



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 45811, Olympia, Washington 98504-5811**

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
AND WEBS POSTING**

December 5, 2022

Angela Hamilton
CEO Hamilton Staffing Solutions
250 Mohawk Road, Clement, FL 34715
(angela.h@hamiltonstaffingsolutions.com)

Thomas R. Darnell
Member, Responder 1st, LLC
(tdarnell@medmobilizer.com)

**RE: Complaint re Request for Qualifications #2213-820
Temporary Contract Nurse Staffing Services**

Dear Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Darnell:

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) received your complaints on November 22, 2022 and November 29, 2022. The Department takes very seriously concerns regarding the fairness and openness of our procurement processes. We strive always to ensure that our procurement processes are fair, open and transparent.

The purpose of the complaint period in the competitive solicitation process is to allow bidders to raise issues with the process early enough to allow an agency to correct a problem before bids are submitted, and time is expended on evaluations. See [DES Policy #DES-170-00\(3\)](#).

Your complaints contend that the Minimum Qualifications in the Department's RFQ #2213-820 for Temporary Contract Nurse Staffing Services unnecessarily restrict competition. These minimum qualifications in the RFQ are:

1. Bidder must have at least three (3) years experience providing Temporary Contract Nurse Staffing Services.
2. Bidder must have secured a minimum of twenty (20) Temporary Contract Nurse Staffing Assignments in the State of Washington.

DSHS has determined that, although the minimum qualifications as listed in the RFQ are reasonable, the Department is better served and will be able to receive a more diverse and deeper bidder pool, if these minimum qualifications are removed. Instead of being a minimum qualification, those two items will now be scored criteria with respect to the evaluation process as detailed in this Complaint response as well as Amendment #2 to

the RFQ.

Specifically, these new evaluated items will be scored accordingly:

1. Years of experience:
 - Less than one year = 0 points
 - 1-2 years = 5 points
 - 3-5 years = 10 points
 - 6+ years = 20 points

Maximum Total Points = 20

2. Number of Secured assignments in Washington will be scored as follows:
 - 0 secured assignments = 0 points
 - 1-5 secured assignments = 5 points
 - 6-10 secured assignments = 10 points
 - 11-19 secured assignments = 15 points
 - 20+ secured assignments = 20 points

Maximum Total Points = 20

These two additional scored items will bring the overall possible written evaluation point total to a maximum of 140 points (as compared to 100 points when these two items were being reviewed as minimum qualifications).

An updated Attachment D (Bidder's Response Form) reflecting the above scoring changes has been added as part of the amendment process to the RFQ.

Additionally, DSHS has extended the RFP bid submission deadline from December 12, 2022 to December 28, 2022 to allow for additional feedback and enhanced competition in response to these Complaints.


As such, DSHS has posted an amendment including these changes and the complaint response along with responding to the complaint originator as directed by policy. A copy of the amendment is enclosed for reference.

We appreciate you bringing your concerns to our attention.

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Thank you for your interest in this solicitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James O'Brien".

James O'Brien
Solicitation Coordinator, DSHS Central Contracts & Legal Services

cc: William Taplin, Chief of Contracts and Legal Services