

Addendum 1 - Vendor Question and Answers 20RFP026 Therapy

Please confirm the address to deliver the RFP response.

Deliver Sealed Proposals

to this address:

Austin ISD

Contract & Procurement Services

1111 West 6th Street

Building A - 2nd Floor Reception Desk

Austin, TX 78703

What is the annual Related Services spend that is projected for 2019-20 school year?

Estimated aggregate of \$800,000 per school year.

Will the District be directly billing for any Medicaid/Medicare services?

No

May we review the historical pricing?

The current hourly bill rates in place with vendors providing services to the district is \$50.00 to \$95.00

Section VI. Scope of Service and Performance Requirements (pg.8) states "Vendors are required to provide any/all materials, technology and office supplies." Please specify what materials, technology, and supplies vendors will be required to provide (e.g., laptops, internet connection, other materials).

Any and all technology or materials other than test kits needs to be provided by the contractor.

How many agencies are you using today? **10 +**

Who are the incumbent suppliers? What is the districts motivation to change?

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to expand the current pool of acceptable providers and multiple contract awards may be made.

What is the current amount of contractor usage over the past year? Entire contract period?

\$800,000 per school year.

Is this contract open due to an expired contract, or is this during a renewable cycle?

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to expand the current pool of acceptable providers and multiple contract awards may be made.

Was the expiring contract held by one vendor, or multiple?

Multiple

What technology is used currently to manage this program internally?

AISD systems and Accelify

Is there a minimum experience requirement for the talent sent to your facility?

Must be the licensure requirements for the position

What timekeeping process/system will be utilized?

Accelify and weekly time sheets.

What is entailed in the current orientation process for therapists?

Will be assigned a mentor if appropriate

Can you clarify your districts policy to supervision – logistics, workload, caseload,

Medicaid documentation? Depends on the requirements of position

How does a department/unit determine what company(s) to use after these contracts are awarded, assuming that there will be different bill rates?

Students are matched with contractor best meeting the qualifications required for care.

Will we be able to view the questions and responses that were submitted by other bidders?

Answer: Yes

Are there crucial District analysis/initiatives for the upcoming school year that we should know about to support in the Proposal? No

Can the district confirm if all vendor supplied positions must be bilingual in Spanish?

If not, will the district accept different pricing for English vs. bilingual staff?

No, not all vendors need to be bilingual. We do not pay a different rate for bilingual.

Can the district please provide a list of the materials, technology and office supplies required by vendors?

Answer: Any and all technology or materials other than test kits needs to be provided by the contractor.

Can the district please clarify the Progress Report Sample requirement, as student-specific documentation management is habitually the responsibility of the LEA?

IEP and Assessments are acceptable.

Can "Service Fees" be submitted as an all-inclusive bill rate, accounting for all costs associated with providing the services requested in this solicitation? The hourly rate should include all fees associated with providing services.

Will the district review other SPED service classifications if submitted with the vendor proposal?

Answer: Yes

Would Austin Independent School District consider online tele-therapy for the speech and occupational therapy services?

Answer: Yes

Do you require vendors to guarantee the provision of special education services, or is it understood that vendors will begin recruiting on a best efforts' basis upon contract award? Answer: on a best effort's basis

Can the vendor incur in any penalties or be liable for any damages for not having a contracted provider available upon your school's request in a timely manner or would your school terminate the RFP contract with the vendor? **No**

If Austin Independent School District will find a permanent employee of the district and our services will no longer be needed, will the school provide the awarded vendor with a 30 day out termination written notice? **30 day written days is standard termination.**

Per pg. 9, What percentage of students typically require bilingual speech language pathologist services? **30 percent**

Would the district accept separate rates for monolingual and speech language pathologists? **No**

Who will be the representative from Austin Independent School District to determine which materials/equipment are required for the special education services?
Any and all technology or materials other than testing kits needs to be provided by the contractor.

Can you provide the current incumbent vendor(s) names and fee rates providing the OT, PT, SLP, LSSP services? Has your current vendor(s) been able to satisfy your service needs? **There are 10+ vendors providing services with rates from \$50.00 - \$95.00 per hour. The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to expand the current pool of acceptable providers and multiple contract awards may be made.**

Will Austin Independent School District consider an all-inclusive hourly price rate range depending on the candidates' level of experience OR does the district only want a fixed flat hourly rate for service? **AISD prefers a fixed hourly rate.**

How many contractors do you use? OTs? PTs? SLPs **10+**

How many hours per week per week are PTs, OTs and SLPs expected to work?
Hours range from part time to full time.

What are last year's bill rates for PT, OT and SLP? **\$50.00 - \$95.00 per hour.**

How many SLP, OT and PT positions are available/open for contract? **The number fluctuates depending on staff availability and student needs.**

What is the rate range per hour the district is currently paying for therapy services?
\$50.00 - \$95.00 per hour.

Are resumes required with proposals? If so, can they be blind? (i.e. applicant info not disclosed) **Resumes are not required but helpful and can't be blind.**

Is mileage between schools paid? **No, we do not pay mileage**

Does the vendor have to have an office in TX to qualify even if the agency is a national company? **No**

Will the District consider tele-therapy? **Yes, AISD currently does not employ tele-therapy but could do so in the future.**

When you ask for progress report Sample what do you mean? Are IEPs and Assessments acceptable? **Yes, IEP and Assessments are acceptable.**

Section VI, Paragraph 5 states Vendors are required to provide any/all materials, technology and office supplies. Can you please expand on what you are expecting the vendors to provide? (ex: computer, laptop, iPads, etc.) Also, if we are required to provide our own equipment are you expecting your SEEDs system to be installed on it? **Any and all technology or materials other than testing kits needs to be provided by the contractor. SEEDs will be accessed online only and nothing needs to be installed on your computers.**

Are you able to share your insurance requirements at this time? **Contractor is responsible for obtaining adequate liability insurance required for performing services.**

Does this RFP include psychoeducational evaluations and/or bilingual evaluations for cognitive and achievement batteries? **Yes**

Who is your current Speech Therapy Contractor? **We have several speech contractors.**

How many students are in Speech Therapy in the District? **Data not available at this time.**

Are your current SLP's District Employees or Contractors? **Both**

How many service hours do Speech Therapy students average per week? **Data not available at this time.**

How many school operation days annually? **175 days for 2019-20**

Will the District consider Individualized SLP Driven Digital Speech Therapy? **Yes, maybe in the future**

What is the current hourly rate you are paying for Speech Therapy Contracted Services? **\$50 - \$95.00 per hour**

Does the current rate include admin, travel, holiday pay, etc. or is that billed separately? No. If billed separately approximately how many hours were billed non speech therapy services expenses? **None**

Do Speech Therapy students participate in ESY? **Yes, but only if they meet the ESY criteria.**

Do you allow the usage of SLPA under SLP supervision? **No, we do not use SLPAs as contractors.**

What agencies do you currently use for OT, PT, SLP, Evaluation and Related Special Education Services? **10 +**

What rates do those agencies charge for OT, PT, SLP, Evaluation and Related Special Education Services? **\$50 – \$95 per hour**

Which agencies are you using the most on the current contract? **Bilingualistics, Soliant and Therapia**

Will this be a single or multi-award?

Answer: Multiple award

How many hours were utilized in 2018 AND 2019? **Data not available**

How many hours of OT, PT, SLP, Evaluation and Related Special Education Services do you anticipate for the 2019-2020 year? **Data not available**

How much money in 2018 was spent on OT, PT, SLP, Evaluation and Related Special Education Services? **Aggregate spend \$800,000**

What is the annual spend that is projected for the contract? How will it be divided per year? **Aggregate spend is \$800,000**

Are you satisfied with your current provider of services?

Answer: The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to expand the current pool of acceptable providers and multiple contract awards may be made.

What would you like to see with the awarded vendor and our approach to the requested services? **Vendors should meet the scope of work and performance requirements**

Does this RFP include diagnosticians? **Yes**