

Allegheny County
Department of Human Services
Request for Proposals Q&A
Drug & Alcohol Testing Services

July 8, 2015

18.) Page 5 of the solicitation lists a requirement to “Send all results to the appropriate entities in a timely and secure manner.” Will there be a central representative receiving the test results under this contract? If not, how will the Contractor know where each result needs to be reported?

Yes, there will be a central representative receiving the tests under this contract. The successful proposer will also be required to inform clients of their own test results.

17.) Please define the “external positive and external negative control test used once daily” on page 5 of the solicitation. Would a blind-specimen testing procedure (as used for Department of Transportation Drug Testing) be an acceptable alternative?

No. Like any laboratory quality control testing, the test must use a defined, verified, usually commercially available set of positive and negative controls used against the lot of kits that are being used for client or patient testing. This can be done in house, using known controls against the kits that are currently in use.

16.) Please provide the initial and confirmation cutoff levels for the 12-panel urine drug screening identified on page 5 of the solicitation.

Confirmatory testing is currently performed by an external reference laboratory in the case of a disputed test, and C=confirmatory levels are not immediately available. The initial levels, in nanograms per milliliter are as follows:

- Amphetamine 1000ng/mL
- Barbiturates 300 ng/mL
- Benzodiazepines 300 ng/mL
- Buprenorphine 10 ng/mL
- THC 50 ng/mL
- Methadone 300 ng/mL
- Cocaine 300 ng/mL
- Methamphetamine 1000ng/mL
- Oxycodone 100 ng/mL
- Phencyclidine (PCP) 25 ng/mL
- Morphine – opiates 300 ng/mL
- Propoxyphene 300 ng/mL

15.) Will the Contractor be required to conduct drug and/or alcohol testing on persons under the age of eighteen (18)?

Yes, we may refer a person under 18 for testing if there are allegations of substance use by a child involved with the child welfare system.

July 7, 2015

14.) If the funding for this contract from DHS is approximately \$175,000 per year (as per page 6 of the solicitation), then why is the Contractor required to seek reimbursement elsewhere?

The budget estimate is for DHS funding only. Given the rules and regulations of the funding that will be used to pay for this service, DHS must be the payer of last resort. If the service can be paid for by private insurance or medical assistance, DHS funding cannot be used to pay for the service.

13.) What is the process for billing DHS for payments that could not be recovered from the various stakeholders as described on page 6 of the solicitation?

If the individual does not have private insurance or medical assistance and/or the test is not covered by their insurance, the provider would bill DHS for payment.

12.) Page 6 of the solicitation lists a requirement to “Process payments from multiple stakeholders and establish a process to ensure that DHS is the payee of last resort.” Please list the “stakeholders” that the Contractor will be responsible for collecting payment from.

Examples include private insurance or medical assistance. DHS must be the payer of last resort.

11.) Page 5 of the solicitation lists a requirement for the provision of “direct observation of urine collection.” Will this be required for all tests, or just some specific tests?

Direct observation will be required for all tests.

10.) Page 5 of the solicitation lists a requirement for referring “the specimen to a reference laboratory to conduct the confirmatory testing” in the case of a disputed result. Our understanding is that this resembles a “split test” where a portion of the original specimen is sent to an alternative laboratory for testing. Who will be responsible for payment of the split test?

If the individual does not have private insurance, medical assistance and/or the split test is not covered by their insurance, the provider would invoice DHS for payment.

9.) Will Breath Alcohol Tests be accepted in place of the “Alco saliva alcohol test” described on page 5 of the solicitation?

Please see question 6.

8.) Will a nationally certified laboratory such as Quest Diagnostics or LabCorp be acceptable even if they do not have a certification directly from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Laboratories?

No. Under Pennsylvania law, any person or clinical laboratory, either in-state or out-of-state, that tests specimens in the Commonwealth or collected within the Commonwealth must be licensed by the Department.

June 30, 2015

7.) In the RFP, it mentions that the proposer must provide a 12-panel urine drug screen, but under the drugs listed for testing, there are only ten. Are there two other drugs that weren't mentioned that you would like to be included?

The 12 drugs are methamphetamine, barbiturates, benzodiazepines (valium, Xanax, etc.), cocaine, marijuana, methadone, opiates, amphetamine, PCP, suboxone (a synthetic that is used like methadone), oxycodone, propoxyphene (Darvocet, Darvon, etc.).

June 25, 2015

6.) Will DHS consider the use of a breath alcohol test or urine alcohol (ethanol not EtG) test in place of a saliva alcohol test?

Yes, we will consider it.

June 18, 2015

5.) Are you cutting the current contract short for some reason?

No. DHS is looking for a proposer to provide community-based drug and alcohol testing facilities in addition to the current labs to improve access to drug and alcohol testing services.

4.) The Proposal Narrative you are asking for says it needs to be 8 pages. Typically ours is only a few pages long. Can you explain in more detail what you want included in the 8 pages?

All page counts in the RFP are maximum page counts. If you are able to respond in fewer pages that is fine.

3.) Can you please clarify the current number of samples collected per month?

We estimate that approximately 3,000-3,500 individuals involved with the child welfare system will utilize this drug and alcohol testing service annually.

2.) Does DHS plan to continue to operate the labs located in the Family Court and Wander Building?

The Family Court and Wander Building labs will continue to operate.

1.) In addition to testing facilities, is your organization requiring “on-site” drug and alcohol testing? Or, will all referrals be required to have testing take place only at a facility?

DHS would consider proposals that included “on-site testing” in addition to community-based testing facilities.