

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**



THIS IS NOT A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**Request for Information
Contract for School Based Dental Program**

RELEASE DATE: August 13, 2009

RESPONSE DUE DATE: September 01, 2009; 2:00 P.M. (Local Time)

BACKGROUND

The DOH/DCPS School Based Dental Program began after the release of first Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health in America in 2000. The report stated that Oral health and dental disease amounts to a silent and epidemic in poor and minority communities and that annually an estimated 51 million clock hours of class time are lost due to dental disease.

The reasons for implementing the School Based Dental Program were:

- To reduce lost school time due to an oral health condition.
- To engaging health and education officials, teachers, students, parents, and community in efforts to promote health good oral health in schools
- Provide effective skills-based health promotion education on good oral health
- Promote access to oral health services
- Implement school policies and practices to support effective oral health practices
- To capture and analyze oral health data for policy and programming efforts focus and asset prioritization
- To promote regular dental visits
- To make oral health a part in DC public schools
- To monitor and evaluate oral health status of DC School age children
- To support a school based community oral health intervention

The DC Department of Health Oral Health Program began a pilot School-Based Dental Sealant Project in nine elementary DC Public Schools designated as Transformation Schools. The Project commenced in the first T-school in Ward 7 (Davis Elementary) in September 2003 and completed the last T -school (Turner Elementary) in September 2004. The free program targeted low income children in 2nd and 3^m grades who are enrolled in the Free or Reduced Lunch Program. Following the early success of the program, in 2005 it was expanded to include all elementary schools within DCPS including Head Start and Early Head Start Programs.

PURPOSE

The Department of Health (DOH); will be issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP), for a provider to expand the school based dental program. Before the release of the RFP, DOH is seeking information from dental group, individual private practice dental provider, and hospital based dental programs to provide a range of comprehensive oral health services including oral health education at District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) sites. The services are to begin on March, 2nd2010 (2009-2010 school year). The remainder of the school year comprises of 69 days from date of award to June 28, 2010. The goal of the program is to assist DOH in meeting the oral health needs of area school children at an identified number of schools within DCPS sites.

Working in tandem with DOH and DCPS, the contractor will be responsible for ensuring DCPS students receive timely access to oral health education and clinical dental treatment at designated school based dental sites using either Portable or Mobile Dental Equipment. Additionally, the contractor is required to either have an established or to develop the required infrastructure to bill DC Medicaid and any other third party payer for all reimbursable services. In addition, the contractor is required to provide invasive treatment to students who are diagnosed as needing fillings (restorations), gum treatment and extractions and dental surgery at a traditional dental office.

Dental treatment services will be provided to fifteen (15) elementary schools, four (4) middle schools and one (1) high school with approximately 2,000 students during the school year. Students must present a signed consent form from parent or legal guardian before dental treatment services can be provided. In addition, oral health education and promotion must be provided in classroom sessions to the entire school. These services must be delivered in a culturally competent manner adhere to best-practices standards in the delivery of clinical dental care.

The 2009-2010 school year comprises of one hundred and eighty (180) student days which allows the contractor to work a minimum of thirty hours a week while school is in session. The contractor will work in close collaboration with the school nurse, and principal while providing dental services at the schools.

INFORMATION REQUESTED

The Department is seeking comments on the following aspects of this clinical operation:

1. Industry Best Practices.
2. What types of dental services do you recommend be provided at the various facilities?
3. What are your recommendations for the program's implementation?

HOW TO GIVE INPUT

Input should be provided through written comments. The deadline for comments will be Wednesday, August 19, 2009 by 2:00 p.m. local time. DOH will not necessarily summarize or respond to comments, but will use the information gathered to help guide the subsequent Request for Proposal process. The RFP will be issued within a few weeks after the close of this information period. Please submit comments to Anthony Berry, Contract Specialist, Office of Contracting and Procurement.

E-mail: anthony.berry@dc.gov or mail comments to:

ATTN: Anthony Berry
Contract Specialist
Office of Contracting and Procurement
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 700S
Washington, DC 20001
(o) 202-724-2163
anthony.berry@dc.gov

Please include contact information in your submission in the event that DOH's staff would need to follow-up on your comments. A meeting of interested parties will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 at the Office of Contracting and Procurement, 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 700S, Washington, DC 20001, at 1:00 p.m. Please contact Anthony Berry if further information is required.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PARTICIPATION IN THIS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION PROCESS IS OPTIONAL, AND IS NOT REQUIRED IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCUREMENT BY THE DOH COMMUNITY HEALTH ADMINISTRATION. NEITHER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NOR ANY INTERESTED PARTY HAS ANY OBLIGATION UNDER THIS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.