



COUNTY OF McHENRY
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
2200 N SEMINARY AVENUE
WOODSTOCK, IL 60098



RFP 21-4078
Laboratory Testing and Services
and Testimony Services

Submissions will be accepted until *August 26, 2021 no later than 9:00 A.M. (CST)*

Additions and Clarifications

Question 1: RFP document, page 4: Please confirm the proposed duration of the award is for a one-year term with three (one year) optional renewal periods. Please confirm that renewals be subject to mutual agreement of the parties.

Response 1: This will be determined during contract negotiations.

Question 2: Terms and Conditions, Page 8: Please confirm whether a performance bond is required under this contract given it is not a public work contract?

Response 2: A Performance Bond is not required for this RFP.

Question 3: Purchasing Ordinance, Section 16, page 28 states: "No Contract may be issued for a period exceeding the lesser of (i) two (2) years or (ii) the amount of time between the date the Contract is entered into and the date that the new County Board shall take office after the next general election. Provided, however, that a Contract may be issued for a period not to exceed four (4) years so long as such Contract contains the proviso that the County shall have one hundred twenty (120) days after each election of County Board members to terminate the Contract without cause and without penalty." When is the anticipated date that the new County Board shall take office after the next general election?

Response 3: The County Board takes office on December 1.

Question 4: How many cases per year will be submitted for toxicology testing per this contract?

a. Will all cases request the same toxicology testing scope, or will they be broken down into multiple testing scopes based on the case type?

b. If so, how many cases are expected to be submitted under a basic toxicology panel and how many under an expanded toxicology panel?

Response 4: Typically, between 155-200.

a. Case by case basis

b. Autopsies are unpredictable from year to year. A marker would be between 155-200 and a breakdown of 10 carbon monoxide test per year and 75% Expanded Panel and 25% Basic Panel.

Question 5: Can we get an extension on the due date to allow a little more time on the response once the answers to the vendors have been provided?

Response 5: An extension to the due date is not anticipated.

Question 6: The turnaround time of the laboratory service can be highly variable between laboratories and their forensic toxicology offering. It can also directly impact the coroner's ability to quickly sign out cases quickly and hold critical conversations with case relatives.

a. Will vendors turnaround time be considered in the scoring system for general qualifications?

b. Will a vendor with a documented history of turnaround time be considered in the scoring system for the general qualifications section?

Response 6: a. Yes
b. Yes.

Question 7: Scope of services. Will the vendor's scope of compounds within their offering be considered in the scoring system for the general qualifications section? a. Is McHenry County looking for the most extensive testing panel available from their laboratory?

Response 7: Yes.
a. No.

Question 8: How will the scope of synthetic cannabinoids, novel psychoactive substances (NPS), designer fentanyl and designer opioid substances between vendors be considered within the general qualifications section?

Response 8: Unclear, there is no "general qualifications" section within the RFP. Please refer to the "Description of Work and Specifications."

Question 9: Limit of detection. Testing sensitivities and limit of detection are highly important when accessing cause and manor of death.

a. Will vendor's testing sensitivity be considered in the scoring system for the general qualifications section?

Response 9: a. Only for specific panels.

Question 10: Toxicologist availability. With the case volume of work related to this contract, there would be a need for multiple board certified toxicologists available for interpretational conversation.

a. Will the number of board-certified toxicologists on staff be considered in the scoring system for the general qualifications section?

Response 10: No.

- Question 11:** **Proposal Pricing Form.** Currently on the proposal pricing form, there isn't a lot of space available to include pricing for numerous panels and matrices.
a. Will it be acceptable to put "see pricing page" for each line item and include a more complete pricing form for toxicology testing, additional and fees, and cost of expert services?
- Response 11:** Mandatory pages are still required to be included. It is acceptable to add "See Pricing Page" on the Mandatory page and include vendor's own pricing page.
- Question 12:** **Interfacing capabilities.** Many Forensic toxicology labs have the ability to interface with commercially available case management software programs used by a coroner's office.
a. Will a vendor's ability to interface with the existing case management software be considered in the scoring system for the general qualifications section?
- Response 12:** No.
- Question 13:** **Will a vendor with the ability for online order entry and delivery of reports electronically be considered in the general qualifications section?**
- Response 13:** No.
- Question 14:** **Use of subcontractors.** Some forensic laboratories often need to use a reference lab for complex drug cases and rare compounds. This can often lead to extended turnaround time as well as adding laboratory personnel onto the chain of custody.
a. Will applicants that do not use subcontractors for the contract be scored higher as part of the review of RFP proposals within the general qualifications section?
- Response 14:** Yes.
- Question 15:** **How often are expert witness/testimony services required?**
a. Can it be done via video?
- Response 15:** These services are required rarely.
a . Determined to the State's Attorney/Judge on a case-by-case basis.
- Question 16:** **Who is the incumbent provider for these services?**
- Response 16:** NMS
- Question 17:** **What is the County currently paying for the requested services?**
- Response 17:** Information is Not Available
- Question 18:** **What are the estimated annual volumes per specimen type/testing type for this contract?**
- Response 18:** Please see question 4

Question 19: What are the estimated annual volumes per County agency?
Response 19: Please see question 4

Question 20: Approximately how many instances of testimony does the County anticipate requesting annually (by type of test or by end user agency)? What is the current average?
Response 20: please see question 11

Question 21: What is the percent positive rate for each County agency utilizing the contract?
Response 21: Unclear, please refer to question 23.

Question 22: What agencies of McHenry County will be utilizing this contract?
Response 22: Please see question 23

Question 23: Are there any County agencies that will be required to purchase from this contract, or is this contract only meant to establish a cooperative option available for agencies to utilize?
Response 23: This Contract will be between the County of McHenry and the vendor. No other entities are required to purchase from this contract.

Question 24: Is this an all or none bid? In other words, do vendors have to bid on all types of testing mentioned (e.g. workplace, forensic, hospital, DNA, etc.) in order to be considered? Or may vendors bid on only certain types of testing?
Response 24: Coroner/Forensic based testing

Question 25: Would the County allow for remote/video testimony?
Response 25: Please see question 15

Question 26: The Proposal Pricing form appears to have a single box for Toxicology Testing and a single box for Additional Lab Fees. However, most laboratories provide testing based on a per test basis and, depending on the needs of various County end users, we believe there could be multiple line items required by each end user--for example, multi-panel tests and separate confirmation tests and specialty tests for drug courts or probation departments, a postmortem panel and vitreous panel for a coroner's office, DOT test panel for employment testing, etc. May vendors instead provide for consideration their own fee schedules demonstrating the variety of tests available and their respective costs?
Response 26: Please refer to question 11.

Question 27: Will the County entertain any exceptions to the standard terms and conditions, or will this disqualify a bid?
Response 27: Exceptions to the Standard Terms and Conditions do not necessarily disqualify a Proposal. All exceptions should be noted in the response.

- Question 28:** **What is the anticipated award date for this contract?**
Response 28: The County expects to make a determination in October with services to begin on December 1.
- Question 29:** **Does the County have a methodology preference for the requested services? For example, do some end users only require screens and some require fully confirmed tests?**
Response 29: Full Testing
- Question 30:** **Is this RFP scope for laboratory-based testing only, or is the County interested in rapid test device options such as integrated test cups or panel dips?**
Response 30: Lab-based testing
- Question 31:** **Are any of the required services considered clinical (i.e. for the diagnosis of or treatment for a condition) in nature? If so, which agencies will require clinical testing?**
Response 31: No
- Question 32:** **Will any of the services under this contract require that the laboratory provide third party billing, such as Medicaid/Medicare or private insurance? Which agencies or programs will require this type of testing?**
Response 32: No