DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

SMALL PROCUREMENT SOLICITATION FOR

INTERSTATE GENETIC PATERNITY TESTING SERVICES

CSEA/DNA/16-002-s

# QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES #1

Question 1: Under 6.3 Genetic Paternity Testing Determination Reports, it indicates the report is “due no later than fourteen (14) days after the Contractor receives or collects the final specimen”.  To clarify, will the CSEA be willing to change the wording to “due no later than fourteen (14) days after the Contractor receives the final specimen”?  The collection date and the receipt date are two separate days.  If the CSEA has the specimen and the Contractor is not able to obtain it until after the out of state parties are collected, there could be a gap in dates and the Contractor may already be past the 14 day requirement before testing begins.

Response: The fourteen day period does not begin to toll until the Contractor receives or collects the final specimen needed. If CSEA has collected the specimen, the time period does not begin to toll until the Contractor receives the specimen or genetic profile.

Question 2: Section 4, Scope of the Project, indicates that the State “will request over half of those determinations within the first month of the contractual term.”  Is there a backlog of cases already where there may already be a sample for the person collected in Maryland, but awaiting a sample collection for the parties located in another state?

Response: Yes.

Question 3: Under Section 6.2.1, will the awarded vendor be expected to pay for the samples where CSEA has obtained a genetic specimen from an individual involved in an interstate case?

Response: No.

Question 4: Section 9.3.5, Subcontractors, states that the Offeror shall provide a complete a list of all subcontractors that will work on the Contract if the Offeror receives an award.  Does the state consider the Specimen Collectors or Specimen Collection Agencies that may receive a request to schedule for parties that reside outside of the State of Maryland to be subcontractors?  If so, how would any potential vendor provide a list of subcontractors for collections in locations where it is not known where the parties need to be scheduled?

Response: The Offeror must provide a list of subcontractors that it knows that it will use.

Question 5: Section 16, Payment, clearly states that the services are complete only when a genetic profile is created from a genetic specimen analyzed by the contractor.  Since this solicitation is to conduct collections for one or more parties outside of the state, there can be considerable cost that any vendor would incur.  If the case did not complete because a sample was not collected in the state of Maryland, the vendor would not be able to invoice for services.  Would the state consider allowing for payment of any samples collected as long as they were requested by the Genetic Testing Liaison and met all other contract standards?

Response: Please refer to the definition of genetic profile in Attachment F to the solicitation. The Contractor may invoice the State upon completion of the analysis of an individual genetic specimen (resulting in a genetic profile) regardless of whether all samples for making a genetic paternity testing determination have been collected or analyzed.

Question 6: The criminal background check requirement at Section 3.3.2 of Attachment H, Security Requirements, states that the Contractor shall obtain from each individual assigned to work on the Contract a signed statement permitting a background check.  Is this required to be completed upon award or with the response to the solicitation?

Response: The background check is required to be completed prior to the commencement of services.

Question 7: The solicitation indicates a volume of approximately 500 genetic specimen to be collected and tested, yet the price template indicates 625 genetic specimen. Please clarify the discrepancy in volume.

Response: CSEA estimates it will require approximately 250 genetic paternity testing determinations. As stated in Section 4 of the small procurement solicitation, the analysis is estimated to involve approximately 500 genetic specimens collected outside the State of Maryland, approximately 125 genetic specimens collected within the State of Maryland and approximately 125 genetic specimens or profiles from partial specimen collection cases as described in Section 6.2.1.

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