



**Solicitation Information
September 19, 2016**

RFI# 7550959

TITLE: Reducing Unintended Pregnancies by Improving Access to Comprehensive Information of Contraceptive Options

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 17, 2016 at 10:00 AM

PRE-BID/ PROPOSAL CONFERENCE: NO

Questions concerning this solicitation must be received by the Division of Purchases at david.francis@purchasing.ri.gov no later than **September 28, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ET)**. Questions should be submitted in a *Microsoft Word attachment*. Please reference the RFI # on all correspondence. Questions received, if any, will be posted on the Internet as an addendum to this solicitation. It is the responsibility of all interested parties to download this information.

**David J. Francis
Interdepartmental Project Manager**

**Division of Purchases
RI Department of Administration**

Vendors must register on line at the State Purchasing Website at www.purchasing.ri.gov

NOTE TO VENDORS:

Offers received without the entire completed three-page R.I.V.I.P. Generated Bidder Certification Form attached may result in disqualification.

THIS PAGE IS NOT A BIDDER CERTIFICATION FORM

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Rhode Island Division of Purchases (“Division”), on behalf of the State of Rhode Island Department of Health, is issuing this Request for Information (“RFI”) to seek input on strategies that could reduce unintended pregnancies and the associated health and education outcomes. A wide range of organizations are welcome to respond, including but not limited to healthcare providers, nonprofit and private service providers, community based organizations, hospital systems, managed care organizations, and clinicians.

This is a Request for Information (RFI). No award will be made as a result of this solicitation.

1.1 INSTRUCTIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS TO OFFERORS:

1. Potential vendors are advised to review all sections of this RFI carefully and to follow instructions completely, as failure to make a complete submission as described elsewhere herein may result in rejection of the proposal.
2. The State invites feedback from the community on any questions posed in this RFI. Please note it is not a requirement to answer all questions.
3. Alternative approaches and/or methodologies to accomplish the desired or intended results of this RFI are solicited.
4. This is a Request for Information (RFI), and as such no award will be made as a result of this solicitation.
5. All costs associated with developing or submitting responses to this RFI, or to provide oral or written clarification of its content shall be borne by the vendor. The State assumes no responsibility for any costs.
6. Responses misdirected to other state locations, or which are otherwise not present in the Division at the time of opening for any cause will be determined to be late and will not be considered. For the purposes of this requirement, the official time and date shall be that of the time clock in the reception area of the Division.
7. Respondents are advised that all materials submitted to the State for consideration in response to this RFI will not be considered to be Public Records as defined in Title 38, Chapter 2 of the General Laws of Rhode Island. The responses may only be released for inspection upon RFI once an award of a subsequent procurement has been made, as long as the release will not place the State at a competitive disadvantage in its sole discretion.
8. Interested parties are instructed to peruse the Division of Purchases website on a regular basis, as additional information relating to this solicitation may be released in the form of an addendum to this RFI.

9. Equal Employment Opportunity (G.L. 1956 § 28-5.1-1, et seq.) – § 28-5.1-1 Declaration of policy – (a) Equal opportunity and affirmative action toward its achievement is the policy of all units of Rhode Island state government, including all public and quasi-public agencies, commissions, boards and authorities, and in the classified, unclassified, and non-classified services of state employment. This policy applies to all areas where State dollars are spent, in employment, public services, grants and financial assistance, and in state licensing and regulation. For further information, contact the Rhode Island Equal Opportunity Office at (401) 222-3090.
10. In accordance with Title 7, Chapter 1.2 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, no foreign corporation, a corporation without a Rhode Island business address, shall have the right to transact business in the State until it shall have procured a Certificate of Authority to do so from the Rhode Island Secretary of State (401-222-3040). This is a requirement only of the successful vendor(s).
11. The vendor should be aware of the State's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) requirements, which address the State's goal of ten percent (10%) participation by MBE's in all State procurements. For further information, contact the MBE Administrator at (401) 574-8253 or visit the website www.mbe.ri.gov or contact charles.newton@doa.ri.gov.

This RFI outlines the type of information being solicited from potential respondents and includes guidelines for content and format of responses.

2. REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES FOR QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

2.1 QUESTIONS

Questions concerning this RFI may be e-mailed to the Division of Purchases at david.francis@purchasing.ri.gov no later than the date and time indicated on page one of this RFI. Please reference RFI # **7550959** on all correspondence. Questions should be submitted in a Microsoft Word attachment. Answers to questions received, if any, will be posted on the Internet as an addendum to this RFI. It is the responsibility of all interested parties to download this information. If technical assistance is required to download, call the Help Desk at (401) 574-8100.

Offerors are encouraged to submit written questions to the Division of Purchases. **No other contact with State parties regarding this RFI should be attempted.** Responses to this RFI should be submitted on or before the date listed on the cover page. Responses received after this date and time, as registered by the official time clock in the reception area of the Division of Purchases may not be considered.

2.2 RESPONSES

Submit one (1) original and two (2) copies, and one electronic copy of responses by the date and time stated on page one of this RFI. Submissions should be single spaced on 8 ½” by 11” pages with 1” margins using Times Roman 12 font.

Responses (an original plus six (6) copies/one electronic copy) must be mailed or hand-delivered in a sealed envelope marked “**RFI# 7550959 Reducing Unintended Pregnancies by Improving Access to Comprehensive Information of Contraceptive Options**” to:

RI Department of Administration
Division of Purchases, 2nd floor
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5855

NOTE: Responses received after the above-referenced due date and time will not be considered. Responses misdirected to other State locations or those not presented to the Division of Purchases by the scheduled due date and time will be determined to be late and will not be considered.

Responses faxed, or emailed, to the Division of Purchases will not be considered. The official time clock is in the reception area of the Division of Purchases.

Based on the responses, Rhode Island may invite a vendor to present their approach and demonstrate their technical solution.

3. BACKGROUND

Unintended pregnancies, defined as pregnancies that are either mistimed or unwanted, are associated with a range of maternal and child health outcomes. While rates have been dropping nationally for decades, still nearly 40% Rhode Island mothers reported that their pregnancy was unintended in 2011.

Some evidence suggests that unintended pregnancies are reduced when women have access to comprehensive information regarding contraceptive options. In an effort to reduce negative maternal and child health outcomes, Rhode Island is exploring ways to ensure that this critical reproductive health information is available to everyone.

For more information on unintended pregnancies in RI, see the Rhode Island Department of Health Unintended Pregnancy Issue Brief at <http://health.ri.gov/publications/issuebriefs/2015UnintendedPregnancyAmongWomenInRhodeIsland.pdf>.

4. PURPOSE

This RFI is exploratory in nature. Responses to this RFI will support and inform the State’s effort to develop the most effective model for reducing unintended pregnancies and the associated health and education outcomes.

5. INFORMATION SOLICITED

The State recognizes the importance of stakeholder input and welcomes responses to the questions below. *Respondents may choose to reply to all or a subset of questions, based on interest and/or relevance.* Although these questions have been designed as a guide, respondents are encouraged to provide additional feedback that may be helpful. Any assumptions that respondents are making with respect to comments or recommendations should be included. It is hoped that clear, innovative, and concrete ideas will be provided.

A. Intervention Structure

- i. What intervention(s) aimed at reducing unintended pregnancies (mistimed or unwanted) currently exist that have demonstrated success?
- ii. What is the empirical evidence to support the intervention(s)?
- iii. Describe any triage tool and/or risk-stratification approaches for determining who exhibits the greatest need for the proposed interventions (i.e. the target population).
- iv. What additional information or analysis is necessary to determine the appropriateness of the intervention(s) or the characteristics and size of the state's target population?

B. Monitoring and Evaluation

- i. Describe outcome metrics that could be measured and used to evaluate the success of the interventions.
- ii. Describe the process by which the necessary data would be collected and analyzed.

C. Involved Parties

- i. What barriers might service providers face in implementing the intervention(s)?
- ii. Describe any technical assistance and support the service providers would require.
- iii. Describe the public and private partners (e.g., state agencies, Medicaid managed care organizations, service providers, etc.) that would be necessary to execute the intervention and evaluation. Explain the role that each entity would play throughout the program.

D. Budget Considerations

- i. Describe the potential costs, including a cost per person estimate.
- ii. Describe any government/public sector benefits and avoided costs that could be achieved as a result of implementing the program.

E. Innovative Financing and Contracting Mechanisms

Organizations with relevant interest or expertise are invited to submit responses that discuss innovative financing and contracting mechanisms and/or public-private partnerships. Many of these models, such as Pay for Success, allow governments to invest in preventative services and gain information about program effectiveness. More information about Pay for Success can be found in the Appendix.

- i. Describe any necessary considerations regarding the potential of connecting payments to performance, including the application of Social Impact Bonds (SIB).

F. Other Considerations

- i. Describe any other issues or considerations not otherwise covered in this RFI that can assist in developing and implementing an intervention aimed at reducing unintended pregnancies and associated adverse health and education outcomes.

6. DISCLAIMER

This Request for Information is solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a Request for Proposal. All information received in response to the RFI and marked as “Proprietary” will be handled accordingly. Responses to the RFI cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract. No award will be made as a result of this solicitation, and because no award will be made, proposals WILL NOT be in the public domain. Responses to the RFI will not be returned. Respondents are solely responsible for all expenses associated with replying to this RFI.

7. APPENDIX

More Information on Pay for Success

Under a Pay for Success contract, the government pays contract-holders entirely or almost entirely based upon achievement of performance targets. Performance is rigorously measured by comparing the outcomes of individuals referred to the service provider relative to the outcomes of a comparison or control group that is not offered the services; ensuring that taxpayer funds are spent on proven, rather than promised, outcomes.

Independent monitoring and evaluation of outcomes is critical in PFS contracts. Rigorous evaluation systems, which determine if pre-agreed upon targets have been reached, can deepen the State’s understanding of which programs actually work, and findings can be used to improve services throughout Rhode Island. This learning enables the state to spend taxpayer funds more efficiently and scale evidence-based, innovative programs that have been proven to work in Rhode Island.

Additional information on the pay-for-success model can be found at <http://govlab.hks.harvard.edu> .