

BIDDERS CONFERENCE CALL QUESTIONS AND OFFICIAL RESPONSES

1. Question: In the RFP it states that the researcher cannot contact any person on the Advisory Committee. The Court Administrator is serving on the Advisory Committee. Is there a prohibition regarding contacting the Court Administrator's Office concerning available data?

Answer: Bidders are not prohibited from contacting the Court Administrator's office regarding data availability. Questions regarding availability of data can be directed to Bill Miller, Deputy State Court Administrator for Technology. He can be reached at 402-471-3049 or via email at bmiller@nsc.state.ne.us

2. Question: In Nebraska, are the attorneys that practice juvenile defense the same attorneys who practice as Guardians ad Litem? Are Guardians ad Litem always attorneys?

Answer: Many juvenile defense attorneys also have a Guardian ad Litem practice. Nebraska law mandates that a Guardian ad Litem must be an attorney.

3. Question: Page 3 of the RFP states: "The bidder acknowledges that all information collected, instruments developed, and reports prepared for and submitted to the PPC become the PPC's property. Any use of these materials by the contractor for reasons separate from completion of contract requirements, during or subsequent to the contract period, may be done only with the written permission of the PPC." Can the Public Policy Center clarify this?

Answer: The intent of the language above is not to prevent researchers from using these materials in subsequent investigations. The language is intended to insure that the Public Policy Center has unfettered use of these materials.

4. Question: If a bidder bids on both proposals, should the bidder submit two proposals or one proposal?

Answer: A bidder who bids on both the Guardian ad Litem and Juvenile Defense Studies may submit either one proposal or two separate proposals.

5. Question: What is the page limit if a bidder proposes two studies in one application?

Answer: The bidder may submit up to 60 pages if both studies are included in a single proposal.

6. Question: What assurances does the selected bidder have that there would be sufficient access to court files and cooperation from judges to observe juvenile court proceedings?

Answer: In the state of Nebraska, juvenile court proceedings are open to the public. Juvenile court records are also public record. Because the study is legislatively mandated, we do not anticipate opposition to data collection and will provide assistance if difficulties are encountered.

7. Question: Could the Public Policy Center clarify what is required by the paragraph entitled “Confounding Variables” on page 13 of the RFP?

Answer: The expectation is that if the bidder is utilizing a methodology to assess causality or a relationship among variables then there should be specification in the general study design of how the bidder plans to account for potentially confounding variables.

8. Question: Several questions within the RFP require comparisons of Nebraska to similar states. Are there criteria to use in determining what constitutes a “similar state”?

Answer: It is the bidder’s discretion as to what approach the researcher will use to do a comparison (i.e., states similar in size, similar in region, similar in practice, etc.) It is expected that the proposal will justify why which states were selected for such comparisons.

9. Question: The RFP makes reference to a “project director” and “project manager”. Are these positions to be assigned to two separate individuals or one person?

Answer: The project director and project manager can be two separate people or one individual.

10. Question: Is ICPSR (Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research) data available to the researcher?

Answer: It is our understanding that this data is available. However, researchers must make their request to the NCJJ (National Center for Juvenile Justice) rather than to ICPSR.

11. Question: Are bidders connected to the state of Nebraska restricted in their indirect rate?

Answer: The bidder is restricted only insofar as they otherwise are restricted in the rate used for state funded projects. The Public Policy Center is not imposing any restrictions.

12. Question: The RFP requires prior experience managing projects of comparable size and scope. Are their criteria for demonstrating this?

Answer: The bidder should indicate in the proposal that the project manager has experience in managing comparable projects. Experience can be demonstrated in various ways, and it is at the discretion of the bidder for demonstrating relevant experience (e.g., projects similar in content, budget, etc.)

13. Question: Can bidders submit additional questions up until August 22, 2008?

Answer: Questions may be submitted in writing up until 5:00 P.M. CDT on August 22, 2008. Answers will be posted on the website.