

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP COVER SHEET

Administrative Information:

TITLE OF RFP:	Pre-Employment Transition Services to Students with Disabilities	RFP Number:	RFP1119131054
Agency:	Iowa Department of Administrative Services on behalf of the Iowa Department of the Blind		
State seeks to purchase:	Pre-Employment Transition Services for Blind Students	Available to Political Subdivisions?	No
Number of mos. or yrs. of the initial term of the contract:	1	Number of possible annual extensions:	3
Anticipated Initial Contract term beginning:	June 1, 2019	Ending:	May 31, 2020
State Issuing Officer:			
Nancy Wheelock, Purchasing Agent			
515-725-2268			
Nancy.wheelock@iowa.gov			
Iowa Department of Administrative Services			
Central Procurement Bureau			
Hoover Building, Floor 3			
1305 E. Walnut Street			
Des Moines, IA 50319			
PROCUREMENT TIMETABLE—Event or Action:		Date/Time (Central Time):	
State Posts Notice of RFP on TSB website		March 8, 2019	
State Issues RFP		March 11, 2019	
RFP written questions, requests for clarification, and suggested changes from Respondents due:		March 20, 2019 3:00 PM CT	
Proposals Due Date:		April 9, 2019	
Proposals Due Time:		3:00 PM CT	
Relevant Websites:	Web-address:		
Internet website where Addenda to this RFP will be posted:	http://bidopportunities.iowa.gov/		
Internet website where contract terms and conditions are posted:	https://das.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/procurement/pdf/050116%20terms%20services.pdf		
Number of Copies of Proposals Required to be Submitted:			1 Original and 1 Digital
Firm Proposal Terms Per Section 3.2.13, the minimum Number of Days following the deadline for submitting proposals that the Respondent guarantees all proposal terms, including price, will remain firm:			120 Days

Table of Contents

- 1. INTRODUCTION**
 - 1.1. Purpose**
 - 1.2. Definitions**
 - 1.3. Overview of the RFP Process**
 - 1.4. Background Information**
- 2. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**
 - 2.1. Issuing Officer**
 - 2.2. Restriction on Communication**
 - 2.3. Downloading the RFP from the Internet**
 - 2.4. Procurement Timetable**
 - 2.5. Questions, Requests for Clarification and Suggested Changes**
 - 2.6. Amendment to RFP**
 - 2.7. Amendment and Withdrawal of Proposal**
 - 2.8. Submissions of Proposals**
 - 2.9. Proposal Opening**
 - 2.10. Costs of Preparing the Proposal**
 - 2.11. No Commitment to Contract**
 - 2.12. Rejection of Proposals**
 - 2.13. Nonmaterial Variances**
 - 2.14. Reference Checks**
 - 2.15. Information from Other Sources**
 - 2.16. Verification of Proposal Contents**
 - 2.17. Proposal Clarification Process**
 - 2.18. Disposition of Proposals**
 - 2.19. Public Records and Requests for Confidential Treatment**
 - 2.20. Form 22 – Request for Confidentiality**
 - 2.21. Copyright Permission**
 - 2.22. Release of Claims**
 - 2.23. Respondent Presentations**
 - 2.24. Evaluation of Proposals Submitted**
 - 2.25. Award Notice and Acceptance Period**
 - 2.26. No Contract Rights until Execution**
 - 2.27. Choice of Law and Forum**
 - 2.28. Restrictions on Gifts and Activities**
 - 2.29. No Minimum Guaranteed**
 - 2.30. Post Solicitation Debriefing**
 - 2.31. Appeals**
- 3. FORM AND CONTENT OF PROPOSALS**
 - 3.1. Instructions**
 - 3.2. Technical Proposal**
 - 3.3. Cost Proposal**
- 4. SCOPE OF WORK**
 - 4.1 Introduction**

- 4.2 Participant Eligibility**
- 4.3 Scope of Services**
- 4.4 Pre-employment Transition Services**
- 4.5 Service Dates**
- 4.5 Optional Other Services/Programs for Blind or Low Vision Students**

5. SPECIFICATIONS

- 5.1. Mandatory Specifications**
- 5.2. Scored Technical Specifications**

6. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

- 6.1. Introduction**
- 6.2. Evaluation Committee**
- 6.3. Technical Proposal Evaluation and Scoring**
- 6.4. Cost Proposal Scoring**
- 6.5. Tied Bid**

7. CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 7.1. Contract Terms and Conditions**
- 7.2. Special Terms**
- 7.3. Contract Length**
- 7.4. Insurance**
- 7.5. Terms and Conditions for State of Iowa Purchasing Cards**

Attachment 1 – Certification Letter

Attachment 2 – Authorization to Release Information Letter

Attachment 3 – Form 22 – Request for Confidentiality

Attachment 4 – Check List of Submittals

Attachment 5 – Cost Proposal Form

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to solicit proposals from Responsible Respondents to provide the goods and/or services identified on the RFP cover sheet and further described in Section 5 of this RFP to the Agency identified on the RFP cover sheet. The Agency intends to award a Contract(s) beginning and ending on the dates listed on the RFP cover sheet, and the Agency, in its sole discretion, may extend the Contract(s) for up to the number of annual extensions identified on the RFP cover sheet.

1.2 Definitions

For the purposes of this RFP and the resulting contract, the following terms shall mean:

“Agency” means the agency identified on the RFP cover sheet that is issuing the RFP and any other agency that purchases from the Contract.

“Contract” means the contract(s) entered into with the successful Respondent(s) as described in Section 7.1.

“Contractor” means the successful Respondent to this RFP.

“General Terms and Conditions” means the General Terms and Conditions for Services Contracts as referenced on the RFP cover page.

“Proposal” means the Respondent’s proposal submitted in response to the RFP.

“Respondent” means a vendor submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP.

“Responsible Respondent” means a Respondent that has the capability in all material respects to perform the scope of work and specifications of the Contract. In determining whether a Respondent is a Responsible Respondent, the Agency may consider various factors including, but not limited to, the Respondent’s competence and qualifications to provide the goods or services requested, the Respondent’s integrity and reliability, the past performance of the Respondent and the best interest of the Agency and the State.

“Responsive Proposal” means a Proposal that complies with the material provisions of this RFP.

“RFP” means this Request for Proposals and any attachments, exhibits, schedules or addenda hereto.

“State” means the State of Iowa, the Agency identified on the Contract Declarations & Execution Page(s), and all state agencies, boards, and commissions, and any political subdivisions making purchases from the Contract as permitted by this RFP.

1.3 Overview of the RFP Process

This RFP is designed to provide Respondents with the information necessary for the preparation of competitive Proposals. The RFP process is for the Agency’s benefit and is intended to provide

the Agency with competitive information to assist in the selection process. It is not intended to be comprehensive. Each Respondent is responsible for determining all factors necessary for submission of a comprehensive Proposal.

Respondent should review Attachment 3, Form 22 Request for Confidentiality, for more information if its Proposal contains confidential information. Any Proposal marked “Confidential” or “Proprietary” on every page may be disqualified.

Respondents will be required to submit their Proposals in hardcopy and on digital media (i.e. CD, USB drive, etc.). It is the Agency’s intention to evaluate Proposals from all Respondents that submit timely Responsive Proposals, and award the Contract(s) in accordance with Section 6, Evaluation and Selection.

1.4 Background Information

Under the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA), Iowa Department of the Blind (IDB) must allocate 15% of its federal grant funds to provide Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to students with disabilities. In order to meet this new requirement, IDB intends to partner with qualified Respondents to provide Pre-ETS to students who are blind or have low vision between the ages of fourteen (14) and twenty-one (21) who are enrolled in a secondary, post-secondary or other recognized education program.

The IDB requests proposals for the development and implementation of innovative programs to deliver Pre-ETS to students with disabilities. Successful Respondents will develop and improve strategies in service delivery and provide training and instruction to eligible and potentially eligible students with disabilities, aged 14-21 years enrolled in school.

1.5 Qualified Respondents

Any agency, business or organization with either non-profit or for-profit status with experience in providing services to individuals who are blind or have low vision is eligible to submit a Proposal.

1.6 Contract Period

The initial period of the resulting Contract(s) will be one (1) year with the option of three (3) annual renewal periods based on Contractor performance and availability of funding.

1.7 Multiple Awards

It is the intention of the State to have multiple awards based on the ability of Respondents to propose solutions for the various transition services in the scope of work and the available funding. Some overlap of transition services may be allowed for award purposes and is at the discretion of the State.

SECTION 2 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
--

2.1 Issuing Officer

The Issuing Officer identified in the RFP cover sheet is the sole point of contact regarding the RFP from the date of issuance until a Notice of Intent to Award the Contract is issued.

2.2 Restriction on Communication

From the issue date of this RFP until a Notice of Intent to Award the Contract is issued, Respondents may contact only the Issuing Officer. The Issuing Officer will respond only to written questions regarding the procurement process. Questions related to the interpretation of this RFP must be submitted as provided in Section 2. Oral questions related to the interpretation of this RFP will not be accepted. Respondents may be disqualified if they contact any State employee other than the Issuing Officer about the RFP except that Respondents may contact the State Targeted Small Business Office on issues related to the preference for Targeted Small Businesses.

This section shall not be construed as restricting communications related to the administration of any contract currently in effect between a Respondent and the State.

2.3 Downloading the RFP from the Internet

The RFP document and any addenda to the RFP will be posted at <http://bidopportunities.iowa.gov/>. The Respondent is advised to check the website periodically for Addenda to this RFP, particularly if the Respondent downloaded the RFP from the Internet as the Respondent may not automatically receive addenda. It is the Respondent's sole responsibility to check daily for addenda to posted documents.

2.4 Procurement Timetable

The dates provided in the procurement timetable on the RFP cover sheet are provided for informational and planning purposes. The Agency reserves the right to change the dates. If the Agency changes any of the deadlines for Respondent submissions, the Agency will issue an addendum to the RFP.

2.5 Questions, Requests for Clarification, and Suggested Changes

Respondents are invited to submit written questions and requests for clarifications regarding the RFP. Respondents may also submit suggestions for changes to the specifications of this RFP. The questions, requests for clarifications, or suggestions must be in writing and received by the Issuing Officer on or before the date and time listed on the RFP cover sheet. Oral questions will not be permitted. If the questions, requests for clarifications, or suggestions pertain to a specific section of the RFP, Respondent shall reference the page and section number(s). The Agency will send written responses to questions, requests for clarifications, or suggestions received from Respondents on before the date listed on the RFP cover sheet. The Agency's written responses will become an addendum to the RFP. If the Agency decides to adopt a suggestion that modifies the RFP, the Agency will issue an addendum to the RFP.

The Agency assumes no responsibility for oral representations made by its officers or employees unless such representations are confirmed in writing and incorporated into the RFP through an addendum.

2.6 Amendment to the RFP

The Agency reserves the right to amend the RFP at any time using an addendum. The Respondent shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda in its Proposal. If the Agency issues an addendum after the due date for receipt of Proposals, the Agency may, in its sole discretion, allow Respondents to amend their Proposals in response to the addendum.

2.7 Amendment and Withdrawal of Proposal

The Respondent may amend or withdraw and resubmit its Proposal at any time before the Proposals are due. The amendment must be in writing, signed by the Respondent and received by the time set for the receipt of Proposals. Electronic mail and faxed amendments will not be accepted. Respondents must notify the Issuing Officer in writing prior to the due date for Proposals if they wish to completely withdraw their Proposals.

2.8 Submission of Proposals

The Agency must receive the Proposal at the Issuing Officer's address identified on the RFP cover sheet before the "Proposals Due" date and time listed on the RFP cover sheet. **This is a mandatory specification and will not be waived by the Agency. Any Proposal received after this deadline will be rejected and returned unopened to the Respondent.** Respondents sending Proposals must allow ample mail delivery time to ensure timely receipt of their Proposals. It is the Respondent's responsibility to ensure that the Proposal is received prior to the deadline. Postmarking by the due date will not substitute for actual receipt of the Proposal. Electronic mail and faxed Proposals will not be accepted.

Respondents must furnish all information necessary to enable the Agency to evaluate the Proposal. Oral information provided by the Respondent will not be considered part of the Respondent's Proposal unless it is reduced to writing.

2.9 Proposal Opening

The Agency will open Proposals after the deadline for submission of Proposals has passed. The Proposals will remain confidential until the Agency has issued a Notice of Intent to Award a Contract. See Iowa Code Section 72.3. However, the names of Respondents who submitted timely Proposals will be publicly available after the Proposal opening. The announcement of Respondents who timely submitted Proposals does not mean that an individual Proposal has been deemed technically compliant or accepted for evaluation.

2.10 Costs of Preparing the Proposal

The costs of preparation and delivery of the Proposal are solely the responsibility of the Respondent.

2.11 No Commitment to Contract

The Agency reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals received in response to this RFP at any time prior to the execution of the Contract. Issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the Agency to award a contract.

2.12 Rejection of Proposals

The Agency may reject outright and not evaluate a Proposal for reasons including, without limitation:

- 2.12.1** The Respondent fails to deliver the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope.
- 2.12.2** The Respondent acknowledges that a mandatory specification of the RFP cannot be met.
- 2.12.3** The Respondent's Proposal changes a material specification of the RFP or the Proposal is not compliant with the mandatory specifications of the RFP.
- 2.12.4** The Respondent's Proposal limits the rights of the Agency.
- 2.12.5** The Respondent fails to include information necessary to substantiate that it will be able to meet a specification of the RFP as provided in Section 3 of this RFP.
- 2.12.6** The Respondent fails to timely respond to the Agency's request for information, documents, or references.
- 2.12.7** The Respondent fails to include Proposal Security, if required.
- 2.12.8** The Respondent fails to include any signature, certification, authorization, stipulation, disclosure or guarantee as provided in Section 3 of this RFP.
- 2.12.9** The Respondent presents the information requested by this RFP in a format inconsistent with the instructions of the RFP or otherwise fails to comply with the specifications of this RFP.
- 2.12.10** The Respondent initiates unauthorized contact regarding the RFP with a State employee other than the Issuing Officer.
- 2.12.11** The Respondent provides misleading or inaccurate responses.
- 2.12.12** The Respondent's Proposal is materially unbalanced.
- 2.12.13** There is insufficient evidence (including evidence submitted by the Respondent and evidence obtained by the Agency from other sources) to satisfy the Agency that the Respondent is a Responsible Respondent.
- 2.12.14** The Respondent alters the language in Attachment 1, Certification Letter or Attachment 2, Authorization to Release Information letter.
- 2.12.15** The Respondent is a "scrutinized company" included on a "scrutinized company list" created by a public fund pursuant to Iowa Code section 12J.3.

2.13 Nonmaterial Variances

The Agency reserves the right to waive or permit cure of nonmaterial variances in the Proposal if, in the judgment of the Agency, it is in the State's best interest to do so. Nonmaterial variances include but are not limited to, minor failures to comply that: do not affect overall responsiveness, are merely a matter of form or format, do not change the relative standing or

otherwise prejudice other Respondents, do not change the meaning or scope of the RFP, or do not reflect a material change in the specifications of the RFP. In the event the Agency waives or permits cure of nonmaterial variances, such waiver or cure will not modify the RFP specifications or excuse the Respondent from full compliance with RFP specifications or other Contract specifications if the Respondent is awarded the Contract. The determination of materiality is in the sole discretion of the Agency.

2.14 Reference Checks

The Agency reserves the right to contact any reference to assist in the evaluation of the Proposal, to verify information contained in the Proposal and to discuss the Respondent's qualifications and the qualifications of any subcontractor identified in the Proposal.

2.15 Information from Other Sources

The Agency reserves the right to obtain and consider information from other sources concerning a Respondent, such as the Respondent's capability and performance under other contracts, the qualifications of any subcontractor identified in the Proposal, the Respondent's financial stability, past or pending litigation, and other publicly available information.

2.16 Verification of Proposal Contents

The content of a Proposal submitted by a Respondent is subject to verification. If the Agency determines in its sole discretion that the content is in any way misleading or inaccurate, the Agency may reject the Proposal.

2.17 Proposal Clarification Process

The Agency reserves the right to contact a Respondent after the submission of Proposals for the purpose of clarifying a Proposal. This contact may include written questions, interviews, site visits, a review of past performance if the Respondent has provided goods and/or services to the State or any other political subdivision wherever located, or requests for corrective pages in the Respondent's Proposal. The Agency will not consider information received from or through Respondent if the information materially alters the content of the Proposal or the type of goods and/or services the Respondent is offering to the Agency. An individual authorized to legally bind the Respondent shall sign responses to any request for clarification. Responses shall be submitted to the Agency within the time specified in the Agency's request. Failure to comply with requests for additional information may result in rejection of the Proposal.

2.18 Disposition of Proposals

All Proposals become the property of the State and shall not be returned to the Respondent. Once the Agency issues a Notice of Intent to Award the Contract, the contents of all Proposals will be public records available for inspection by interested parties, except for information for which Respondent properly requests confidential treatment according to exceptions provided in Iowa Code Chapter 22 or other applicable law.

2.19 Public Records and Requests for Confidential Treatment

The Agency's release of public records is governed by Iowa Code chapter 22. Respondents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with Chapter 22 before submitting a Proposal. The Agency will copy and produce public records upon request as required to comply with Chapter 22 and will treat all information submitted by a Respondent as non-confidential records unless Respondent requests specific parts of the Proposal be treated as confidential at the time of the

submission as set forth herein **AND the information is confidential under Iowa or other applicable law.**

2.20 Form 22 - Request for Confidentiality

FORM 22 MUST BE COMPLETED AND INCLUDED WITH RESPONDENT'S PROPOSAL. COMPLETION AND SUBMITTAL OF FORM 22 IS REQUIRED WHETHER THE PROPOSAL DOES OR DOES NOT CONTAIN INFORMATION FOR WHICH CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT WILL BE REQUESTED. FAILURE TO SUBMIT A COMPLETED FORM 22 WILL RESULT IN THE PROPOSAL BEING CONSIDERED NON-RESPONSIVE AND ELIMINATED FROM EVALUATION.

2.21 Copyright Permission

By submitting a Proposal, the Respondent agrees that the Agency may copy the Proposal for purposes of facilitating the evaluation of the Proposal or to respond to requests for public records. By submitting a Proposal, the Respondent consents to such copying and warrants that such copying will not violate the rights of any third party. The Agency shall have the right to use ideas or adaptations of ideas that are presented in Proposals.

2.22 Release of Claims

By submitting a Proposal, the Respondent agrees that it will not bring any claim or cause of action against the Agency based on any misunderstanding concerning the information provided in the RFP or concerning the Agency's failure, negligent or otherwise, to provide the Respondent with pertinent information in this RFP.

2.23 Respondent Presentations

Respondents may be required to make a presentation. The determination as to need for presentations, and the location, order, and schedule of the presentations is at the sole discretion of the Agency. The presentation may include slides, graphics and other media selected by the Respondent to illustrate the Respondent's Proposal. The presentation shall not materially change the information contained in the Proposal.

2.24 Evaluation of Proposals Submitted

Proposals that are timely submitted and are not rejected will be reviewed and evaluated in accordance with Section 6 of the RFP. The Agency will not necessarily award a Contract resulting from this RFP to the Respondent offering the lowest cost. Instead, the Agency will award the Contract(s) to the Responsible Respondent(s) whose Responsive Proposal the Agency believes will provide the best value to the Agency and the State.

2.25 Award Notice and Acceptance Period

Notice of Intent to Award the Contract(s) will be sent to all Respondents submitting a timely Proposal and may be posted at the website shown on the RFP cover sheet. Negotiation and execution of the Contract(s) shall be completed no later than thirty (30) days from the date of the Notice of Intent to Award or such other time as designated by Agency. If the successful Respondent fails to negotiate and deliver an executed Contract by that date, the Agency, in its sole discretion, may cancel the award and award the Contract to the remaining Respondent the Agency believes will provide the best value to the State.

2.26 No Contract Rights until Execution

No Respondent shall acquire any legal or equitable rights regarding the Contract unless and until the Contract has been fully executed by the successful Respondent and the Agency.

2.27 Choice of Law and Forum

This RFP and the Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Iowa. Changes in applicable laws and rules may affect the award process or the Contract. Respondents are responsible for ascertaining pertinent legal requirements and restrictions. Any and all litigation or actions commenced in connection with this RFP shall be brought in the appropriate Iowa forum.

2.28 Restrictions on Gifts and Activities

Iowa Code Chapter 68B restricts gifts which may be given or received by State employees and requires certain individuals to disclose information concerning their activities with State government. Respondents are responsible to determine the applicability of this Chapter 68B to their activities and to comply with its requirements. In addition, pursuant to Iowa Code section 722.1, it is a felony offense to bribe or attempt to bribe a public official.

2.29 No Minimum Guaranteed

The Agency does not guarantee any minimum level of purchases under the Contract.

2.30 Post Solicitation Debriefing

A debriefing is available to any Respondent who submitted a proposal in response to this RFP. Respondent shall submit a written request for a debriefing to the Issuing Officer via email or other delivery method. All Respondents will be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to its opportunity for debriefing. The debriefing shall be scheduled by the Agency as soon as practicable after the receipt of debriefing request.

2.31 Appeals

A Respondent whose Proposal has been timely filed and who is aggrieved by the Notice of Intent to Award of the Department may appeal the decision by filing a written notice of appeal (in accordance with 11—Chapter 117.20, Iowa Administrative Code) to: The Director of the Department of Administrative Services, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0104 and a copy to the Issuing Officer. The notice must be filed within five (5) days of the date of the Notice of Intent to Award issued by the Department, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal state holidays. The written notice may be filed by fax transmission to 515.725.2064. The notice of appeal must clearly and fully identify all issues being contested by reference to the page, section and line number(s) of the RFP and/or the Notice of Intent to Award. A notice of appeal may not stay negotiations with the apparent successful Respondent.

SECTION 3 FORM AND CONTENT OF PROPOSALS

3.1 Instructions

These instructions prescribe the format and content of the Proposal. They are designed to facilitate a uniform review process. Failure to adhere to the Proposal format may result in the rejection of the Proposal.

- 3.1.1** The Proposal shall be typewritten on 8.5" x 11" paper and sent in sealed envelope. The Proposal shall be divided into two parts: (1) the Technical Proposal and (2) the Cost Proposal. The Technical Proposal and the Cost Proposal shall be labeled as such and placed in a separate sealed envelope. The envelopes shall be numbered in the following fashion: 1 of 4, 2 of 4, etc. The envelopes shall be labeled with the following information:

RFP Number: RFP1119131054

RFP Title: Pre-Employment Transition Services for Students with Disabilities

Nancy Wheelock

Iowa Department of Administrative Services

Central Procurement Bureau

Hoover Building, Floor 3

1305 E. Walnut Street

Des Moines, IA 50319

[Respondent's Name and Address]

The Agency shall not be responsible for misdirected packages or premature opening of Proposals if a Proposal is not properly labeled.

- 3.1.2** 1 Original and 1 Digital Copy of the Technical Proposal shall be timely submitted to the Issuing Officer in a sealed envelope. The Cost Proposal shall be submitted in a separate sealed envelope.

Technical Proposal Envelope Contents

Original Technical Proposal and any copies

Public Copy (if submitted)

Technical Proposal on digital media

Electronic Public Copy on same digital media (if submitted)

Cost Proposal Envelope Contents

Original Cost Proposal

Cost Proposal on digital media

- 3.1.3** If the Respondent designates any information in its Proposal as confidential pursuant to Section 2, the Respondent must also submit one (1) copy of the Proposal from which confidential information has been excised as provided in Section 2 and which is marked "Public Copy".

3.1.4 Proposals shall not contain promotional or display materials.

3.1.5 Attachments shall be referenced in the Proposal.

3.1.6 If a Respondent proposes more than one solution to the RFP specifications, each shall be labeled and submitted in a separate Proposal and each will be evaluated separately.

3.2 Technical Proposal

The following documents and responses shall be included in the Technical Proposal in the order given below. Items listed in Section 3.2 will be considered in the evaluation and scoring of the Technical Proposals:

3.2.1 Transmittal Letter (Required)

An individual authorized to legally bind the Respondent shall sign the transmittal letter. The letter shall include the Respondent's mailing address, electronic mail address, fax number, and telephone number.

3.2.2 Table of Contents

The Respondent shall include a table of contents of its Proposal and submit the check list of submittals per Attachment #4.

3.2.3 Executive Summary

The Respondent shall prepare an executive summary and overview of the goods and/or services it is offering, including all of the following information:

3.2.3.1 Statements that demonstrate that the Respondent has read, understands and agrees with the terms and conditions of the RFP including the Contract provisions in Section 7.

3.2.3.2 An overview of the Respondent's plans for complying with the specifications of this RFP.

3.2.3.3 Any other summary information the Respondent deems to be pertinent.

3.2.4 Mandatory Specifications and Scored Technical Specifications

The Respondent shall answer whether or not it will comply with each specification in Section 5 of the RFP. Where the context requires more than a yes or no answer or the specific specification so indicates, Respondent shall explain how it will comply with the specification. Merely repeating the Section 5 specifications may be considered non-responsive and result in the rejection of the Proposal. Proposals must identify any deviations from the specifications of the RFP or specifications the Respondent cannot satisfy. If the Respondent deviates from or cannot satisfy the specification(s) of this section, the Agency may reject the Proposal.

3.2.5 Respondent Background Information

The Respondent shall provide the following general background information:

- 3.2.5.1** Does your state have a preference for instate vendors? Yes or No. If yes, please include the details of the preference.
- 3.2.5.2** Name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address of the Respondent including all d/b/a's or assumed names or other operating names of the Respondent and any local addresses and phone numbers.
- 3.2.5.3** Form of business entity, e.g., corporation, partnership, proprietorship, limited liability company.
- 3.2.5.4** State of incorporation, state of formation, or state of organization.
- 3.2.5.5** The location(s) including address and telephone numbers of the offices and other facilities that relate to the Respondent's performance under the terms of this RFP.
- 3.2.5.6** Number of employees.
- 3.2.5.7** Type of business.
- 3.2.5.8** Name, address and telephone number of the Respondent's representative to contact regarding all contractual and technical matters concerning the Proposal.
- 3.2.5.9** Name, address and telephone number of the Respondent's representative to contact regarding scheduling and other arrangements.
- 3.2.5.10** Name, contact information and qualifications of any subcontractors who will be involved with this project the Respondent proposes to use and the nature of the goods and/or services the subcontractor would perform.
- 3.2.5.11** Respondent's accounting firm.
- 3.2.5.12** The successful Respondent will be required to register to do business in Iowa before payments can be made.
For vendor registration documents, go to:
<https://das.iowa.gov/procurement/vendors/how-do-business>

3.2.6 Experience

The Respondent must provide the following information regarding its experience:

- 3.2.6.1** Number of years in business.
- 3.2.6.2** Number of years of experience with providing the types of goods and/or services sought by the RFP.
- 3.2.6.3** The level of technical experience in providing the types of goods and/or services sought by the RFP.

3.2.6.4 A list of all goods and/or services similar to those sought by this RFP that the Respondent has provided to other businesses or governmental entities.

3.2.6.5 Letters of reference from three (3) previous customers or clients knowledgeable of the Respondent's performance in providing goods and/or services similar to the goods and/or services described in this RFP and a contact person and telephone number for each reference.

3.2.7 Key Personnel

The Respondent must provide resumes for all key personnel who will be involved in providing the goods and/or services contemplated by this RFP. This includes the key personnel participating in the activity or provision of individual programs as defined in Section 5.2.1 (3). The following information must be included in the resumes:

3.2.7.1 Full name.

3.2.7.2 Education.

3.2.7.3 Years of experience and employment history particularly as it relates to the specifications of the RFP.

3.2.8 Termination, Litigation, Debarment

The Respondent must provide the following information for the past five (5) years:

3.2.8.1 Has the Respondent had a contract for goods and/or services terminated for any reason? If so, provide full details regarding the termination.

3.2.8.2 Describe any damages or penalties assessed against or dispute resolution settlements entered into by Respondent under any existing or past contracts for goods and/or services. Provide full details regarding the circumstances, including dollar amount of damages, penalties and settlement payments.

3.2.8.3 Describe any order, judgment or decree of any Federal or State authority barring, suspending or otherwise limiting the right of the Respondent to engage in any business, practice or activity.

3.2.8.4 A list and summary of all litigation or threatened litigation, administrative or regulatory proceedings, or similar matters to which the Respondent or its officers have been a party.

3.2.8.5 Any irregularities discovered in any of the accounts maintained by the Respondent on behalf of others. Describe the circumstances and disposition of the irregularities.

Failure to disclose these matters may result in rejection of the Proposal or termination of any subsequent Contract. The above disclosures are a

continuing requirement of the Respondent. Respondent shall provide written notification to the Agency of any such matter commencing or occurring after submission of a Proposal, and with respect to the successful Respondent, following execution of the Contract.

3.2.9 Criminal History and Background Investigation

The Respondent hereby explicitly authorizes the Agency to conduct criminal history and/or other background investigation(s) of the Respondent, its officers, directors, shareholders, partners and managerial and supervisory personnel who will be involved in the performance of the Contract.

3.2.10 Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

By submitting a Proposal, Respondent acknowledges its acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFP and the General Terms and Conditions without change except as otherwise expressly stated in its Proposal. If the Respondent takes exception to a provision, it must identify it by page and section number, state the reason for the exception, and set forth in its Proposal the specific RFP or General Terms and Conditions language it proposes to include in place of the provision. If Respondent's exceptions or responses materially alter the RFP, or if the Respondent submits its own terms and conditions or otherwise fails to follow the process described herein, the Agency may reject the Proposal, in its sole discretion.

3.2.11 Certification Letter

The Respondent shall sign and submit with the Proposal, the document included as Attachment #1 (Certification Letter) in which the Respondent shall make the certifications included in Attachment #1.

3.2.12 Authorization to Release Information

The Respondent shall sign and submit with the Proposal the document included as Attachment #2 (Authorization to Release Information Letter) in which the Respondent authorizes the release of information to the Agency.

3.2.13 Firm Proposal Terms

The Respondent shall guarantee in writing the goods and/or services offered in the Proposal are currently available and that all Proposal terms, including price, will remain firm for the number days indicated on the RFP cover sheet following the deadline for submitting Proposals.

3.3 Cost Proposal

The Respondent shall provide its Cost Proposal in a separately sealed envelope for the proposed goods and/or services. See Attachment #5.

3.3.1 Payment Methods

The State of Iowa, in its sole discretion, will determine the method of payment for goods and/or services as part of the Contract. The State Pcard and EAP are preferred payment methods, but payments may be made by any of the following methods: Pcard/EAP, EFT/ACH, or State Warrant. Respondents shall indicate in their Cost Proposals all of the

payment methods they will accept. **This information will not be scored as part of the Cost Proposal or evaluated as part the Technical Proposal.**

3.3.1.1 Credit card or ePayables

The State of Iowa's Purchasing Cards (Pcards) and ePayable solution (EAP) are commercial payment methods utilizing the VISA credit card network. The State of Iowa will not accept price changes or pay additional fees if Respondent uses the Pcard or EAP payment methods. Pcard-accepting Respondents must abide by the State of Iowa's Terms of Pcard Acceptance, as provided in Section 7.5 of the RFP. Respondents must provide a statement regarding their ability to meet the requirements of this subsection, as well as identifying their transaction reporting capabilities (Level I, II, or III).

3.3.1.2 Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) by Automated Clearing House (ACH)

Respondents shall provide a statement regarding their ability to accept payment by EFT by ACH. Payments are deposited into the financial institution of the claimant's choice three working days from the issue date of the direct deposit.

https://das.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/acct_sae/man_for_ref/forms/eft_authorization_form.pdf

3.3.1.3 State Warrant

The State of Iowa's warrant drawn on the Treasurer of State is used to pay claims against the departments of the State of Iowa. The warrant is issued upon receipt of proper documentation from the issuing department.

3.3.2 Payment Terms

Per Iowa Code 8A.514 the State of Iowa is allowed sixty (60) days to pay an invoice submitted by a Contractor.

3.3.3 Respondent Discounts

Respondents shall state in their Cost Proposals whether they offer any payment discounts, including but not limited to:

3.3.3.1 Prompt Payment Discount

The State can agree to pay in less than sixty (60) days if an incentive for earlier payment is offered.

3.3.3.2 Cash Discount

The State may consider cash discounts when scoring Cost Proposals.

SECTION 4 SCOPE OF WORK

Overview

The successful Respondent shall provide the services to the State in accordance with the requirements as provided in this Scope of Work.

4.1 Introduction

IDB intends to contract with qualified Respondents to develop and implement a program which will support one transition service for eligible and potentially eligible students with disabilities, aged 14-21 years enrolled in school. Proposals shall explain how the Respondent will develop and improve strategies for individuals who are blind or have low vision to live independently and prepare to obtain and retain competitive integrated employment.

4.2 Participant Eligibility

Participants of a Pre-ETS program include students with disabilities who are eligible or potentially eligible for VR services.

An eligible student with a disability is defined for the purpose of this RFP as a student who is blind or has low vision, is eligible to receive IDB-VR services, is participating in an educational program, and is between the ages of 14 and 21.

A potentially eligible student with a disability is defined for the purpose of this RFP as a student who is blind or has low vision, who is eligible for and receiving special education services or is a student with a 504 plan, is participating in an educational program, is between the ages of 14 and 21, and has not been determined eligible or ineligible for IDB-VR services.

Any students who participate in Pre-ETS programs must have a signed Iowa Department of the Blind – Vocational Rehabilitation (IDB-VR) Pre-Employment Transition Services Consent and Release Form and have developed a Pre-Employment Transition Services Agreement; or have been determined eligible for IDB-VR services and have developed an Individualized Plan for Employment.

4.3 Scope of Services

Respondent shall implement a Pre-ETS program to students who are blind or have vision loss. The Respondent's program will address one of the following required transition services:

- a. Job Exploration
- b. Enrollment Opportunities Counseling
- c. Work-based Learning Experiences
- d. Workplace Readiness Training
- e. Instruction in Self-Advocacy

Respondent may include more than one program in its Proposal, however, each program will contain only one transition service. The required transition services can be implemented individually (one program) or combined for an individual student or in a group setting (two or more programs implemented at the same time).

4.4 Pre-Employment Transition Services

The Pre-ETS listed in Section 4.3 are intended to be the first steps in a continuum of transition services that are general in nature. Pre-ETS should prepare any student with a disability with the necessary skills to be successful in choosing their selected career path or employment. Respondent shall provide varied experiences that engage youth and incorporate peer learning through group activities. Varied experiences include, but are not limited to, fully accessible presentations, interactive discussions, community involvement, networking, and interviews. Any student with a disability will be categorized as either Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) clients or potentially eligible students.

Pre-ETS transition services being requested in this RFP include:

- 4.4.1 Job Exploration Counseling.** Examples of eligible activities include interest and/or career inventories, exploration of relevant career fields and potential jobs, and learning about career opportunities.
- 4.4.2 Enrollment Opportunities Counseling.** Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs at institutions of higher education. May include visits to local community college/post-secondary sites, visits with disability support services or activities designed to assist the individual with planning future areas of study, what type of training is necessary to achieve the goal and where they can access the training).
- 4.4.3 Work-based Learning Experiences.** Examples of eligible activities include work opportunities, paid or unpaid internships, obtaining transferable skills, and summer employment provided in an integrated setting.
- 4.4.4 Workplace Readiness Training.** Provision of workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living. Possible activities include training to develop interpersonal skills, independent living skills and leadership abilities. This could include managing disclosure and how to request accommodations, instruction in employability skills and transportation training.
- 4.4.5 Instruction in Self-Advocacy.** Possible activities include training on how to identify a positive support system, how to self-advocate independently as well as in the presence of support. This activity may include peer mentoring.

4.5 Service Dates

Respondent shall be flexible on when services can be provided and work with IDB on setting dates which work for both parties.

4.6 Optional Other Services/Programs for Blind or Low Vision Students

The State reserves the right to add other transition services and training programs of similar nature to the resulting Contract if it is in the best interests of the State. The State will negotiate pricing, terms, and conditions with the Contractor for the additional services and programs at the time of addition and will issue an amendment to the Contract which will be executed by both parties.

SECTION 5 SPECIFICATIONS

Overview

The successful Respondent shall provide the goods and/or services to the State using the Contract in accordance with the specifications as provided in this Section. The Respondent shall address each specification in this Section and indicate whether or not it will comply with the specification. If the context requires more than a yes or no answer or the section specifically indicates, Respondent shall explain how it will comply with the specification. Proposals must address each specification. Merely repeating the specifications may be considered non-responsive and may disqualify the Respondent. Proposals must identify any deviations from the specifications of this RFP or specifications the Respondent cannot satisfy. If the Respondent deviates from or cannot satisfy the specification(s) of this section, the Agency may reject the Proposal.

5.1 Mandatory Specifications

All items listed in this section are Mandatory Specifications. Respondents must mark either **“yes”** or **“no”** to each specification in their Proposals. By indicating **“yes”** a Respondent agrees that it shall comply with that specification throughout the full term of the Contract, if the Respondent is successful. In addition, if specified by the specifications or if the context otherwise requires, the Respondent shall provide references and/or supportive materials to verify the Respondent’s compliance with the specification. The Agency shall have the right to determine whether the supportive information and materials submitted by the Respondent demonstrate the Respondent will be able to comply with the Mandatory Specifications. If the Agency determines the responses and supportive materials do not demonstrate the Respondent will be able to comply with the Mandatory Specifications, the Agency may reject the Proposal.

- 5.1.1** Respondents must have the ability to deliver community-based, culturally competent services in environments accessible to individuals who are blind or have low vision.
- 5.1.2** Respondents must propose a solution which is already adapted for use by individuals who are blind or have low vision.
- 5.1.3** Respondents must have provided the services requested in this RFP to individuals who are blind or have low vision within the last four years.

5.2 Scored Technical Specifications

All items listed below are Scored Technical Specifications. All specifications will be evaluated and scored by the evaluation committee in accordance with Section 6.

5.2.1 Program Transition Service

Respondent shall present information in this Section in the following order for each program included in its Proposal. Respondent may only propose one transition service per program but may propose multiple programs within the same Proposal. Each program shall be a stand-alone program and will be scored separately in Respondent’s Technical proposal. See Section 6 – Evaluation for more information on evaluation and scoring.

1. Type of Transition Service Proposed in the Program

Respondent shall specify the transition service included in the program. Respondent shall provide a response to numbers 2 through 5 below for the program (transition service) being proposed. If multiple programs are being proposed, Respondent shall provide responses to numbers 2 through 5 below separately for each program.

Choose from the following transition services (refer to Section 4.4 for additional details on each service):

- a. **Job Exploration Counseling.** Non-assessment or assessment based activities.
- b. **Enrollment Opportunities Counseling.** May include visits to local community college/post-secondary sites, visits with disability support services or activities designed to assist the individual with planning future areas of study, what type of training is necessary to achieve the goal and where they can access the training)
- c. **Work-based Learning Experiences.** May include in-school or after school opportunities, experiences outside the traditional school setting, and/or internships.
- d. **Workplace Readiness Training.** Develop social skills and independent living.
- e. **Instruction in Self-Advocacy.** This activity may include peer mentoring.

Respondent shall provide a response to Sections 2 through 5 below for each program submitted in a Proposal. Each program shall have a separate response in the Proposal.

2. Program Narrative

Respondent shall provide a narrative description of what will be provided in the program's transition service which includes:

- a. When the program will be offered (evenings, weekends, after school, or in-school)
- b. Where the program will be offered
- c. The length of program – number of days, weeks, hours per day/session
- d. A curriculum outline for the days or sessions the transition service will be offered describing the information or activities that will be provided
- e. A statement of the goal of the proposed activity and the target audience.

3. Program Personnel

Respondent will include a brief overview of the specific experience each staff member involved in the activity or services can provide for the particular program.

4. Program Work Plan

Respondent shall include a clear and realistic program work plan with estimated timelines for all service development and implementation activities for the Pre-ETS authorized activities included for the transition service being proposed.

5. Coordination of Services/Evaluation of the Program

Respondent shall describe the measures to be used to track and evaluate whether the proposed goal and objectives are met for the proposed program. Respondent will provide Evaluation Plans which will need to address the two critical questions below and use a variety of evidence to illustrate the results in terms of participant learning and practical outcomes of the program:

- a. What are the desired outcomes of your program?
- b. How will you measure the outcomes?

5.2.2 Customer Service

Respondent shall describe their response time to questions from IDB related to the services being provided. Please provide your hours of operation and methods of providing customer support.

5.2.3 Reporting

Services delivered during the Contract period shall capture participant's growth and the program outcomes as an aggregate in an annual/final Outcomes Measure Report. Respondent shall provide examples of reports it currently provides for similar programs or sample reports. Do you support ad hoc reporting?

5.2.4 Performance-Based Criteria

Performance-based measures are required to be included in any State contract pursuant with Iowa Code section 8.47 (1) (Iowa Supp. 2001) (2001 Iowa Acts, House file 687, section 5).

- a. Describe any performance-based incentives and disincentives that the Respondent would propose including in the resulting contract.
- b. What standards have you set for Respondent's staff related to the services described in this RFP? How are staff measured?
- c. If external client surveys are done, are the results shared with the staff and Respondent's clients?
- d. What results are shared and how often?

SECTION 6 EVALUATION AND SELECTION
--

6.1 Introduction

This section describes the evaluation process that will be used to determine which Proposal(s) provides the greatest benefit to the State. Agency will not necessarily award the Contract to the Respondent offering the lowest cost to the Agency. Instead, the Agency will award to the Respondent whose Responsive Proposal the Agency believes will provide the best value to the State.

6.2 Evaluation Committee

The Agency will conduct a comprehensive, fair, and impartial evaluation of Proposals received in response to this RFP. The Agency will use an evaluation committee to review and evaluate the Technical Proposals. The evaluation committee will recommend an award based on the results of their evaluation to the Agency or to such other person or entity who must approve the recommendation.

6.3 Technical Proposal Evaluation and Scoring

All Technical Proposals will first be reviewed to determine if they comply with the Mandatory Specifications. The Technical Proposals will then be evaluated and scored as indicated in an addendum, posted on the due date of the RFP, which identifies the points assigned to evaluation criteria and the minimum required technical score.

To be deemed a Responsive Proposal, the Proposal must:

- Answer “Yes” to all parts of Section 5.1 and include supportive materials as required to demonstrate the Respondent will be able to comply with the Mandatory Specifications in that section and
- Obtain the minimum score for the Technical Proposal.

6.4 Technical Proposals Containing Multiple Programs – Scoring

When multiple programs are proposed in the same Proposal, each program will be scored separately in the Technical Proposal for the criteria in Section 5.21. The individual program score will then be added to the remaining technical points for the Proposal to determine the total technical score for the program. This process will be repeated for each program proposed in the same Proposal. A Proposal containing multiple programs will have multiple technical scores because each program is considered a separate Proposal for award purposes.

A program which does not meet the minimum technical score required will be rejected. However, if there are multiple programs submitted in the same proposal, the failure of one program to meet the minimum technical score will not affect the other programs submitted. Each program will be evaluated and scored on its own merits.

6.5 Cost Proposal Scoring

The Cost Proposals will remain sealed during the evaluation of the Technical Proposals and any demonstrations. Only prospective Respondents who obtain the minimum score for their Technical Proposal will be considered during the cost evaluation phase of the review process. When a Technical Proposal does not meet the minimum score, the associated Cost Proposal will

remain unopened and will be returned to the Respondent upon request after the Lead State issues a Notice of Intent to Award the Contract. After the Technical Proposals are evaluated and scored, the Cost Proposals will be opened and scored.

6.6 Cost Proposals Containing Multiple Programs – Scoring

When multiple programs are proposed in the same Proposal, each program will be scored separately in the Cost Proposal based on the total cost submitted for the program. The program cost score will then be combined with the technical score for the program to determine the total score for the program. This process will be repeated for each program proposed in the same Proposal. A Proposal containing multiple programs may have multiple total scores because each program is considered a separate Proposal for award purposes.

6.7 Cost Scoring Process

To assist the Agency in evaluating, Cost Proposals may be evaluated and points awarded as follows:

- 1) The total cost provided for each program proposed in the Cost Proposals will be ranked against other proposed programs from least to most expensive.
- 2) The least expensive program shall receive the maximum number of points available.
- 3) To determine the number of points to be awarded to all other programs in the Cost Proposals, the least expensive program of all of the Cost Proposals submitted will be used in all cases as the numerator. Each of the other programs in the Cost Proposals will be used as the denominator per the example below.
- 4) The percentage will then be multiplied by the maximum number of available points and the resulting number will be the cost points awarded to other compliant Respondents. Percentages and points will be rounded to the nearest whole value.

Example:

Respondent A quotes \$35,000, Respondent B quotes \$45,000, and Respondent C quotes \$65,000. (All proposals in this example proposed a single program.)

Respondent A: $\frac{\$35,000}{\$35,000}$ = receives 100% of available points on cost.

Respondent B: $\frac{\$35,000}{\$45,000}$ = receives 78% of available points on cost.

Respondent C: $\frac{\$35,000}{\$65,000}$ = receives 54% of available points on cost.

6.8 Total Score

The compliant Respondent's Technical Proposal points will be added to its Cost Proposal points to obtain the total points awarded for the Proposal.

6.9 Tied Score and Preferences

- 6.9.1** An award shall be determined by a drawing when responses are received that are equal in all respects and tied in price. Whenever it is practical to do so, the drawing will be held in the presence of the Respondents who are tied in price. Otherwise the drawing will be made in front of at least three non-interested parties. All drawings shall be documented.
- 6.9.2** Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a tied score involves an Iowa-based Respondent or products produced within the State of Iowa and a Respondent based or products produced outside the State of Iowa, the Iowa Respondent will receive preference. If a tied score involves one or more Iowa Respondents and one or more Respondents outside the state of Iowa, a drawing will be held among the Iowa Respondents only.
- 6.9.3** In the event of a tied score between Iowa Respondents, the Agency shall contact the Iowa Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) committee for confirmation and verification as to whether the Respondents have complied with ESGR standards. Preference, in the case of a tied score, shall be given to Iowa Respondents complying with ESGR standards.
- 6.9.4** Second preference in tied scores will be given to Respondents based in the United States or products produced in the United States over Respondents based or products produced outside the United States.
- 6.9.5** Preferences required by applicable statute or rule shall also be applied, where appropriate.

SECTION 7 CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

7.1 Contract Terms and Conditions

The Contract that the Agency expects to award as a result of this RFP shall comprise the specifications, terms and conditions of the RFP, written clarifications or changes made by the Agency to the RFP through an amendment to the RFP in accordance with the provisions of the RFP, the General Terms and Conditions, the offer of the successful Respondent contained in its Proposal, and any other terms deemed necessary by the Agency. No objection or amendment by a Respondent to the provisions or terms and conditions of the RFP or the General Terms and Conditions shall be incorporated into the Contract unless Agency has explicitly accepted the Respondent's objection or amendment in writing.

The Contract terms and conditions in this Section 7 and the General Terms and Conditions will be incorporated into the Contract. The General Terms and Conditions may be supplemented at the time of contract execution and are provided to enable Respondents to better evaluate the costs associated with the RFP specifications and the Contract. All costs associated with complying with these specifications should be included in any pricing quoted by the Respondent.

By submitting a Proposal, Respondent acknowledges its acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFP and the General Terms and Conditions without change except as otherwise expressly stated in its Proposal. If the Respondent takes exception to a provision, it must identify it by page and section number, state the reason for the exception, and set forth in its Proposal the specific RFP or General Terms and Conditions language it proposes to include in place of the provision. If Respondent's exceptions or proposed responses materially alter the RFP, or if the Respondent submits its own terms and conditions or otherwise fails to follow the process described herein, the Agency may reject the Proposal, in its sole discretion.

The Agency reserves the right to either award a Contract(s) without further negotiation with the successful Respondent or to negotiate Contract terms with the successful Respondent if the best interests of the State would be served.

7.2 Special Terms

A signed contract will be required before services begin. All contracted services must be completed within the contract dates. No expenses will be paid for services completed outside of the contract dates, including preparation costs.

7.3 Contract Length

The term of the Contract will begin and end on the dates indicated on the RFP cover sheet. The Agency shall have the sole option to renew the Contract upon the same or more favorable terms and conditions for up to the number of annual extensions identified on the RFP cover sheet.

7.4 Insurance

The Contract will require the successful Respondent to maintain insurance coverage(s) in accordance with the insurance provisions of the General Terms and Conditions and of the type and in the minimum amounts set forth below, unless otherwise required by the Agency.

Type of Insurance	LIMIT	AMOUNT
General Liability (including contractual liability) written on an occurrence basis	General Aggregate Products – Comp/Op Aggregate Personal injury Each Occurrence	\$2 million \$1 Million \$1 Million \$1 Million
Automobile Liability (including contractual liability) written on an occurrence basis	Combined single limit	\$1 Million
Excess Liability, Umbrella Form	Each Occurrence Aggregate	\$1 Million \$1 Million
Errors and Omissions Insurance	Each Occurrence	\$1 Million
Property Damage	Each Occurrence Aggregate	\$1 Million \$1 Million
Workers Compensation and Employer Liability	As Required by Iowa law	A required by Iowa law

Acceptance of the insurance certificates by the Department shall not act to relieve Contractor of any obligation under this Contract. It shall be the responsibility of Contractor to keep the respective insurance policies and coverages current and in force during the life of this Contract. Contractor shall be responsible for all premiums, deductibles and for any inadequacy, absence or limitation of coverage, and the Contractor shall have no claim or other recourse against the State or the Department for any costs or loss attributable to any of the foregoing, all of which shall be borne solely by the Contractor. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Contract, Contractor shall be fully responsible and liable for meeting and fulfilling all of its obligations under this section of the Contract.

Attachment # 1
Certification Letter

Alterations to this document are prohibited, see section 2.12.14.

[Date]

Nancy Wheelock, Issuing Officer
Iowa Department of Administrative Services
1305 E. Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Re: RFP1119131054 - PROPOSAL CERTIFICATIONS

Dear Nancy:

I certify that the contents of the Proposal submitted on behalf of **[Name of Respondent]** _____ (Respondent) in response to **Iowa Department of Administrative Services** for RFP 1119131054 for Pre-Employment Transition Services are true and accurate. I also certify that Respondent has not knowingly made any false statements in its Proposal.

Certification of Independence

I certify that I am a representative of Respondent expressly authorized to make the following certifications in behalf of Respondent. By submitting a Proposal in response to the RFP, I certify in behalf of the Respondent the following:

1. The Proposal has been developed independently, without consultation, communication or agreement with any employee or consultant to the Agency or with any person serving as a member of the evaluation committee.
2. The Proposal has been developed independently, without consultation, communication or agreement with any other Respondent or parties for the purpose of restricting competition.
3. Unless otherwise required by law, the information found in the Proposal has not been and will not be knowingly disclosed, directly or indirectly prior to Agency's issuance of the Notice of Intent to Award the contract.
4. No attempt has been made or will be made by Respondent to induce any other Respondent to submit or not to submit a Proposal for the purpose of restricting competition.
5. No relationship exists or will exist during the contract period between Respondent and the Agency or any other State agency that interferes with fair competition or constitutes a conflict of interest.

Certification Regarding Debarment

6. I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, neither Respondent nor any of its principals: (a) are presently or have been debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by a Federal Agency or State Agency; (b) have within a three year period preceding this Proposal been convicted of, or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud, a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction, violation of antitrust statutes; commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; (c) are presently indicted for or criminally or civilly charged by a

government entity (federal, state, or local) with the commission of any of the offenses enumerated in (b) of this certification; and (d) have not within a three year period preceding this Proposal had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which the Agency has relied upon when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that Respondent knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available, the Agency may pursue available remedies including suspension, debarment, or termination of the contract.

Certification Regarding Registration, Collection, and Remission of Sales and Use Tax

7. Pursuant to *Iowa Code sections 423.2(10) and 423.5(4) (2016)* a retailer in Iowa or a retailer maintaining a business in Iowa that enters into a contract with a state agency must register, collect, and remit Iowa sales tax and Iowa use tax levied under *Iowa Code chapter 423* on all sales of tangible personal property and enumerated services. The Act also requires Respondents to certify their compliance with sales tax registration, collection, and remission requirements and provides potential consequences if the certification is false or fraudulent.

By submitting a Proposal in response to the (RFP), the Respondent certifies the following: (check the applicable box)

- ☐ Respondent is registered with the Iowa Department of Revenue, collects, and remits Iowa sales and use taxes as required by *Iowa Code Chapter 423*; or
- ☐ Respondent is not a “retailer” or a “retailer maintaining a place of business in this state” as those terms are defined in *Iowa Code subsections 423.1(47) and (48)(2016)*.

Respondent also acknowledges that the Agency may declare the Respondent’s Proposal or resulting contract void if the above certification is false. The Respondent also understands that fraudulent certification may result in the Agency or its representative filing for damages for breach of contract in addition to other remedies available to Agency.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name and Title of Authorized Representative

Date

Attachment #2
Authorization to Release Information Letter
Alterations to this document are prohibited, see section 2.12.14.

[Date]

Nancy Wheelock, Issuing Officer
Iowa Department of Administrative Services
1305 E. Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Re: RFP 1119131054 - AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

Dear Nancy:

[Name of Respondent]_____ **(Respondent)** hereby authorizes the Iowa Department of Administrative Services ("Agency") or a member of the Evaluation Committee to obtain information regarding its performance on other contracts, agreements or other business arrangements, its business reputation, and any other matter pertinent to evaluation and the selection of a successful Respondent in response to RFP 1119131054.

The Respondent acknowledges that it may not agree with the information and opinions given by such person or entity in response to a reference request. The Respondent acknowledges that the information and opinions given by such person or entity may hurt its chances to receive contract awards from the State or may otherwise hurt its reputation or operations. The Respondent is willing to take that risk.

The Respondent hereby releases, acquits and forever discharges the State of Iowa, the Agency, their officers, directors, employees and agents from any and all liability whatsoever, including all claims, demands and causes of action of every nature and kind affecting the undersigned that it may have or ever claim to have relating to information, data, opinions, and references obtained by the Agency or the Evaluation Committee in the evaluation and selection of a successful Respondent in response to the RFP.

The Respondent authorizes representatives of the Agency or the Evaluation Committee to contact any and all of the persons, entities, and references which are, directly or indirectly, listed, submitted, or referenced in the Respondent's Proposal submitted in response to RFP.

The Respondent further authorizes any and all persons and entities to provide information, data, and opinions with regard to its performance under any contract, agreement, or other business arrangement, its ability to perform, business reputation, and any other matter pertinent to the evaluation of the Respondent's Proposal. The Respondent hereby releases, acquits and forever discharges any such person or entity and their officers, directors, employees and agents from any and all liability whatsoever, including all claims, demands and causes of action of every nature and kind affecting the Respondent that it may have or ever claim to have relating to information, data, opinions, and references supplied to the Agency or the Evaluation Committee in the evaluation and selection of a successful Respondent in response to RFP.

A photocopy or facsimile of this signed Authorization is as valid as an original.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name and Title of Authorized Representative	Date
---	------

Attachment #3
Form 22 – Request for Confidentiality
SUBMISSION OF THIS FORM 22 IS REQUIRED

THIS FORM 22 (FORM) MUST BE COMPLETED AND INCLUDED WITH YOUR PROPOSAL. THIS FORM 22 IS REQUIRED WHETHER THE PROPOSAL DOES OR DOES NOT CONTAIN INFORMATION FOR WHICH CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT WILL BE REQUESTED. FAILURE TO SUBMIT A COMPLETED FORM 22 WILL RESULT IN THE PROPOSAL TO BE CONSIDERED NON-RESPONSIVE AND ELIMINATED FROM EVALUATION. COMPLETE PART 1 OF THIS FORM 22 IF PROPOSAL DOES NOT CONTAIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. COMPLETE PART 2 OF THIS FORM 22 IF PROPOSAL DOES CONTAIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.

1. Confidential Treatment Is Not Requested

A Respondent not requesting confidential treatment of information contained in its Proposal shall complete Part 1 of Form 22 and submit a signed Form 22 Part 1 with the Proposal.

2. Confidential Treatment of Information is Requested

A Respondent requesting confidential treatment of specific information shall: (1) fully complete and sign Part 2 of Form 22, (2) conspicuously mark the outside of its Proposal as containing confidential information, (3) mark each page upon which the Respondent believes confidential information appears **and CLEARLY IDENTIFY EACH ITEM for which confidential treatment is requested; MARKING A PAGE IN THE PAGE MARGIN IS NOT SUFFICIENT IDENTIFICATION**, and (4) submit a “Public Copy” from which the confidential information has been excised.

Form 22 will not be considered fully complete unless, for each confidentiality request, the Respondent: (1) enumerates the specific grounds in Iowa Code Chapter 22 or other applicable law that supports treatment of the information as confidential, (2) justifies why the information should be maintained in confidence, (3) explains why disclosure of the information would not be in the best interest of the public, and (4) sets forth the name, address, telephone, and e-mail for the person authorized by Respondent to respond to inquiries by the Agency concerning the confidential status of such information.

The Public Copy from which confidential information has been excised is in addition to the number of copies requested in Section 3 of this RFP. The confidential information must be excised in such a way as to allow the public to determine the general nature of the information removed and to retain as much of the Proposal as possible.

Failure to request information be treated as confidential as specified herein shall relieve Agency and State personnel from any responsibility for maintaining the information in confidence. Respondents may not request confidential treatment with respect to pricing information and transmittal letters. A Respondent’s request for confidentiality that does not comply with this form or a Respondent’s request for confidentiality on information or material that cannot be held in confidence as set forth herein are grounds for rejecting Respondent’s Proposal as non-responsive. Requests to maintain an entire Proposal as confidential will be rejected as non-responsive.

If Agency receives a request for information that Respondent has marked as confidential and if a judicial or administrative proceeding is initiated to compel the release of such information, Respondent shall, at its sole expense, appear in such action and defend its request for confidentiality. If Respondent fails to do so, Agency may release the information or material with or without providing advance notice to Respondent and with or without affording Respondent the opportunity to obtain an order restraining its release from a court possessing competent jurisdiction. Additionally, if Respondent fails to comply with the request process set forth herein, if Respondent’s request for confidentiality is unreasonable, or if Respondent rescinds its request for confidential treatment, Agency may release such information or material with or without providing advance notice to Respondent and with or without affording Respondent the opportunity to obtain an order restraining its release from a court possessing competent jurisdiction.

Part 1 – No Confidential Information Provided

Confidential Treatment Is Not Requested

Respondent acknowledges that proposal response contains no confidential, secret, privileged, or proprietary information. There is no request for confidential treatment of information contained in this proposal response.

This Form must be signed by the individual who signed the Respondent's Proposal. The Respondent shall place this Form completed and signed in its Proposal.

- ***Fill in and sign the following if you have provided no confidential information. If signing this Part 1, do not complete Part 2.***

_____ Company	_____ RFP Number	_____ RFP Title
_____ Signature (required)	_____ Title	_____ Date

(Proceed to the next page only if Confidential Treatment is requested.)

Part 2 - Confidential Treatment is Requested

*The below information is to be completed and signed **ONLY** if Respondent is requesting confidential treatment of any information submitted in its Proposal.*

NOTE:

- ***Completion of this Form is the sole means of requesting confidential treatment.***
- ***A RESPONDENT MAY NOT REQUEST PRICING INFORMATION IN PROPOSALS BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE.***

Completion of the Form and Agency's acceptance of Respondent's submission does not guarantee the agency will grant Respondent's request for confidentiality. The Agency may reject Respondent's Proposal entirely in the event Respondent requests confidentiality and does not submit a fully completed Form or requests confidentiality for portions of its Proposal that are improper under the RFP.

Please provide the information in the table below. Respondent may add additional lines if necessary or add additional pages using the same format as the table below.

RFP Section:	Respondent must cite the specific grounds in <i>Iowa Code Chapter 22</i> or other applicable law which supports treatment of the information as confidential.	Respondent must justify why the information should be kept in confidence.	Respondent must explain why disclosure of the information would not be in the best interest of the public.	Respondent must provide the name, address, telephone, and email for the person at Respondent's organization authorized to respond to inquiries by the Agency concerning the status of confidential information.

This Form must be signed by the individual who signed the Respondent's Proposal. The Respondent shall place this Form completed and signed in its Proposal. A copy of this document shall be placed in all Proposals submitted including the Public Copy.

- ***If confidentiality is requested, failure to provide the information required on this Form may result in rejection of Respondent's submittal to request confidentiality or rejection of the Proposal as being non-responsive.***
- ***Please note that this Form is to be completed and signed only if you are submitting a request for confidential treatment of any information submitted in your Proposal. If signing this Part 2, do not complete Part 1.***

Company

RFP Number

RFP Title

Signature (required)

Title

Date

Attachment #4
Response Check List

RFP REFERENCE SECTION	RESPONSE INCLUDED		LOCATION OF RESPONSE
	Yes	No	
Technical Proposal			
3. One (1) Original and One (1) Digital copy of the Technical Proposal			
3. One (1) Public Copy with Confidential Information Excised			
3. Transmittal Letter			
3. Table of Contents			
3. Executive Summary			
3. Specifications			
3. Respondent Background Information			
3. Experience			
3. Key Personnel			
3. Terminations			
3. Acceptance of Terms and Conditions			
3. Certification Letter			
3. Authorization to Release Information			
3. Firm Proposal Terms			
5. Mandatory Specifications			
5. Scored Technical Specifications			
Form 22 – Request for Confidentiality (completed)			
Cost Proposal – One (1) Original & One (1) Digital copy of the Cost Proposal			

ATTACHMENT #5

Payment Terms

Per *Iowa Code § 8A.514* the State of Iowa is allowed sixty (60) days to pay an invoice submitted by a vendor.

What discount will you give for payment in 15 days?

What discount will you give for payment in 30 days?

Cost Proposal

Respondent's Cost Proposal shall include an all-inclusive, itemized, total cost in U.S. Dollars (**including all travel, expenses, etc. in prices**). All pricing to be FOB Destination, freight cost and all expenses included; and based on Net 60 Days Payment Terms. The following template is required. Please use additional pages to provide any additional narrative support for the costing information.

Deliverable Item	Firm US Dollars
Provide an All-Inclusive Total Cost for Each Program and the number of Students served. Do not combine costs between programs if multiple Programs were proposed in the same Proposal. <i>(Please clearly identify each program (transition service) if more than one is proposed.)</i>	
TOTAL COST:	