

**RFP 17497 – SIMULATION MODELING  
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
November 3, 2017**

**Question #1**

**Corresponding Section:** Section 2.1, paragraph 2

**Question:** Who is the current provider of the services requested in this RFP and how long has this firm been providing services?

**DOH Response:** *The Urban Institute is the current provider of simulation modeling services for NY State of Health (NYSOH). The Urban Institute has been providing simulation modeling services to NYSOH since 2012.*

**Question #2**

**Corresponding Section:** Section 2.1, paragraph 2

**Question:** Are there any issues with current service provider?

**DOH Response:** *No*

**Question #3**

**Corresponding Section:** Section 2.2

**Question:** A document labeled “Attachment A” submitted by bidder with this RFP, includes the bidder’s proposed exceptions to the contract with the New York State Department of Health (requested to be submitted during the Written Question portion of the RFP, and provided separately in Word for convenience). [The “Attachment A” submitted by bidder is annexed to the Questions and Answers and incorporated herein by reference].

**DOH Response:** *The proposed exceptions to the contract submitted by a potential bidder in the annexed document labeled “Attachment A” are not accepted.*

*As set forth in Section 2.2 of the RFP Bidders must submit Attachment A of the RFP, the Bidder’s Certifications/Acknowledgement, which includes a statement that the bidder accepts, without any added conditions, qualifications or exceptions, the contract terms and conditions contained in the RFP including any exhibits and attachments.*

*DOH reserves the right to negotiate terms of the contract that are non-material with the successful bidder, within the scope of the RFP in the best interests of the State.*

**Question #4**

**Corresponding Section:** Section 3.0

**Question:** Two actuarial firms with ample experience in private sector modeling are interested in bidding as a team. Section 3.0 (Bidder Qualifications) in page 4 seems to require experience in state simulation modeling. Given the fact that actuarial principles are the same, and also given

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the fact that the interested companies own a large amount of modeling data at the national level (including NY), is it the case that these firms are precluded from responding the RFP?

**DOH Response:** *The RFP requires the Qualified Bidder to have experience in performing state-specific simulation modeling, although that experience does not need to be state modeling specific to NY. Interested parties should review their experience against these requirements.*

**Question #5**

**Corresponding Section:** Section 4.1, paragraph 1

**Question:** How were the 2,400 hours per contract year estimated?

**DOH Response:** *These hours are estimated hours based upon historical usage.*

**Question #6**

**Corresponding Section:** Section 4.1, paragraph 1

**Question:** How many projects will be requested per year, approximately?

**DOH Response:** *The contractor should anticipate one update of modeling following the end of the annual open enrollment period. The number of other projects will depend on factors outside the control of the Department of Health, including the actions of the executive and legislative branches of the federal and State governments.*

**Question #7**

**Corresponding Section:** Section 4.1.1, paragraph 1

**Question:** Does the requested modeling include evaluating impacts to all *health* insurance markets in NY, including Medicaid and NY's Basic Health Plan? Or is it limited only to the individual and small group health insurance markets in NY?

**DOH Response:** *The requested modeling includes evaluating impacts to all health insurance coverage types in NY; it is not limited to the individual and small group health insurance markets in NY.*

**Question #8**

**Corresponding Section:** Section 4.1.1, paragraph 1

**Question:** "The contractor will use data provided by the DOH and other relevant administrative and survey data at its disposal..." Please list the names of the data sources that will be made available by the DOH for this project.

**DOH Response:** *DOH will provide the contractor with relevant aggregate NYSOH and Medicaid eligibility and enrollment data, including aggregate demographic data where available and appropriate to the modeling.*

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**Question #9**

**Corresponding Section:** Section 4.1.1, paragraph 1

**Question:** We understand there may be some time required to obtain access to required data sources. Please estimate about how much time might be required to obtain access.

**DOH Response:** *DOH will provide the contractor extracts of data, which will preclude the need for the contractor to obtain access to it directly. Task orders requested by DOH will take into consideration the time required to provide the data for the deliverables requested in the task order.*

**Question #10**

**Corresponding Section:** Sections 4.1.1 – 4.1.4

**Question:** Would the vendor be expected to provide any models used for analysis or just the output of the analysis?

**DOH Response:** *A contractor may be required to provide the Department with data, key assumptions, summaries, and outputs including reports.*

**Question #11**

**Corresponding Section:** Section 4.3, paragraph 1

**Question:** How many of the staff are required to be credentialed (ASA or FSA) actuaries, if any?

**DOH Response:** *There are no specific staff requirements regarding actuaries. See Section 4.3 of the RFP for the preferred qualifications of staff.*

**Question #12**

**Corresponding Section:** Section 4.3, paragraph 1

**Question:** Are there other credentials for staff required/recommended?

**DOH Response:** *There are no specific staff credentials required/recommended. See Section 4.3 of the RFP for the preferred qualifications of staff.*

**Question #13**

**Corresponding Section:** Section 5.2, paragraph 1

**Question:** Can we receive Q&A responses asked by other potential bidders?

**DOH Response:** *Yes. Questions and Answers from all potential bidders will be posted online.*

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**Question #14**

**Corresponding Section:** Attachment L

**Question:** Would bidders who also perform work for other licensed health insurers in the State of New York be considered a conflict of interest for purposes of this contract?

**DOH Response:** *Bidders are subject to the Conflict of Interest provisions in the RFP and State of New York contract, including providing the Vendor's Assurance of No Conflict of Interest or Detrimental Effect (Attachment L). As provided in Attachment L if a conflict does or might exist, the contractor would need to describe how they would eliminate or prevent it, indicating what procedures will be followed to detect, notify the Agencies of, and resolve any such conflicts.*

**Question #15**

**Question:** Is it possible to obtain a copy of the companies that bid on this opportunity? Some of them could be looking for a qualified partner.

**DOH Response:** *A letter of interest was not required for this procurement. A list of New York State Certified Minority or Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs) with their contact information who expressed an interest in subcontracting opportunities from the resulting contract is posted at <https://www.health.ny.gov/funding/rfp/17497/index.htm>*

**Question #16**

**Question:** Would it be possible to be added to the list of eligible MBE's and distributed to any respondents for Prime contractors on RFP # 17497 - Simulation Modeling RFP? This applies to bidders which may have experience with many analytic platforms, but unfortunately do not individually meet the "Bidder Qualifications to Propose" from Section 3.0 to allow us to respond ourselves.

**DOH Response:** *A list of New York State Certified Minority or Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs) with their contact information who expressed an interest in subcontracting opportunities from the resulting contract is posted at <https://www.health.ny.gov/funding/rfp/17497/index.htm>*

**Question #17**

**Question:** Would it be possible to send a copy of RFP for Simulation Modeling Services? We were not able to locate it from the health.ny.gov link below.

**DOH Response:** *The RFP for Simulation Modeling Services can be located at <https://www.health.ny.gov/funding/rfp/17497/17497.pdf>*