does not include those equipment, products, or services covered under categories included in contracts currently maintained by Sourcwell: RFP#081419 Technology Catalog Solutions.

Answer 4:

Each proposer, in its discretion, will propose the equipment, products, and services that it deems to fall within Sourcwell’s requested equipment, products, and services as described in RFP Section II. B (Requested Equipment, Products and Services). However, only those products within the scope of the RFP will be included in any contract awarded by Sourcwell as a result of this solicitation.

Question 5:

Please give more clarification for Question 68 - “Describe your design resources to develop or enhance culture, change management and integrated technology needs.”

Answer 5:

Each Proposer has the opportunity to describe their capabilities with respect to the relevant design resources in response to Question 68.

Question 6:

What regions or municipalities does this bid pertain to so we can propose the best team to service the bid?

Answer 6:

Sourcewell members include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, not-for-profit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada.

Question 7:

When can we expect to receive the call-in information for the pre-bid conference?

Answer 7:

Registered plan takers will receive log-in instructions via email two business days prior to the WebEx conference.

End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 121919 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 11/18/2019, is required at the time of proposal submittal.



11/20/2019

Addendum No. 7

Solicitation Number: RFP 121919

Solicitation Name: Furniture Solutions with Related Accessories and Services

Consider the following Questions and Answers to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

Question 1:

Is a manufacturer's authorization required to be submitted for each brand specified and/or quoted?

Answer 1:

It is left to the discretion of each proposer to determine the documentation necessary to best demonstrate their ability to serve Sourcewell members and satisfy all the requirements included in the questionnaire tables.

Question 2:

In the specifications area of the bid response, do any of the line items within the tables have character limits?

Answer 2:

In our experience, the tables provide enough space for a proposer to provide a brief but thorough response to each question.

Question 3:

Will the agency please provide a list of current Sourcewell members, as noted in the RFP?

Answer 3:

The reference in RFP Article I, Section B, to the Appendix of Members is to the “Political Subdivision List”, available by hyperlink, in the Resource Materials section on the front page of the Sourcwell Procurement Portal. The hyperlinked listing is intended to satisfy the requirement of certain states that Sourcwell make a list of members in the jurisdiction available at the time of the solicitation. More generally, membership is open to government and non-profit entities across the United States and Canada; such as municipal, state/province, K-12 and higher education, tribal government, and other public entities.

Question 4:

Will separate price lists for the United States and Canada be acceptable?

Answer 4:

It is left to the discretion of each proposer to determine and propose the pricing approach that aligns with their business methods and satisfies all the requirements of RFP Article III - Pricing. Proposals are evaluated based on the criteria stated in the RFP.

Question 5:

If a manufacturer chooses not to service Canada, would this negatively impact their likelihood to receive an award?

Answer 5:

Each proposer is expected to complete the tables in Step 1, entitled “Ability to Sell and Service” and “Value-Added Attributes”, describing their ability to serve Sourcwell members in the United States and Canada. Proposals are evaluated based on the criteria stated in the RFP.

Question 6:

Will the agency please further clarify the scoring criteria?

Answer 6:

Refer to RFP section VI. B. AWARDS for evaluation criteria for this solicitation and the Sourcwell Evaluator Scoring Guide (available by hyperlink, in the Resource Materials section on the front page of the Sourcwell Procurement Portal).

Question 7:

Will Sourcewell please clarify the Administrative Fees portion?

Answer 7:

Refer to RFP Section III. B. – Administrative Fees, for directions on proposing an administrative fee. It is left to the discretion of each proposer to determine and propose an administrative fee that is consistent with its business and its industry.

End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 121919 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 11/20/2019, is required at the time of proposal submittal.



11/21/2019

Addendum No. 8

Solicitation Number: RFP 121919

Solicitation Name: Furniture Solutions with Related Accessories and Services

Consider the following Questions and Answers to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

Question 1:

Is there a limit on the number of awards?

Answer 1:

Refer to RFP Section VI. EVALUATION AND AWARD, subsections A. and B., for information regarding Sourcewell's intent with respect to awards. No limit (floor or ceiling) on the number of awards has been imposed.

Question 2:

Do the award criteria include a set minimum on a Proposer's: a) company size; b) sales volume or annual revenues; or, c) years in business?

Answer 2:

Refer to RFP Section VI. EVALUATION AND AWARD, subsections A. and B., for information regarding the evaluation criteria. No minimums of the types described have been imposed.

Question 3:

What weight is placed on a company's past experience with Sourcewell/NJPA versus new comers?

Answer 3:

Sourcewell will consider the relevant information submitted in each proposal and apply the evaluation criteria as set forth in the RFP.

Question 4:

If a manufacturer offers products for music furnishings, that could be considered cross over in the storage and platforms categories, can those products be submitted under the furniture solicitation.

Answer 4:

Each proposer, in its discretion, will propose the equipment, products, and services that it deems to fall within Sourcewell's requested equipment, products, and services as described in RFP Section II. B (Requested Equipment, Products and Services). However, only those products within the scope of the RFP will be included in any contract awarded by Sourcewell as a result of this solicitation.

Question 5:

During the pre-bid conference, the presenters stated that a manufacturer and a dealer could both propose the same product line. How must the dealer prove they have authorization if a Manufacturer's Letter of Authorization is not required?

Answer 5:

As stated in Addendum 7, it is left to the discretion of each proposer to determine the documentation necessary to best demonstrate their ability to serve Sourcewell members and satisfy all the requirements included in the questionnaire tables.

Question 6:

Do any line items in the questionnaire tables have character limits?

Answer 6:

As indicated in Addendum 7, there is sufficient space for the proposer to provide a brief but thorough response to each question. The platform designer indicates the character limit of a text field is 32,000.

End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 121919 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 11/21/2019, is required at the time of proposal submittal.



12/2/2019

Addendum No. 9

Solicitation Number: RFP 121919

Solicitation Name: Furniture Solutions with Related Accessories and Services

Consider the following Question and Answer to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

Question 1:

We are a division of a larger parent company and cannot release information as a division in response to several questions without a non-disclosure agreement or protection of a -proprietary/trade secret clause. The information can be released as our company as a whole but not by division without an NDA. Can you tell us how we should proceed?

Answer 1:

In the competitive process, Sourcewell will not advise a proposer on the content of the proposal. So, it is left to the discretion of each proposer to determine the information necessary to best demonstrate their ability to serve Sourcewell members and that they are willing to include. The solicitation is a competitive process and proposals are evaluated on the content submitted. Sourcewell is subject to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and will not execute a non-disclosure agreement for a proposer. Reference Section VI. E. of the Sourcewell RFP.

End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 121919 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 12/2/2019, is required at the time of proposal submittal.



12/5/2019

Addendum No. 10

Solicitation Number: RFP 121919

Solicitation Name: Furniture Solutions with Related Accessories and Services

Consider the following Questions and Answers to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

Question 1:

If a manufacturer enters a bid for this solicitation and lists a specific dealer as part of his bid, can the dealer also enter a bid listing the manufacturer's line of products and can both of them be awarded?

Answer 1:

Sourcewell does not limit the proposers in any given solicitation. Each proposer, in its discretion, will propose the equipment, products, and services that it deems to fall within Sourcewell's requested equipment, products, and services as described in RFP Section II. B (Requested Equipment, Products and Services). Proposals are evaluated based on the criteria stated in the RFP.

Question 2:

Is Sourcewell including Quebec in this solicitation?

Answer 2:

Sourcewell utilizes a competitive, solutions-based solicitation approach that is not based on detailed specifications, finite quantities, or set locations. Sourcewell members include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, not-for-profit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada. However, this solicitation has not been posted in the French language, nor has it been advertised specifically in Quebec, which may impact the use of the awarded contracts within the province.

Question 3:

In section 4 of the sample contract provided regarding product and pricing change requests, the last bullet point states to include a complete restatement of pricing documentation in Microsoft Excel. Can you please confirm if the initial pricing must be in excel format or can we submit our price book only with an intended discount structure?

Answer 3:

Section 4, Product and Pricing Change Requests of the Contract Template is applicable once a vendor has a contract and needs to change pricing or add or subtract products from the initial proposed offering. It is left to the discretion of each proposer to determine and propose the pricing approach that aligns with their business methods and satisfies all the requirements of RFP Article III - Pricing. Proposals are evaluated based on the criteria stated in the RFP.

End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 121919 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 12/5/2019, is required at the time of proposal submittal.



12/5/2019

Addendum No. 11

Solicitation Number: RFP 121919

Solicitation Name: Furniture Solutions with Related Accessories and Services

Consider the following Question and Answer to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

Question 1:

We do not carry an insurance coverage required in the Sourcewell contract template. How should we address this in our response?

Answer 1:

To request a modification to the template Contract terms, conditions, or specifications, a Proposer may complete and submit the Exceptions to Terms, Conditions, or Specifications Form, which is found as the final Table of Step 1 – Specifications in the proposal submission process. The contract template will be completed and sent to each awarded vendor, with inclusion of any exceptions stated in the proposer's Exceptions to Terms, Conditions, or Specifications Form that are acceptable to Sourcewell, at the time of award notification.

End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 121919 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 12/5/2019, is required at the time of proposal submittal.



12/13/2019

Addendum No. 12

Solicitation Number: RFP 121919

Solicitation Name: Furniture Solutions with Related Accessories and Services

Consider the following Question and Answer to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

Question 1:

Regarding Table 11: Pricing & Delivery - Line Item 54, the detailed pricing data showing both our list prices as well as the Sourcewell discounted price for all SKUs expands some of the price lists beyond a standard letter size in landscape orientation, but works in 11 x 17 landscape orientation. Will this be an issue when submitting our pricing data in an electronic format?

Answer 1:

It is left to the discretion of each proposer to determine the content and format of the data and documentation that best represents their proposal. As mentioned in Addendum 3, a Proposer may navigate to Step 4 of the response process, select "Preview Bid" and then "Preview My Bid in PDF" to self-assess the output format. Sourcewell will consider the relevant information submitted in each proposal and apply the evaluation criteria as set forth in the RFP.

End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 121919 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 12/13/2019, is required at the time of proposal submittal.