

Schmidt, Kathy

From: Courtney Salas-Ford (ADE) <Courtney.Salas-Ford@ade.arkansas.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 3:44 PM
To: Schmidt, Kathy
Cc: Walden, Kathryn M.; Greg Rogers (ADE)
Subject: Request for Review by ALC

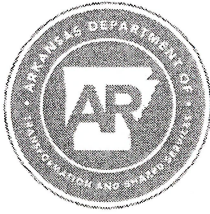
Kathy,

Please consider this request for review of an RFQ for professional learning communities to be added to the Council agenda for tomorrow.

ADE was unaware of this requirement in the RFQ process until yesterday so was unable to submit this request by the deadline for August review. We are requesting review tomorrow instead of waiting until September to avoid further delays in the process of selecting vendors to provide professional development for teachers and district leaders as required by statute.

Thank you,

Courtney Salas-Ford
Chief of Staff
Arkansas Department of Education



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSFORMATION AND SHARED SERVICES
OFFICE OF STATE PROCUREMENT
OSP Director Approval Request
Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Complete all sections of this *OSP Director Approval Request—Request for Qualifications* form and follow the steps specified in the *Request for Qualifications Procedures*. Email the completed form to the Office of State Procurement review mailbox at osp.review@arkansas.gov to ensure timely review.

Procurement Unit Requesting the RFQ

Requesting Department: 0500 - Department of Education

Requesting Division: Elementary & Secondary Education

Purchasing Contact: Judi Free Phone Number: 501-682-4479

Email: judi.free@ade.arkansas.gov

General Information

Description of Service/Commodity: In accordance with A.C.A. § 6-20-2305(b)(5)(C), the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall provide professional development activities to include knowledge, skills, experience, and expertise for the development of a research-based process for the implementation of professional learning communities.

Start Date of Resulting Contract: Click to enter date. Expiration Date of Resulting Contract: Click to enter date.

Total Projected Cost: \$16,500,000.00 annually as stated in A.C.A. § 6-20-2305(b)(5)(C)

Why is an RFQ the most suitable method of procurement?

An RFQ is the most suitable method of procurement for professional development services because it focuses on the qualifications and expertise of the vendors rather than just the price. Professional development requires specialized knowledge, proven effectiveness, and the ability to customize services to the unique needs of each school district. By using an RFQ, the Division can ensure that school districts have access to vendors who have a demonstrated track record of success and the necessary qualifications to deliver high-quality professional development services related to implementation of professional learning communities.

Why should cost not be considered in the procurement?

Cost is not the primary consideration in the procurement of professional development services because the quality and impact of the services are paramount. Professional development directly influences the effectiveness of teaching and learning in the district, and choosing a provider based on cost alone may result in subpar services that do not meet the district's needs. Focusing on qualifications, experience, and student outcomes ensures that the selected vendor can deliver the highest quality services, which will ultimately yield better educational outcomes.

How will the cost of the contract be controlled?

The cost for services is limited in statute to the amount projected. Moreover, the state will release a competitive grant for districts to apply and select from the vendor list to meet their unique needs outlined in the grant. Each school district grantee will be assigned a set amount of funding each year tied to the district's average daily membership for the previous year. Those funds will be utilized to purchase professional development services from providers approved through this RFQ.

Provide additional details as needed.

To Be Completed by Office of State Procurement Director

- Approved as to Form: The requestor has submitted an acceptable rationale to justify the request.
- Denied: The requestor has not submitted an acceptable rationale to justify the request and should utilize the appropriate method of procurement required by law.

Comments

This approval must be submit for legislative review pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. 9-11-802(e)(1)(B).

Director Signature: *Jessica Patterson*

Date: 8/21/2024