

State of Illinois

Department of Public Health

Office of Health Protection

Request for Information Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Testing Operations in the State of Illinois

Responses Due: Friday, May 1, 2020

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Purpose and Objective

The State of Illinois, Department of Public Health (IDPH) is seeking information from equipment manufacturers, commercial laboratories, universities and/or any combination thereof through this Request for Information (RFI) to form a public-private partnership with IDPH for setting and managing operations to expand Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Testing for the State of Illinois in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

General Information

This Request for Information (RFI) invites Respondents to submit non-price information about the availability of the specified types of supplies and services herein. The RFI is not a procurement method and will not result in a Respondents receiving a contract (44 Ill. Adm. Code 1.15). Responding to the RFI is not a prerequisite to participate in a future procurement(s) and does not obligate the State to conduct a future procurement. Further, a response to this RFI does not provide any advantages to the Respondent in future contracts that may result from the collection of this information. All information received in a Respondent's response will be available for public review (44 Ill. Adm. Code 1.2050[j]).

Respondents are invited to provide non-proprietary, non-price information within the RFI's Statement of Work. Respondents are prohibited from providing pricing, the details of customized solutions, sample procurement specifications, or any other information outside the scope of the RFI because it could disqualify Respondent from participating in future related procurements (30 ILCS 500/50-10.5[e]).

However, Respondent's may provide general information about industry trends and innovations, products, services or industry best practices that are not specifically tailored to meet the State's needs. For additional information on prohibited versus non-prohibited information, please see 44 Ill. Adm. Code 1.2005(v).

The IDPH is empowered by the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law (Law) [20 ILCS 2310/2310-90] to maintain physical, chemical, bacteriological, and biological laboratories for a variety of programs and purposes, among those, in order to make clinical, diagnostic tests for diseases, and tests for the evaluation of health hazards considered necessary for the protection of the people of the State of Illinois. While IDPH maintains three laboratories, at this time IDPH requires additional capacity to meet the rising demand for necessary testing for the COVID-19 outbreak and is seeking information from qualified laboratory equipment manufacturers, commercial laboratories, universities, and/or any combination thereof to conduct Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing.

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Testing for Operations in the State of Illinois

The State of Illinois, Department of Public Health (IDPH) is seeking information through this Request for Information (RFI) for setting and managing operations to drive the expansion of Polymerase Chain

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Reaction (PCR) testing for Illinois residents. The proposed Statement of Work for prospective services would include:

- Building operations to enable an additional 100,000 molecular diagnostic tests per day. Operations would need to be simple, consistent and scalable to enable a clear path for additional growth of 100,000+ more tests per day as necessary. This Includes:
 - Developing a network design for labs and specimen collection sites
 - Identifying and securing space for labs
 - Identifying and sourcing high-throughput IVD MDx machinery
 - Hiring and training of laboratories' staff
- Managing the operations day-to-day, from specimen collection to results reporting, including:
 - Building and managing a robust supply chain and ensure sufficient inventories of key supplies (VTM, testing kits, swabs, PPE, reagents, etc.) to ensure smooth operations while minimizing bottlenecks
 - Managing all transportation aspects across the supply chain (e.g. , specimen from collection site to lab, distribution of supplies across sites, etc.)
 - Required turnaround time from specimen collection to results reported to patient of up to 24 hours

Milestones and Deliverables

Project milestones and the associated timelines would be negotiated with the successful Respondent should there be a subsequent contract. Milestones and deliverables would be as follows:

- Designing a comprehensive network across Illinois of testing labs based on projected demand to optimize coverage and minimize time from specimen collection to reporting
- Setting up and operationalizing the testing hubs within 3 months from signing a contract
- Setting up and managing a supply chain to support testing labs and collection sites with necessary supplies, and transporting specimen from collection sites to testing labs
- Managing labs operations for processing daily 100,000 Covid-19 tests, while ensuring up to 24 hours between specimen collection to reporting back to patient

Payment would be based on: (i) number of specimens reported; and (ii) overall turnaround time per specimen. The State would pay a premium for faster turnaround times than 24 hours and would consider penalties/adjusted payments for non-performance. The State would also consider the same premiums for setting up operations faster than 3 months, would consider penalties/adjusted payments should the operations not be established within 3 months.

Respondents are asked to provide information about their relevant experience and capabilities in setting up and management of such operations.

Once all responses to this RFI are received, IDPH will create a shortlist based on best positioned Respondents and provide the Respondents with the opportunity to present and demonstrate their capabilities.

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Qualifications

Option #1

- The Respondent shall state their capability to fulfill all the requirements of the Statement of Work. Respondents shall respond “Yes” or “No” and provide a statement of confirmation regarding their response.
- The Respondent shall state whether they have been a viable organization which has provided services similar in nature and scope for a minimum of three years. Respondents shall respond “Yes” or “No” and provide a statement of confirmation regarding their response and evidence.
- The Respondent shall state their capability to set test processing pricing for a 24-month period (no change in price for a minimum of period of twenty-four (24) months). Respondent shall respond “Yes” or “No” and provide a statement of confirmation regarding their response which notes the minimum test processing price period.

Option #2 - Alternate approach to requiring capability information

- Capability information is required with Respondent’s responses. Be advised that IDPH will not issue the Respondent’s organization a Request for Quotation (RFQ) unless the Respondent submits clear and convincing information that the Respondent has the necessary relevant experience and can fulfill the requirements of the Statement of Work. If the Respondent does not adequately address the required information, and IDPH does not have information indicating otherwise, the presumption will be that the Respondent is not a viable organization for conducting the required work. In any case, IDPH is the final arbiter on who receives an RFQ.

Process overview

IDPH will review the responses for the purpose of identifying key concepts and industry trends that may be beneficial to the State in creating a future contract should the State decide to move forward in that direction.

Respondent Submissions

Emailed responses to this RFI are due to IDPH by close of business (5:00 p.m. Central Time) on Friday, 05/01/20 to:

Vicki Wilson
Illinois Department of Public Health
Office of Finance and Administration
Vicki.Wilson@illinois.gov

Responders should submit one electronic copy in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF. The response should be labeled “Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Testing Operations RFI” in the email subject line.

Information regarding this RFI, including updates, will be published on IDPH’s COVID-19 website, <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19>. Procurement information may not be available in any other form

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or location. Respondent is responsible for monitoring the IDPH website. The State will not be held responsible if Respondent fails to receive the optional email notices provided.

Requested Content of Submission/Response

- a) Name of organization(s)
- b) Organization(s) description and market sector(s)
- c) Contact for follow-up regarding this RFI, including:
 - Name
 - Title
 - Address
 - Direct telephone number
 - Email address
- d) Responses to this RFI should include:
 - High-level description of current industry practices that relate to this RFI
 - Potential locations where services would be delivered