



**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
PO Box 45811, Olympia WA 98504-5811**

DATE: May 4, 2016  
TO: RFQQ # 1623-594 Bidders  
FROM: Sarah Pendleton, Solicitation Coordinator  
DSHS Central Contracts and Legal Services  
SUBJECT: Amendment No. 1– Bidder’s Q & A

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DSHS amends the ITPS # 1623-594 solicitation document to respond to an urgent Bidder Question below:

**Bidder's Questions and Answers**  
**RFQQ #1624-599**

**Question:**

Thank you for including my firm on this solicitation notice. Without going too deep into the requirements, one sentence in Section 1 gave me pause for investing much additional effort:

“DSHS hopes to procure a hosted commercially-available software product from the original software system developer.”

The amount of effort to develop and submit a proposal for a complex program management system is too substantial when it is made clear that a satisfactory response by an incumbent is preferred. If this is not DSHS's intent, then that needs to be made clear ASAP, for there is very little time to respond to this RFP, especially after the DSHS response date of May 18. It would also restore confidence in this bid process to know if the incumbent is still a candidate for the new system (i.e. are they still in business, will DSHS).

**Answer:**

**DSHS carefully developed its RFQQ document to describe as completely as possible what it needs to meet the requirements of its funding sources, other obligations and information assessment, and followed all laws and policies encouraging and governing fair and open competition by all state agencies. No preference was intended or implied. The incumbent is eligible to submit a response to this solicitation if they choose to do so, as this is an open solicitation process.**

**To provide clarification, the sentence to which you are referring should read “DSHS hopes to procure a hosted, commercially available software (COTS) system from an original software system manufacturer/developer.”**

**In other words, we are hoping to procure a hosted COTS product from an original software system manufacturer/developer, to replace the existing system that would not require additional customizations to the COTS system itself.**

**Please also refer to Section A (2) – Background, of the RFQQ document. It states the following:**

**“REASON FOR THIS SOLICITATION: The primary driver for a system replacement is the software vendor's planned sun-setting provisions for the current system. The desired solution will provide an opportunity for operational improvements and refinement, will collect data for new funding sources (DMA, Partnership for Success, and other future sources), and will improve overall process efficiency.”**

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All other terms and conditions in this Solicitation remain the same.