



**RFP #111623**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**for**  
**Employee Benefits Administrative Software Platforms; Member and Provider**  
**Advocacy Services; Transparency, Fraud, Waste and Abuse Products and Related**  
**Services**

**Proposal Due Date: November 16, 2023, 4:30 p.m., Central Time**

Sourcewell, a State of Minnesota local government unit and service cooperative, is requesting proposals for Employee Benefits Administrative Software Platforms; Member and Provider Advocacy Services; Transparency, Fraud, Waste and Abuse Products and Related Services to result in a contracting solution for use by its Participating Entities. Sourcewell Participating Entities include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, nonprofit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada. A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal [<https://proportal.sourcewell-mn.gov>]. Only proposals submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered. Proposals are due no later than November 16, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. Central Time, and late proposals will not be considered.

**SOLICITATION SCHEDULE**

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Public Notice of RFP Published: | September 28, 2023   |
| Pre-proposal Conference:        | October 18, 2023, 10:00 a.m., Central Time   |
| Question Submission Deadline:   | November 8, 2023, 4:30 p.m., Central Time  |
| <b>Proposal Due Date:</b>       | November 16, 2023, 4:30 p.m., Central Time<br>Late responses will not be considered. |
| Opening:                        | November 16, 2023, 4:30 p.m., Central Time<br>See RFP Section V.G. "Opening"         |

## I. ABOUT SOURCEWELL

### A. SOURCEWELL

Sourcewell is a State of Minnesota local government unit and service cooperative created under the laws of the State of Minnesota (Minnesota Statutes Section 123A.21) that facilitates a competitive public solicitation and contract award process for the benefit of its 50,000+ participating entities across the United States and Canada. Sourcewell's solicitation process complies with State of Minnesota law and policies, conforms to Canadian trade agreements (including Canadian Free Trade Agreement, Ontario-Quebec Trade and Cooperation Agreement, and Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, as applicable), and results in cooperative purchasing solutions from which Sourcewell's Participating Entities procure equipment, products, and services.

Cooperative purchasing provides participating entities and suppliers increased administrative efficiencies and the power of combined purchasing volume that result in overall cost savings. At times, Sourcewell also partners with other purchasing cooperatives to combine the purchasing volume of their membership into a single solicitation and contract expanding the reach of contracted suppliers' potential pool of end users.

Sourcewell uses a website-based platform, the Sourcewell Procurement Portal, through which all proposals to this RFP must be submitted.

### B. USE OF RESULTING CONTRACTS

In the United States, Sourcewell's contracts are available for use by:

- Federal and state government entities;
- Cities, towns, and counties/parishes;
- Education service cooperatives;
- K-12 and higher education entities;
- Tribal government entities;
- Some nonprofit entities; and
- Other public entities.

In Canada, Sourcewell's contracts are available for use by:

- Provincial and territorial government departments, ministries, agencies, boards, councils, committees, commissions, and similar agencies;
- Indigenous self-governing bodies;
- Regional, local, district, and other forms of municipal government, municipal organizations, school boards, and publicly funded academic, health, and social service entities referred to as MASH sector (this should be construed to include but not be limited to the Cities of Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Ottawa, and Winnipeg), as well as any corporation or entity owned or controlled by one or more of the preceding entities;

- Crown corporations, government enterprises, and other entities that are owned or controlled by these entities through ownership interest; and
- Members of the Canoe procurement group of Canada, and their partner associations: Canoe members are regional, local, district or other forms of municipal government, school boards, publicly-funded academic, health and social service entities in Alberta and across Canada, as well as any corporation or entity owned or controlled by one or more of the preceding entities – as well as partner associations, including Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, Association of Manitoba Municipalities, Local Authorities Services/Association of Municipalities Ontario, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities, Municipalities Newfoundland Labrador, Union of New Brunswick Municipalities, North West Territories Association of Communities, CivicInfo BC, and their members.

For a listing of current United States and Canadian Participating Entities visit Sourcewell’s website (note: there is a tab for each country): <https://www.sourcewell-mn.gov/sourcewell-for-vendors/agency-locator>.

Participating Entities typically access contracted equipment, products, or services through a purchase order issued directly to the contracted supplier. A Participating Entity may request additional terms or conditions related to a purchase. Use of Sourcewell contracts is voluntary and Participating Entities retain the right to obtain similar equipment, products, or services from other sources.

To meet Participating Entities’ needs, Sourcewell broadly publishes public notice of all solicitation opportunities, including this RFP. In addition, where applicable, other purchasing cooperatives and procurement officials receive notice and are encouraged to re-post the solicitation opportunity.

Proof of publication will be available at the conclusion of the solicitation process.

## **II. SOLICITATION DETAILS**

### **A. SOLUTIONS-BASED SOLICITATION**

This RFP and contract award process is a solutions-based solicitation; meaning that Sourcewell is seeking equipment, products, or services that meet the general requirements of the scope of this RFP and that are commonly desired or are required by law or industry standards.

### **B. REQUESTED EQUIPMENT, PRODUCTS, OR SERVICES**

It is expected that proposers will offer a wide array of equipment, products, or services at lower prices and with better value than what they would ordinarily offer to a single government entity, a school district, or a regional cooperative.

1. Sourcewell is seeking proposals for Employee Benefits Administrative Software Platforms; Member and Provider Advocacy Services; Transparency, Fraud, Waste and Abuse Products and Related Services, such as:

- a. Employee Benefit Administration digital platforms;
- b. Transparency, fraud, waste and abuse services related to healthcare expenditures;
- c. Member services and health care navigation; such as:
  - i. Claims Advocacy;
  - ii. Eligibility Verification;
  - iii. Benefit and Program Guidance;
  - iv. Referral Support; and,
  - v. Claims Assistance.
- d. Claims Utilization Management, such as:
  - i. Prior Authorization;
  - ii. Concurrent Reviews; and,
  - iii. Claims Appeals Management.

2. The primary focus of this solicitation is on Employee Benefits Administrative Software Platforms; Member and Provider Advocacy Services; Transparency, Fraud, Waste and Abuse Products and Related Services. This solicitation should NOT be construed to include claims adjudication, administrative only services related to self-funded health plans, health insurance products, wellness programs, stand-alone telehealth services or financial wellness products.

3. This solicitation does not include those equipment, products, or services covered under categories included in pending or planned Sourcewell solicitations, or in contracts currently maintained by Sourcewell, identified below:

- a. Teletherapy Services (RFP #102821);
- b. Digital Health Products and Solutions (RFP #012722);
- c. Wellness Engagement Program Solutions and Related Services (RFP #051922);
- d. Employee Financial Wellness Programming and Related Employer-Sponsored Financial Solutions (RFP #031623); and,
- e. Group Employee Benefits and Related Services (RFP #051623).

Generally, the solutions for Participating Entities are turn-key solutions, providing a combination of equipment, products and services, delivery, and installation to a properly operating status. However, equipment-only or products-only solutions may be appropriate for situations where Participating Entities possess the ability, either in-house or through local third-party contractors, to properly install and bring to operation the equipment or products being proposed.

Sourcewell prefers suppliers that provide a sole source of responsibility for the equipment, products, and services provided under a resulting contract. If proposer is including the equipment, products, and services of its subsidiary entities, the proposer must also identify all

included subsidiaries in its proposal. If proposer requires the use of distributors, dealers, resellers, or subcontractors to provide the equipment, products, or services, the proposal must address how the equipment, products or services will be provided to Participating Entities, and describe the network of distributors, dealers, resellers, and/or subcontractors that will be available to serve Participating Entities under a resulting contract.

Sourcewell encourages suppliers to offer the broadest possible selection of equipment, products, and services being proposed over the largest possible geographic area and to the largest possible cross-section of Sourcewell current and future Participating Entities.

### C. REQUIREMENTS

It is expected that proposers have knowledge of all applicable industry standards, laws, and regulations and possess an ability to market and distribute the equipment, products, or services to Participating Entities.

1. Safety Requirements. All items proposed must comply with current applicable safety or regulatory standards or codes.
2. Deviation from Industry Standard. Deviations from industry standards must be identified with an explanation of how the equipment, products, and services will provide equivalent function, coverage, performance, and/or related services.
3. New Equipment and Products. Proposed equipment and products must be for new, current model; however, proposer may offer certain close-out equipment or products if it is specifically noted in the Pricing proposal.
4. Delivered and operational. Unless clearly noted in the proposal, equipment and products must be delivered to the Participating Entity as operational.
5. Warranty. All equipment, products, supplies, and services must be covered by a warranty that is the industry standard or better.

### D. PROSPECTIVE CONTRACT TERM

The term of any resulting contract(s) awarded by Sourcewell under this solicitation will be four years. Sourcewell and supplier may agree to up to three additional one-year extensions based on the best interests of Sourcewell and its Participating Entities. Sourcewell retains the right to consider additional extensions beyond seven years as required under exceptional circumstances.

### E. ESTIMATED CONTRACT VALUE AND USAGE

Based on past volume of similar contracts, the estimated annual value of all transactions from contracts resulting from this RFP are anticipated to be USD \$1.5 Million; therefore, proposers are expected to propose volume pricing. Sourcewell anticipates considerable activity under the

contract(s) awarded from this RFP; however, sales and sales volume from any resulting contract are not guaranteed.

#### F. MARKETING PLAN

Proposer's sales force will be the primary source of communication with Participating Entities. The proposer's Marketing Plan should demonstrate proposer's ability to deploy a sales force or dealer network to Participating Entities, as well as proposer's sales and service capabilities. It is expected that proposer will promote and market any contract award.

#### G. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Contracts will be awarded to proposers able to best meet the need of Participating Entities. Proposers should submit their complete line of equipment, products, or services that are applicable to the scope of this RFP.
2. A proposer may submit only one proposal. If related, affiliated, or subsidiary entities elect to submit separate proposals, rather than a single parent-entity proposal, each such proposal must be prepared independently and without cooperation, collaboration, or collusion.
3. If a proposer works with a consultant on its proposal, the consultant (an individual or company) may not assist any other entity with a proposal for this solicitation.
4. Proposers should include all relevant information in its proposal, since Sourcewell cannot consider information that is not included in the proposal. Sourcewell reserves the right to verify proposer's information and may request clarification from a proposer, including samples of the proposed equipment or products.
5. Depending upon the responses received in a given category, Sourcewell may need to organize responses into subcategories in order to provide the broadest coverage of the requested equipment, products, or services to Participating Entities. Awards may be based on a subcategory.
6. A proposer's documented negative past performance with Sourcewell or its Participating Entities occurring under a previously awarded Sourcewell contract may be considered in the evaluation of a proposal.

### III. PRICING

#### A. REQUIREMENTS

All proposed pricing must be:

1. Either Line-Item Pricing or Percentage Discount from Catalog Pricing, or a combination of these:
  - a. **Line-item Pricing** is pricing based on each individual product or services. Each line must indicate the proposer's published "List Price," as well as the "Contract Price."
  - b. **Percentage Discount from Catalog or Category** is based on a percentage discount from a catalog or list price, defined as a published Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price

(MSRP) for the products or services. Individualized percentage discounts can be applied to any number of defined product groupings. Proposers will be responsible for providing and maintaining current published MSRP with Sourcewell, and this pricing must be included in its proposal and provided throughout the term of any contract resulting from this RFP.

2. The proposer's not to exceed price. A not to exceed price is the highest price for which equipment, products, or services may be billed to a Participating Entity. However, it is permissible for suppliers to sell at a price that is lower than the contracted price.
3. Stated in U.S. and Canadian dollars (as applicable).
4. Clearly understandable, complete, and fully describe the total cost of acquisition (e.g., the cost of the proposed equipment, products, and services delivered and operational for its intended purpose in the Participating Entity's location).

Proposers should clearly identify any costs that are NOT included in the proposed product or service pricing. This may include items such as installation, set up, mandatory training, or initial inspection. Include identification of any parties that impose such costs and their relationship to the proposer. Additionally, proposers should clearly describe any unique distribution and/or delivery methods or options offered in the proposal.

#### B. ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

Proposers awarded a contract are expected to pay to Sourcewell an administrative fee in exchange for Sourcewell facilitating the resulting contracts. The administrative fee is normally calculated as a percentage of the total sales to Participating Entities for all contracted equipment, products, or services made during a calendar quarter, and is typically one percent (1%) to two percent (2%). In some categories, a flat fee may be an acceptable alternative.

### IV. CONTRACT

Proposers awarded a contract will be required to execute a contract with Sourcewell (see attached template). Only those modifications the proposer indicates in its proposal will be available for discussion. Much of the language in the Contract reflects Minnesota legal requirements and cannot be altered. Numerous and/or onerous exceptions that contradict Minnesota law may result in the proposal being disqualified from further review and evaluation.

To request a modification to the template Contract, a proposer must submit the Exceptions to Terms, Conditions, or Specifications table with its proposal. Only those exceptions noted at the time of the proposal submission will be considered.

Exceptions must:

1. Clearly identify the affected article and section.
2. Clearly note the requested modification; and as applicable, provide requested alternative language.

Unclear requests will be automatically denied.

Only those exceptions that have been accepted by Sourcewell will be included in the contract document provided to the awarded supplier for signature.

If a proposer receives a contract award resulting from this solicitation it will have up to 30 days to sign and return the contract. After that time, at Sourcewell's sole discretion, the contract award may be revoked.

## **V. RFP PROCESS**

### **A. PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE**

Sourcewell will hold an optional, non-mandatory pre-proposal conference via webcast on the date and time noted in the Solicitation Schedule for this RFP and on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal. The purpose of this conference is to allow potential proposers to ask questions regarding this RFP and Sourcewell's competitive contracting process. Information about the webcast will be sent to all entities that have registered for this solicitation opportunity through their Sourcewell Procurement Portal Vendor Account. Pre-proposal conference attendance is optional.

### **B. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP AND ORAL COMMUNICATION**

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal. The deadline for submission of questions is found in the Solicitation Schedule and on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal. Answers to questions will be issued through an addendum to this RFP. Repetitive questions will be summarized into a single answer and identifying information will be removed from the submitted questions.

All questions, whether specific to a proposer or generally related to the RFP, must be submitted using this process. Do not contact individual Sourcewell staff to ask questions or request information as this may disqualify the proposer from responding to this RFP. Sourcewell will not respond to questions submitted after the deadline.

### **C. ADDENDA**

Sourcewell may modify this RFP at any time prior to the proposal due date by issuing an addendum. Addenda issued by Sourcewell become a part of the RFP and will be delivered to potential proposers through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal. Sourcewell accepts no liability in connection with the delivery of any addenda.

Before a proposal will be accepted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal, all addenda, if any, must be acknowledged by the proposer by checking the box for each addendum. It is the responsibility of the proposer to check for any addenda that may have been issued up to the solicitation due date and time.



If an addendum is issued after a proposer submitted its proposal, the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will WITHDRAW the submission and change the proposer's proposal status to INCOMPLETE. The proposer can view this status change in the "MY BIDS" section of the Sourcewell Procurement Portal Vendor Account. The proposer is solely responsible to check the "MY BIDS" section of the Sourcewell Procurement Portal Vendor Account periodically after submitting its proposal (and up to the Proposal Due Date). If the proposer's proposal status has changed to INCOMPLETE, the proposer is solely responsible to:

- i) make any required adjustments to its proposal;
- ii) acknowledge the addenda; and
- iii) ensure the re-submitted proposal is received through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal no later than the Proposal Due Date and time shown in the Solicitation Schedule above.

#### D. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposer's complete proposal must be submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal no later than the date and time specified in the Solicitation Schedule. Any other form of proposal submission, whether electronic, paper, or otherwise, will not be considered by Sourcewell. **Late proposals will not be considered.** It is the proposer's sole responsibility to ensure that the proposal is received on time.

It is recommended that proposers allow sufficient time to upload the proposal and to resolve any issues that may arise. The time and date that a proposal is received by Sourcewell is solely determined by the Sourcewell Procurement Portal web clock.

In the event of problems with the Sourcewell Procurement Portal, follow the instructions for technical support posted in the portal. It may take up to 24 hours to respond to certain issues.

Upon successful submission of a proposal, the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will automatically generate a confirmation email to the proposer. If the proposer does not receive a confirmation email, contact Sourcewell's support provider at [support@bidsandtenders.ca](mailto:support@bidsandtenders.ca).

To ensure receipt of the latest information and updates via email regarding this solicitation, or if the proposer has obtained this solicitation document from a third party, the onus is on the proposer to create a Sourcewell Procurement Portal Vendor Account and register for this solicitation opportunity.

Within the Sourcewell Procurement Portal, all proposals must be digitally acknowledged by an authorized representative of the proposer attesting that the information contained in the proposal is true and accurate. By submitting a proposal, proposer warrants that the information provided is true, correct, and reliable for purposes of evaluation for potential contract award. The submission of inaccurate, misleading, or false information is grounds for disqualification from a contract award and may subject the proposer to remedies available by law.

## E. GENERAL PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must be:

- In substantial compliance with the requirements of this RFP or it will be considered nonresponsive and be rejected.
- Complete. A proposal will be rejected if it is conditional or incomplete.
- Submitted in English.
- Valid and irrevocable for 90 days following the Proposal Due Date.

Any and all costs incurred in responding to this RFP will be borne by the proposer.

## F. PROPOSAL WITHDRAWAL

Prior to the proposal deadline, a proposer may withdraw its proposal.

## G. OPENING

The Opening of proposals will be conducted in the Sourcewell Procurement Portal immediately following the proposal due date and time. To view the list of proposers resulting from the opening, verify that the Sourcewell Procurement Portal opportunities list search is set to “All” or “Closed.”

Members of the public may attend the Opening at Sourcewell’s office located at 202 12th Street NE, Staples, MN to hear the results.

# VI. EVALUATION AND AWARD

## A. EVALUATION

It is the intent of Sourcewell to award one or more contracts to responsive and responsible proposers offering the best overall quality, selection of equipment, products, and services, and price that meet the commonly requested specifications of Sourcewell and its Participating Entities. The award(s) will be limited to the number of proposers that Sourcewell determines is necessary to meet the needs of its Participating Entities.

Factors to be considered in determining the number of contracts to be awarded in any category may include the following:

- Total evaluation scores (giving consideration to natural breaks in the scoring of responsive proposals);
- The number and geographic location of highest-scoring proposers that offer:
  - A comprehensive selection of the requested equipment, products, or services;
  - A sales and service network ensuring availability and coverage for Participating Entities’ use; and

- Other attributes of the proposer or contents of its proposal that assist Participating Entities in achieving environmental and social requirements, and goals.

Information submitted as part of a proposal should be as specific as possible when responding to the RFP. Do not assume Sourcewell has any knowledge about a specific supplier or product.

**B. AWARD(S)**

Award(s) will be made to the highest-scoring proposer(s) whose proposal conforms to all conditions and requirements of the RFP, and consistent with the award criteria defined in this RFP.

Sourcewell may request written clarification of a proposal at any time during the evaluation process.

Proposal evaluation will be based on the following scoring criteria and the Sourcewell Evaluator Scoring Guide (a copy is available in the Sourcewell Procurement Portal):

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Conformance to RFP Requirements                               | 50          |
| Financial Viability and Marketplace Success                   | 75          |
| Ability to Sell and Deliver Service                           | 75          |
| Marketing Plan  | 50          |
| Value Added Attributes  | 150         |
| Performance Guarantees  | 150         |
| Depth and Breadth of Offered Equipment, Products, or Services | 150         |
| Pricing   | 300         |
| <b>TOTAL POINTS</b>   | <b>1000</b> |

**C. PROTESTS OF AWARDS**

Any protest made under this RFP by a proposer must be in writing, addressed to Sourcewell’s Executive Director, and delivered to the Sourcewell office located at 202 12th Street NE, P.O. Box 219, Staples, MN 56479. All documents that comprise the complete protest package must be received, and time stamped at the Sourcewell office by 4:30 p.m., Central Time, no later than 10 calendar days following Sourcewell’s notice of contract award(s) or non-award. A protest must allege a procedural, technical, or legal defect, with supporting documentation. A protest that merely requests a re-evaluation of a proposal’s content will not be entertained

A protest must include the following items:

- The name, address, and telephone number of the protester;
- Identification of the solicitation by RFP number;
- A precise statement of the relevant facts;
- Identification of the alleged procedural, technical, or legal defect;

- Analysis of the basis for the protest;
- Any additional supporting documentation;
- The original signature of the protester or its representative; and
- Protest bond in the amount of \$20,000 (except where prohibited by law or treaty).

Protests that do not address these elements will not be reviewed.

#### D. RIGHTS RESERVED

This RFP does not commit Sourcewell to award any contract, and a proposal may be rejected if it is nonresponsive, conditional, incomplete, conflicting, or misleading. Proposals that contain false statements or do not support an attribute or condition stated by the proposer may be rejected.

Sourcewell reserves the right to:

- Modify or cancel this RFP at any time;
- Reject any and all proposals received;
- Reject proposals that do not comply with the provisions of this RFP;
- Select, for contracts or for discussion, a proposal other than that with the lowest cost;
- Independently verify any information provided in a proposal;
- Disqualify any proposer that does not meet the requirements of this RFP, is debarred or suspended by the United States or Canada, State of Minnesota, Participating Entity's state or province; has an officer, or other key personnel, who have been charged with a serious crime; or is bankrupt, insolvent, or where bankruptcy or insolvency are a reasonable prospect;
- Waive or modify any informalities, irregularities, or inconsistencies in the proposals received;
- Clarify any part of a proposal and discuss any aspect of the proposal with any proposer; and negotiate with more than one proposer;
- Award a contract if only one responsive proposal is received if it is in the best interest of Participating Entities; and
- Award a contract to one or more proposers if it is in the best interest of Participating Entities.

#### E. DISPOSITION OF PROPOSALS

All materials submitted in response to this RFP will become property of Sourcewell and will become public record in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Section 13.591, after negotiations are complete. Sourcewell considers that negotiations are complete upon execution of a resulting contract. It is the proposer's responsibility to clearly identify any data submitted that it considers to be protected. Proposer must also include a justification for the classification citing the applicable Minnesota law. Sourcewell may reject proposals that are marked confidential or nonpublic, either substantially or in their entirety.

Sourcewell will not consider the prices submitted by the proposer to be confidential, proprietary, or trade secret materials. Financial information, including financial statements, provided by a proposer is not considered trade secret under the statutory definition.



10/02/2023

Addendum No. 1

Solicitation Number: RFP 111623

Solicitation Name: Employee Benefits Administrative Software Platforms; Member and Provider Advocacy Services; Transparency, Fraud, Waste and Abuse Products and Related Services

Consider the following Questions and Answers to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

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**Question 1:**

In order to bid on these products we would need a full census showing member age, sex, salary, zip code, and if possible job occupations. Is that something you're able to submit?

**Answer 1:**

Sourcewell utilizes a competitive, solutions-based solicitation approach that is not based on detailed specifications or finite quantities for our cooperative contract awards. A respondent is allowed to propose the entire line of products and services falling within the scope of the RFP. Section II. B. of the RFP addresses the requested equipment, products, or services for this solicitation.

**Question 2:**

Are you working with a broker as well? If so, who?

**Answer 2:**

Sourcewell is not working with a broker.

**Question 3:**

Are you able to supply current plan documents?

**Answer 3:**

There are no documents to supply.

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End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 111623 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 10/02/2023, is required at the time of proposal submittal.



10/18/2023

Addendum No. 2

Solicitation Number: RFP 111623

Solicitation Name: Employee Benefits Administrative Software Platforms; Member and Provider Advocacy Services; Transparency, Fraud, Waste and Abuse Products and Related Services

Consider the following Question and Answer to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

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**Question 1:**

My organization is on the Sourcewell approved vendor list but this specific product is not one of the listed items. Is the requirement still there to provide a complete response or could it be added to the preexisting group as an additional line item?

**Answer 1:**

The Sourcewell RFP is an open and competitive solicitation process, and each RFP is an opportunity independent of any other prior, current, or future RFP. Each proposer, in its discretion, will propose the equipment, products, and services that it deems to fall within Sourcewell's requested equipment, products, and services as described in the RFP. Only those products within the scope of the RFP will be included in any contract awarded by Sourcewell as a result of the solicitation and each proposal will be evaluated based on the criteria stated in the RFP.

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End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 111623 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 10/18/2023, is required at the time of proposal submittal.





10/24/2023

Addendum No. 3

Solicitation Number: RFP 111623

Solicitation Name: Employee Benefits Administrative Software Platforms; Member and Provider Advocacy Services; Transparency, Fraud, Waste and Abuse Products and Related Services

Consider the following Questions and Answers to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

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**Question 1:**

Does your client want full SIU services?

**Answer 1:**

Sourcewell utilizes a competitive, solutions-based solicitation approach that is not based on detailed specifications or finite quantities for our cooperative contract awards. A respondent is allowed to propose the entire line of products and services falling within the scope of the RFP. Section II. B. of the RFP addresses the requested equipment, products or services for this solicitation.

**Question 2:**

How many medical or dental claims does your client receive each month?

**Answer 2:**

See the answer to question #1

**Question 3:**

How many health plan members does the client have?

**Answer 3:**

See the answer to question #1

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End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 111623 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 10/24/2023, is required at the time of proposal submittal.



10/30/2023

Addendum No. 4

Solicitation Number: RFP 111623

Solicitation Name: Employee Benefits Administrative Software Platforms; Member and Provider Advocacy Services; Transparency, Fraud, Waste and Abuse Products and Related Services

Consider the following Questions and Answers to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

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**Question 1:**

For the purposes of developing a marketing strategy, we are looking at the list of Participating Agencies available from Sourcewell to identify existing clients and those prospective clients who would be a good fit for our business should we win this contract. On the list of Participating Agencies, we notice numerous states listed as "State of X," but we also notice specific state agencies identified by name, such as "State of Georgia Department of Public Health." When we see simply, "State of Georgia," for instance, what agency or division would this refer to?

In a related question, will Sourcewell provide contact information for participating agencies to successful bidders for marketing outreach purposes?

**Answer 1:**

For detail on the use of Sourcewell contracts refer to RFP Section I. B. – Use of Resulting Contracts. A listing of current United States and Canadian Participating Entities is available on Sourcewell's website: [Sourcewell Agency Lookup & Locator Tools | Sourcewell for Vendors \(sourcewell-mn.gov\)](#).

**Question 2:**

Is there an on-going, on-ramp opportunity for suppliers to bid on RFPs once they are closed?

**Answer 2:**

All Sourcewell solicitations are open for a specific competitive period detailed in the RFP. Sourcewell does not add additional vendors outside of the solicitation period.

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End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 111623 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 10/30/2023, is required at the time of proposal submittal.



10/30/2023

Addendum No. 5

Solicitation Number: RFP 111623

Solicitation Name: Employee Benefits Administrative Software Platforms; Member and Provider Advocacy Services; Transparency, Fraud, Waste and Abuse Products and Related Services

Consider the following Questions and Answers to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

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**Question 1:**

Contract section 22: Cancellation - How does this termination for convenience provision impact corresponding Order Forms entered into between Supplier and a Participating Entity prior to cancellation?

**Answer 1:**

Refer to template contract Section 6. A. – Orders and Payment, “All Participating Entity orders under this contract must be issued prior to expiration of cancellation of this Contract; however, Supplier performance, Participating Entity payment obligations, and any applicable warranty periods or other Supplier or Participating Entity obligations may extend beyond the term of this Contract.”

**Question 2:**

Are we prohibited under the contract from all marketing to Participating Entities without Sourcewell approval, ie, sponsoring a Government Technology Digital Government Summit?

**Answer 2:**

Refer to Contract template section 13. Intellectual Property, Publicity, Marketing, and Endorsement subsection C. Marketing. “Any direct advertising, marketing, or offers with Participating Entities must be approved by Sourcewell. Send all approval requests to the Sourcewell Supplier Development Administrator assigned to this Contract. “ Indirect or general marketing falls outside of the stipulations or limitations of the contract.

**Question 3:**

Are we able to enter into contracts with Participating Entities for similar services to those in this contract, ie, under a state contracting vehicle like MA ITS74? (see contract paragraph 6C)

**Answer 3:**

Refer to RFP section I. B. Use of Resulting Contracts, "Use of Sourcewell contracts is voluntary and Participating Entities retain the right to obtain similar equipment, products, or services from other sources."

**Question 4:**

Will you accept submissions for implementation and testing services only, without a software platform partner?

**Answer 4:**

A proposer is not required to offer all possible items or services within the scope of the solicitation to be considered for award. However, proposals are evaluated based on the criteria as stated in the RFP.

**Question 5:**

Contract section 1.B: Survival of Terms - Is the expectation that Supplier indemnifies Sourcewell in perpetuity for any third-party claims?

**Answer 5:**

Refer to Contract Template section 11. Indemnity and Hold Harmless. "Supplier must indemnify, defend, save, and hold Sourcewell and its Participating Entities, including their agents and employees, harmless from any claims or causes of action, including attorneys' fees incurred by Sourcewell or its Participating Entities, arising out of any act or omission in the performance of this Contract by the Supplier or its agents or employees; this indemnification includes injury or death to person(s) or property alleged to have been caused by some defect in the Equipment, Products, or Services under this Contract to the extent the Equipment, Product, or Service has been used according to its specifications. Sourcewell's responsibility will be governed by the State of Minnesota's Tort Liability Act (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 466) and other applicable law."

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End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 111623 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 10/30/2023, is required at the time of proposal submittal.



11/8/2023

Addendum No. 6

Solicitation Number: RFP 111623

Solicitation Name: Employee Benefits Administrative Software Platforms; Member and Provider Advocacy Services; Transparency, Fraud, Waste and Abuse Products and Related Services

Consider the following Questions and Answers to be part of the above-titled solicitation documents. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

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**Question 1:**

RFP Table 3B, item 23. Is this RFP a reissue or recompetete for a similar Member Services scope previously awarded? Is there a requirement for a conversion and transition of members consuming these services from a current supplier?

**Answer 1:**

Each RFP is an opportunity independent of any other prior, current, or future Sourcewell solicitation. Sourcewell has not specifically solicited for Employee Benefits Administrative Software Platforms; Member and Provider Advocacy Services; Transparency, Fraud, Waste and Abuse Products and Related Services in the past, therefore no current contractual information is available.

**Question 2:**

RFP section VI, E. Following the award(s) will the price detail of the unsuccessful bidders be held confidential, if requested by the bidder in its proposal submission, and thereby not accessible through information requests?

**Answer 2:**

Refer to RFP section VI. E Disposition of Proposals, "All materials submitted in response to this RFP will become property of Sourcewell and will become public record in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Section 13.591, after negotiations are complete.... Sourcewell will not consider the prices submitted by the proposer to be confidential, proprietary, or trade secret materials."

**Question 3:**

RFP Table 11, item 50. Is the reference information requested to be a customer who is on the current list of Sourcewell participating entities?

**Answer 3:**

Line Item 50 reads, "Supply reference information from three customers who are **eligible** to be Sourcewell participating entities."

**Question 4:**

Is the marketing plan requested related to our fraud, waste and abuse program, how we would market Sourcewell.gov or the company overall strategic market plan?

**Answer 4:**

Refer to RFP Section II. F. – Marketing Plan for guidance on the marketing plan requirements. Each proposer, in its discretion, will determine the content of its marketing plan. The solicitation is a competitive process and proposals will be evaluated on the content submitted

**Question 5:**

Can you provide an example of a marketing plan submitted previously?

**Answer 5:**

Sourcewell does not advise on the content of proposer marketing plans. Each proposal will be evaluated based on the criteria stated in the RFP.

**Question 6:**

Is the State of Alaska part of this RFP?

**Answer 6:**

Refer to RFP Section I.A. Sourcewell, "Sourcewell is a State of Minnesota local government unit and service cooperative created under the laws of the State of Minnesota (Minnesota Statutes Section 123A.21) that facilitates a competitive public solicitation and contract award process for the benefit of its 50,000+ participating entities across the United States and Canada."



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End of Addendum

Acknowledgement of this Addendum to RFP 111623 posted to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal on 11/8/2023, is required at the time of proposal submittal.