



**BOARD OF CONTRACT AND SUPPLY
CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Item Description: HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT (HRA) MARKETING – 3-YEAR CONTRACT WITH TWO 2-YEAR EXTENSIONS

Procurement/MinuteTraq #: 47399

Date to be opened: 11/18/2024

Issuing Department: Department of People and Culture | Total Rewards (HR/Benefits)

QUESTIONS

- Please direct questions related to the bidding process, how to fill out forms, and how to submit a bid (Pages 1-8) to the Purchasing Department.
 - Email: purchasing@providenceri.gov
 - Please use the subject line “**Solicitation Question**”
- Please direct questions relative to the Minority and Women’s Business Enterprise Program and the corresponding forms (Pages 9-13) to the MBE/WBE Outreach Director for the City of Providence, Grace Diaz
 - Email: gdiaz@providenceri.gov
 - Please use subject line “**MBE WBE Forms**”
- Please direct questions relative to the specifications outlined (beginning on page 14) to the issuing department’s subject matter expert:
 - Name: Roxanne Lowe
 - Title: Principal
 - Email Address: Roxanne.lowe@mercer.com

and

 - Name: Emily Knaus
 - Title: Principal
 - Email Address: Emily.knaus@mercer.com

Pre-bid Conference

There is no pre-bid conference scheduled for this item.

Deadline for questions submissions: October 28, 2024 by 2:00 PM (EST).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

Meeting Date: 11/18/2024

Bids may be submitted up to **2:15 P.M.** on the above meeting date at the **Department of the City Clerk, Room 311, City Hall, 25 Dorrance Street, Providence.** At 2:15 P.M. all bids will be publicly opened and read at the Board of Contract Meeting in Conference Room 305, on the 3rd floor of City Hall.

- Bidders must submit **2 copies** of their bid in sealed envelopes or packages labeled with the captioned **Item Description** and the **City Department to which the solicitation and bid are related and must include the company name and address on the envelope as well.** (On page 1).
- If required by the Department, please keep the original bid bond and check in only one of the envelopes.
- Communications to the Board of Contract and Supply that are not competitive sealed bids (i.e. product information/samples) should have “**NOT A BID**” written on the envelope or wrapper.
- Only use form versions and templates included in this solicitation. If you have an old version of a form do not recycle it for use in this bid.
- The bid envelope and information relative to the bid must be addressed to:

**Board of Contract and Supply
Department of the City Clerk – City Hall, Room 311
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903**

****PLEASE NOTE: This bid may include details regarding information that you will need to provide (such as proof of licenses) to the issuing department before the formalization of an award.**

This information is NOT requested to be provided in your initial bid by design.

All bids submitted to the City Clerk become public record. Failure to follow instructions could result in information considered private being posted to the city’s Open Meetings Portal and made available as a public record. The City has made a conscious effort to avoid the posting of sensitive information on the City’s Open Meetings Portal, by requesting that such sensitive information be submitted to the issuing department only at their request.

BID PACKAGE CHECKLIST

Digital forms are available in the City of Providence Purchasing Department Office or online at <http://www.providenceri.gov/purchasing/how-to-submit-a-bid/>

The bid package **MUST** include the following, in this order:

- Bid Form 1: Bidder's Blank as the cover page/ 1st page (*see page 6 of this document*)
- Bid Form 2: Certification of Bidder as 2nd page (*see page 7 of this document*)
- Bid Form 3: Certificate Regarding Public Records (*see page 8 of this document*)
- Bid Form 4: Affidavit of City Vendor (*see pages 9 and 10 of this document*)
- Forms from the Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program: Based on Bidder Category. *See forms and instructions enclosed (pages 11-112) or on:*
<https://www.providenceri.gov/purchasing/minority-women-owned-business-mbewbe-procurement-program/>

***Please note: MBE/WBE forms must be completed for EVERY bid submitted and must be inclusive of ALL required signatures. Forms without all required signatures will be considered incomplete.**

- Bidder's Proposal/Packet: Formal response to the specifications outlined in this RFP, including pricing information and details related to the good(s) or service(s) being provided. Please be mindful of formatting responses as requested to ensure clarity.
- Financial Assurance, *if requested* (as indicated on page 5 of this document under "Bid Terms")

All of the above listed documents are REQUIRED. (With the exception of financial assurances, which are only required if specified on page 5.)

******Failure to meet specified deadlines, follow specific submission instructions, or enclose all required documents with all applicable signatures will result in disqualification, or in an inability to appropriately evaluate bids.***

NOTICE TO VENDORS

1. The Board of Contract and Supply will make the award to the lowest qualified and responsible bidder.
2. In determining the lowest responsible bidder, cash discounts based on preferable payment terms will not be considered.
3. Where prices are the same, the Board of Contract and Supply reserves the right to award to one bidder, or to split the award.
4. No proposal will be accepted if the bid is made in collusion with any other bidder.
5. Bids may be submitted on an “equal in quality” basis. The City reserves the right to decide equality. Bidders must indicate brand or the make being offered and submit detailed specifications if other than brand requested.
6. A bidder who is an out-of-state corporation shall qualify or register to transact business in this State, in accordance with the Rhode Island Business Corporation Act, RIGL Sec. 7-1.2-1401, et seq.
7. The Board of Contract and Supply reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
8. Competing bids may be viewed in person at the Department of the City Clerk, City Hall, Providence, immediately upon the conclusion of the formal Board of Contract and Supply meeting during which the bids were unsealed/opened. Bids may also be accessed electronically on the internet via the City’s [Open Meetings Portal](#).
9. As the City of Providence is exempt from the payment of Federal Excise Taxes and Rhode Island Sales Tax, prices quoted are not to include these taxes.
10. In case of error in the extension of prices quoted, the unit price will govern.
11. The contractor will **NOT** be permitted to: a) assign or underlet the contract, or b) assign either legally or equitably any monies or any claim thereto without the previous written consent of the City Purchasing Director.
12. Delivery dates must be shown in the bid. If no delivery date is specified, it will be assumed that an immediate delivery from stock will be made.
13. A certificate of insurance will normally be required of a successful vendor.
14. For many contracts involving construction, alteration and/or repair work, State law provisions concerning payment of prevailing wage rates apply ([RIGL Sec. 37-13-1 et seq.](#))
15. No goods should be delivered, or work started without a Purchase Order.
- 16. Submit 2 copies of the bid to the City Clerk, unless the specification section of this document indicates otherwise.**
17. Bidder must certify that it does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation and/or religion in its business and hiring practices and that all of its employees are lawfully employed under all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations. (See Bid Form 2.)

BID TERMS

1. Financial assurances may be required in order to be a successful bidder for Commodity or Construction and Service contracts. If either of the first two checkboxes below is checked, the specified assurance **must accompany** a bid, or the bid will not be considered by the Board of Contract and Supply. The third checkbox indicates the lowest responsible bidder will be contacted and required to post a bond to be awarded the contract.
 - a) A certified check for \$_____ must be deposited with the City Clerk as a guarantee that the Contract will be signed and delivered by the bidder.
 - b) A bid bond in the amount of _____ per centum (%) of the proposed total price, must be deposited with the City Clerk as a guarantee that the contract will be signed and delivered by the bidder; and the amount of such bid bond shall be retained for the use of the City as liquidated damages in case of default. Any person signing a bid bond as an attorney-in-fact shall include with the bid bond an original, or a photocopy or facsimile of an original, power of attorney.
 - c) A performance and payment bond with a satisfactory surety company will be posted by the bidder in a sum equal to one hundred per centum (100%) of the awarded contract.
 - d) No financial assurance is necessary for this item.
2. Awards will be made within **nighty (90) days of bid opening**. All bid prices will be considered firm, unless qualified otherwise. Requests for price increases will not be honored.
3. Failure to deliver within the time quoted or failure to meet specifications may result in default in accordance with the general specifications. It is agreed that deliveries and/or completion are subject to strikes, lockouts, accidents, and Acts of God.

The following entry applies only for COMMODITY BID TERMS:

4. Payment for partial delivery will not be allowed except when provided for in blanket or term contracts.

The following entries apply only for CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE BID TERMS:

5. Only one shipping charge will be applied in the event of partial deliveries for blanket or term contracts.
6. Prior to commencing performance under the contract, the successful bidder shall attest to compliance with the provisions of the Rhode Island Worker's Compensation Act, [RIGL 28-29-1, et seq.](#) If exempt from compliance, the successful bidder shall submit a sworn Affidavit by a corporate officer to that effect, which shall accompany the signed contract.
7. Prior to commencing performance under the contract, the successful bidder shall, submit a certificate of insurance, in a form and in an amount satisfactory to the City.

BID FORM 1: Bidders Blank

1. Bids must meet the attached specifications. Any exceptions or modifications must be noted and fully explained.
2. Bidder's responses must be in ink or typewritten, and all blanks on the bid form should be completed.
3. The price or prices proposed should be stated both in **WRITING** and in **FIGURES**, and any proposal not so stated may be rejected. **Contracts exceeding twelve months must specify annual costs for each year.**
4. Bids **SHOULD BE TOTALED** so that the final cost is clearly stated (unless submitting a unit price bid), however **each item should be priced individually**. Do not group items. Awards may be made on the basis of *total* bid or by *individual items*.
5. All bids **MUST BE SIGNED IN INK.**

Name of Bidder (Firm or

Individual):

Contact Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Phone #: _____

Contact Email _____

Address: _____

Agrees to bid on (Write the "Item Description" here): _____

If the bidder's company is based in a state *other than Rhode Island*, list name and contact information for a local agent for service of process that is *located within Rhode Island*

Delivery Date (if applicable): _____

Name of Surety Company (if applicable): _____

Total Amount in Writing*: _____

Total Amount in Figures*: _____

****If you are submitting a unit price bid, please insert "Unit Price Bid"***

Use additional pages if necessary for additional bidding details.

Signature of Representation

Title

BID FORM 2: Certification of Bidder
(Non-Discrimination/Hiring)

Upon behalf of _____ (Firm or Individual Bidding),

I, _____ (Name of Person Making Certification),

being its _____ (Title or "Self"), hereby certify that:

1. Bidder does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation and/or religion in its business and hiring practices.
2. All of Bidder's employees have been hired in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations.

I affirm by signing below that I am duly authorized on behalf of Bidder,

on

this _____ day of _____ 20_____.

Signature of Representation

Printed Name

BID FORM 3: Certificate Regarding Public Records

Upon behalf of _____ (Firm or Individual Bidding),

I, _____ (Name of Person Making Certification),

being its _____ (Title or "Self"), hereby certify an understanding that:

1. All bids submitted in response to Requests for Proposals (RFP's) and Requests for Qualification (RFQ's), documents contained within, and the details outlined on those documents become public record upon receipt by the City Clerk's office and opening at the corresponding Board of Contract and Supply (BOCS) meeting.
2. The Purchasing Department and the issuing department for this RFP/RFQ have made a conscious effort to request that sensitive/personal information be submitted directly to the issuing department and only at request if verification of specific details is critical the evaluation of a vendor's bid.
3. The requested supplemental information may be crucial to evaluating bids. Failure to provide such details may result in disqualification, or an inability to appropriately evaluate bids.
4. If sensitive information that has not been requested is enclosed or if a bidder opts to enclose the defined supplemental information prior to the issuing department's request in the bidding packet submitted to the City Clerk, the City of Providence has no obligation to redact those details and bears no liability associated with the information becoming public record.
5. The City of Providence observes a public and transparent bidding process. Information required in the bidding packet may not be submitted directly to the issuing department at the discretion of the bidder in order to protect other information, such as pricing terms, from becoming public. Bidders who make such an attempt will be disqualified.

I affirm by signing below that I am duly authorized on behalf of Bidder,

on

this _____ day of _____ 20 _____.

Signature of Representation

Printed Name

BID FORM 4: Affidavit of City Vendor

Per our Code of Ordinances [Sec. 21.-28.1 \(e\)](#), this form applies to a) the business, b) any political action committee whose name includes the name of the business, c) all persons holding ten (10) percent or greater equity interest or five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) or greater cash value interest in the business at any time during the reporting period, d) all executive officers of the business entity, e) any spouse or dependent child of any individual identified in a) though d) above.

Executive officers who are not residents of the state of Rhode Island are exempted from this requirement.

Per [R.I.G.L. § 36-14-2](#), "Business" means a sole proprietorship, partnership, firm, corporation, holding company, joint stock company, receivership, trust, or any other entity recognized in law through which business for profit or not for profit is conducted.

Name of the person making this affidavit: _____

Position in the "Business" _____

Name of Entity _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

The number of persons or entities in your entity that are required to report under [Sec. 21.-28.1 \(e\)](#): _____

Read the following paragraph and answer one of the options:

Within the 12 month period preceding the date of this bid submission with the City of Providence, or with respect to the contracts that are not in writing within the 12 month period preceding the date of notification that the contract has reached the \$100,000 threshold, have you made campaign contributions within a calendar year to (please list all persons or entities required under [Sec. 21.-28.1 \(e\)](#)).

a. Members of the Providence City Council? Yes No

- If Yes, please complete the following:

Recipient(s) of the Contribution:

Contribution Date(s):

Contribution Amount(s):

b. Candidates for election or reelection to the Providence City Council? Yes No

- If Yes, please complete the following:

Recipient(s) of the Contribution:

Contribution Date(s):

Contribution Amount(s):

c. The Mayor of Providence? Yes No

- If Yes, please complete the following:

Recipient(s) of the Contribution:

Contribution Date(s):

Contribution Amount(s):

d. Candidates for election or reelection to the office of Mayor of Providence? Yes No

- If Yes, please complete the following:

Recipient(s) of the Contribution:

Contribution Date(s):

Contribution Amount(s):

Signed under the pains and penalties of perjury.

Position

MBE/WBE Participation Plan

Please complete separate forms for each MBE/WBE subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation.

Bidder's Name:					
Bidder's Address:					
Point of Contact:					
Telephone:					
Email:					
Procurement #:					
Project Name:					
Which one of the following describes your business' status in terms of Minority and/or Woman Owned Business Enterprise certification with the State of Rhode Island? (Check all that apply).	<input type="checkbox"/> MBE	<input type="checkbox"/> WBE	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither MBE nor WBE		
<p>This form is intended to capture commitments between the prime contractor/vendor and MBE/WBE subcontractors and suppliers, including a description of the work to be performed and the percentage of the work as submitted to the prime contractor/vendor. Please note that all MBE/WBE subcontractors/suppliers must be certified by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity at the time of bid. The MBE/WBE Directory can be found here. Please visit, the City's MBE/WBE page for details of the program (e.g. instructions and requirements).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonprofit organizations are not required to complete the rest of this form. Construction projects unable to identify subcontractors prior to bid submission (e.g. Design Build) are required to provide updates to the MBE/WBE Outreach Office 					
Name of Subcontractor/Supplier:					
Type of RI Certification:	<input type="checkbox"/> MBE	<input type="checkbox"/> WBE	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither		
Address:					
Point of Contact:					
Telephone:					
Email:					
Detailed Description of Work to Be Performed by Subcontractor or Materials to be Supplied by Supplier Per the Scope of Work provided in the RFP					
Total Contract Value (\$):		Subcontract Value (\$):		Participation Rate (%):	
Anticipated Date of Performance:					
I certify under penalty of perjury that the forgoing statements are true and correct.					
Prime Contractor/Vendor Signature			Title		
Date					
Subcontractor/Supplier Signature			Title		
Date					

***If you did not meet the 20% MBE/WBE combined participation goal, submit a Waiver Request Form.**

MBE/WBE Waiver Request Form

**Fill out this form only if you did not meet the 20% MBE/WBE participation goal.
State-certified MBE or WBE Prime Bidders are NOT REQUIRED to fill out this form.**

Submit this form to the City of Providence MBE/WBE Outreach Director, Grace Diaz, at gdiaz@providenceri.gov or mbe-wbe@providenceri.gov, for review **prior to bid submission**. This waiver applies only to the current bid which you are submitting to the City of Providence and does not apply to other bids your company may submit in the future. **In case a waiver is needed, City Department Directors should not recommend a bidder for an award if this form is not included, absent or is not signed by the city of Providence MBE/WBE director.**

Prime Bidder: _____ Contact Email and Phone _____
 Company Name, Address: _____ Trade _____
 Project /Item Description (as seen on RFP): _____

To receive a waiver, you must list the certified MBE and/or WBE companies you contacted, the name of the primary individual with whom you interacted, and the reason the MBE/WBE company could not participate on this project.

MBE/WBE Company Name	Individual's Name	Company Name	Why did you choose not to work with this company?

I acknowledge the City of Providence's goal of a combined MBE/WBE participation is 20% of the total bid value. I am requesting a waiver of _____ % MBE/WBE (20% minus the value of **Box F** on the Subcontractor Disclosure Form). If an opportunity is identified to subcontract any task associated with the fulfillment of this contract, a good faith effort will be made to select MBE/WBE certified businesses as partners.

 Signature of Prime Contractor /
 or Duly Authorized Representative

 Printed Name

Date Signed

 Signature of City of Providence
 MBE/WBE Outreach Director /
 or Duly Authorized Representative

 Printed Name of City of Providence
 MBE/WBE Outreach Director

Date Signed

BID PACKAGE SPECIFICATIONS

Overview

The following information is proprietary and confidential. This proposal and its attachments should not be discussed with anyone outside your firm. Any organization violating this requirement will immediately be eliminated from consideration in the request for proposal process. Any questions regarding the proposal or attachments should be directed to Mercer Health & Benefits, LLC.

PURPOSE OF MARKETING

The objective of this marketing is to find a carrier who is able to provide best in class service at competitive costs. We are requesting proposals on the following coverages:

- Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)

The City reserves the right to decline a bid or not award business based on the best interests of The City of Providence.

Scope of Work

CURRENT BENEFIT OFFERINGS

Health Reimbursement Account is administered by London Health.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Administered by London Health Administrators. Please see below for enrollment counts.

- Number of employees enrolled in only the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA): 1,675

The City has approximately 4,800 active employees, 2,200 pre-65 retirees and 3,800 post-65 retirees currently enrolled in The City's health plan.

All medically eligible employees will be eligible for the new plan.

*Prior carriers will be liable for all claims incurred prior to the termination date.

CURRENT RATES:

Please refer to the recent invoice for rates.

All information in the RFP, including information which is subsequently disclosed by City of Providence or Mercer during the proposal process, must be considered confidential information and must not be released to parties external to the carrier/administrator (and their agents) without the written consent of Mercer.

COMMISSIONS

Please quote net of commissions for all lines

TERM OF CONTRACT

The initial term of the contract(s) resulting from this RFP will be for three (3) years plus two additional (2) year extensions from the effective date, or through July 1, 2032. The City reserves the right to renew the contracts, upon agreement between the City and the vendor, for additional two-year periods.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF CONTRACT

July 1, 2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL:

The following services must be included and described in your proposal where applicable. Please indicate any additional costs for these services.

1. General Services

- Administration manual
- Correspondence and Printed Materials - must agree to customize plan materials, allow City of Providence initial review and approval
- Statistical data -- maintenance and reporting (financial and management reports)
- Underwriting and actuarial support
- ERISA required reports (Schedule A)
- New Hire enrollment material
- HIPAA Certificates and regulatory requirements

2. Claim Services

- Claim preparation (including requests for additional information)
- Claim adjudication
- Claim payment
- Underwriting for late entrants
- Explanation of benefits

3. Payment of Funds

- The selected administrator must be able to accommodate the schedule of fund transfers that the City of Providence sets into place. If funds are delayed, the selected administrator MUST provide advanced, written notice to the City of Providence prior to any account shutoffs.

4. Transfer of Records

- In the event of termination, the selected administrator will agree to transfer all data and other pertinent records required for program administration to City of Providence (or another designated party) within 30 days of notification of termination.

5. Transfer of Current Participants

- The selected administrator will accept and administer coverage for participants that are currently enrolled with the incumbent.

6. Eligibility and Enrollment Data

- The selected administrator must be able to accept electronic enrollment and Qualified Event information on a weekly basis. The date must be entered into the eligibility system, and be available to the member services representatives/claim processors, within five calendar days of receipt.

7. Performance Standards

- City of Providence intends to implement a "one-sided" (i.e., penalty only) performance standards agreement to ensure service is consistent with the representations made during the RFP process.
- Proposed guarantees may be based upon, but are not limited to, successful program implementation, account management, management reporting, program cost management, customer service, timely and accurate loading of eligibility data and participant satisfaction.
- Responses must include a detailed description of your organization's proposed performance standards and guarantees, and specify the dollars the administrator is proposing to put "at risk" under such an arrangement. Responses indicating "willing to provide if selected as finalist" will constitute a failure in meeting the bidding requirements and will result in a lower score for your proposal.

8. Vendor Interfaces

- The selected administrator agrees to interface with City of Providence's internal and external vendors.

9. Right to Audit

- City of Providence reserves the right to audit (or designate an independent third party to audit) the selected administrator at any time during and up to two years following termination of the contract (with prior written notification). City of Providence will not be held responsible for time and miscellaneous costs incurred by the administrator in association with an audit including, but not limited to the costs associated with providing sample audit reports, systems access, or space.
- Furthermore, City of Providence expects the selected administrator to pay for the cost of any "follow up" audit, should the results of the initial audit prove unsatisfactory based on the agreed upon performance standards.

10. Indemnification

- The selected administrator shall use its best efforts in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties under the mutually agreed upon contract. The selected administrator will agree to indemnify and hold harmless City of Providence and its directors, officers and colleagues against all claims, lawsuits, settlements, judgments, costs, penalties and expenses including attorney's fees, with respect to the contracted arrangement, arising out of a breach of the contract, or the negligence or dishonest, fraudulent, or criminal acts of the selected administrator, or any of its directors, officers, employees subcontractors, or contracting providers acting alone or in collusion with others.

11. Customer Service

- The selected administrator must be able to provide an account management team that is located within the New England region (RI/MA/CT). The selected administrator must be able to provide a dedicated account rep to be available to the City who will have the ability to attend regular in person enrollment meetings and informational meetings. The selected administrator must commit to responding to member inquiries within 24 hours, and be able to show a high level of customer service (must provide references specific to customer service team in your response).

12. Management Reports (Standard Reporting Package)

- Please provide a sample management report. Standard electronic management reports must be provided on or prior to the 15th of each month. Costs for standard reports should be included in the fees. Costs for ad hoc reporting should be detailed in the response. In addition, the selected administrator must agree to meet with City of Providence on a quarterly basis (at minimum) to review plan progress, service-related issues, etc.

All requirements outlined above will be included in the final contract between City of Providence and the selected administrators).

FINALIST QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What data is required from an employer initially and on a monthly basis to maintain your administration system?
2. In what format can you receive and transmit eligibility data including additions and deletions?
3. Can you provide discrimination testing for spending account plans? Is there an additional cost?
4. What employee communication services are provided? How is communication delivered to employees (i.e. email, home mailings, etc.)? Is there an additional cost for these services? Can communications be customized?
5. Do you offer a debit card for HRA? Is there an additional cost for the debit cards? Who is your debit card provider? Do you charge fees for replacement cards? How quickly are cards mailed to participants once enrollment information is received?
6. Please describe your claim submission and substantiation process. What percent of debit card transactions are automatically adjudicated among your book of business?
7. How frequently do you reimburse members for their HRA expenses?
8. Please provide a work flow diagram and explanation of your HRA processing procedures from enrollment through claim adjudication, claim payment (include turn-around time), and reconciliation of accounts to payroll deductions.
9. Please describe your claim substantiation process. How are participants notified they need submit additional information for substantiation?

10. Please confirm your organization has locations in RI. Please confirm your customer service and account management is located in RI. Please confirm to the best of your knowledge, your organization has no plan to leave RI over the length of the contract. What is your office address in RI?
11. Please provide a summary of any current or previous working relationship your organization has had with the City of Providence. How will this relationship benefit Providence as it relates to the spending account RFP?
12. Please confirm if you are willing to provide \$50,000 in technology credits to the City of Providence?



**BOARD OF CONTRACT AND SUPPLY
CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND**

Proposed Schedule

GENERAL TIMELINE

The timeline for the evaluation and implementation is outlined below:

Activity	Date
• RFP issued	October 21, 2024
• Questions due	October 28, 2024
• Responses to questions provided	November 4, 2024
• Completed proposals due to Mercer and The City	November 18, 2024
• Mercer & City of Providence analyze proposals	November 18, 2024 through December 18, 2024
• Finalist Meetings (if needed)	January 2025
• Final Vendor Decision / Notify Carriers	January/February 2025
• Commence Implementation / Weekly Calls /Meetings	February 2025
• Implementation	February/March 2025
• Commence Open Enrollment	May 2025, dates TBD
• Commence New Plan Year / Post-Implementation	July 1, 2025

The timeline outlined above is subject to change. We will attempt to alert you as soon as possible if the timeline changes.

Please note that all bidders are expected to have the appropriate staff available for the finalist presentations and site visits during the times indicated above.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Proposals must be submitted to The City of Providence no later than 2:15pm EST, November 18, 2024

Proposals: Please send 1 electronic copy of this proposal to: Roxanne.Lowe@mercer.com and Emily.Knaus@mercer.com

In addition, please send 1 hard copy of the RFP to Purchasing by November 18, 2024 2:15 pm
Providence City Hall
Attention: Purchasing
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903

All questions can be directed to Roxanne Lowe at (617) 747-9312 or Emily Knaus at (857) 205-6512. Questions may also be emailed: Roxanne.Lowe@mercer.com and Emily.Knaus@mercer.com. **Under no circumstances should you contact the City of Providence directly regarding this proposal.**



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The proposals must be received to Mercer electronically, and to Providence City Hall (hard copy) no later than 2:15 PM EST on November 18, 2024 – ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS. Any proposals received after the due date requested will not be considered.

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used in the overall selection of the vendor(s) for these services:

- Financials – *maximum 50 points*
 - Administration Fees
 - Ancillary Fees
 - Performance Guarantees
 - Claim submission and substantiation process
 - Technology credits/allowances
- Account Management – *maximum 25 points*
 - Prior experience with the City or other municipalities
 - Local Rhode Island based account management team
 - Attendance for all calls and required meetings
 - Ability and commitment to administering current plans
 - Provide a response to the City within 24 hours on any questions or requests
 - Proactive account management with established estimated turnaround time for inquiries
 - Account team including their case load, type of accounts and average size of other clients
 - Communications
 - Additional tools and resources available to the City
- Technical – *maximum 25 points*
 - Implementation support
 - Open enrollment support
 - Online employer and employee portal
 - Data feed support
 - Ability to provide ad-hoc reporting to the City, if needed



**BOARD OF CONTRACT AND SUPPLY
CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND**

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

If the issuing department for this RFP determines that your firm's bid is best suited to accommodate their need, you will be asked to provide proof of the following prior to formalizing an award.

An inability to provide the outlined items at the request of the department may lead to the disqualification of your bid.

*This information is **NOT** requested to be provided in your initial bid that you will submit to the City Clerk's office by the "date to be opened" noted on page 1. This list only serves as a list of items that your firm should be ready to provide on request.*

All bids submitted to the City Clerk become public record. Failure to follow instructions could result in information considered private being posted to the city's Open Meetings Portal and made available as a public record.

You must be able to provide:

- Business Tax ID will be requested after an award is approved by the Board of Contract and Supply.
- Proof of Insurance.
- Certificate of Good Standing with the Rhode Island Secretary of State.



**BOARD OF CONTRACT AND SUPPLY
CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND**

CITY OF PROVIDENCE STANDARD TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. The terms “you” and “your” contained herein refer to the person or entity that is a party to the agreement with the City of Providence (“the City”) and to such person’s or entity’s employees, officers, and agents.
2. The Request For Proposals (“RFP”) and these Standard Terms and Conditions together constitute the entire agreement of the parties (“the Agreement”) with regard to any and all matters. By your submission of a bid proposal or response to the City’s RFP, you accept these Standard Terms & Conditions and agree that they supersede any conflicting provisions provided by bid or in any terms and conditions contained or linked within a bid and/or response. Changes in the terms and conditions of the Agreement, or the scope of work thereunder, may only be made by a writing signed by the parties.
3. You are an independent contractor and in no way does this Agreement render you an employee or agent of the City or entitle you to fringe benefits, workers’ compensation, pension obligations, retirement or any other employment benefits. The City shall not deduct federal or state income taxes, social security or Medicare withholdings, or any other taxes required to be deducted by an employer, and this is your responsibility to yourself and your employees and agents.
4. You shall not assign your rights and obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the City. Any assignment without prior written consent of the City shall be voidable at the election of the City. The City retains the right to refuse any and all assignments in the City’s sole and absolute discretion.
5. Invoices submitted to the City shall be payable sixty (60) days from the time of receipt by the City. Invoices shall include support documentation necessary to evidence completion of the work being invoiced. The City may request any other reasonable documentation in support of an invoice. The time for payment shall not commence, and invoices shall not be processed for payment, until you provide reasonably sufficient support documentation. In no circumstances shall the City be obligated to pay or shall you be entitled to receive interest on any overdue invoice or payment. In no circumstances shall the City be obligated to pay any costs associated with your collection of an outstanding invoice.
6. For contracts involving construction, alteration, and/or repair work, the provisions of applicable state labor law concerning payment of prevailing wage rates (R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 37-13-1 et seq., as amended) and the City’s First Source Ordinance (Providence Code of Ordinances §§ 21-91 et seq., as amended) apply.
7. With regard to any issues, claims, or controversies that may arise under this Agreement, the City shall not be required to submit to dispute resolution or mandatory/binding arbitration. Nothing prevents the parties from mutually agreeing to settle any disputes using mediation or non-binding arbitration.
8. To the fullest extent permitted by law, you shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City, its employees, officers, agents, and assigns from and against any and all claims, damages, losses, allegations, demands, actions, causes of action, suits, obligations, fines, penalties, judgments, liabilities, costs and expenses, including but not limited to attorneys’ fees, of any nature whatsoever arising out of, in connection with, or resulting from the performance of the work provided in the Agreement.
9. You shall maintain throughout the term of this Agreement the insurance coverage that is required by the RFP or, if none is required in the RFP, insurance coverage that is considered in your industry to be commercially reasonable, and you agree to name the City as an additional insured on your general liability policy and on any umbrella policy you carry.
10. The City shall not subject itself to any contractual limitations on liability. The City shall have the time permitted within the applicable statute of limitations, and no less, to bring or assert any and all causes of action, suits, claims or demands the City may have arising out of, in connection with, or resulting from the performance of the work provided in the Agreement, and in no event does the City agree to limit your liability to the price of the Agreement or any other monetary limit.
11. The City may terminate this Agreement upon five (5) days’ written notice to you if you fail to observe any of the terms and conditions of this Agreement, or if the City believes your ability to perform the



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terms and conditions of this Agreement has been materially impaired in any way, including but in no way limited to loss of insurance coverage, lapsing of a surety bond, if required, declaration of bankruptcy, or appointment of a receiver. In the event of termination by the City, you shall be entitled to just and equitable compensation for any satisfactory work completed and expenses incurred up to the date of termination.

12. Written notice hereunder shall be deemed to have been duly served if delivered in person to the individual or member of the firm or entity or to an officer of the entity for whom it was intended, or if delivered at or sent by registered or certified mail to the last business address known by the party providing notice.
13. In no event shall the Agreement automatically renew or be extended without a writing signed by the parties.
14. You agree that products produced or resulting from the performance of the Agreement are the sole property of the City and may not be used by you without the express written permission of the City.
15. For any Agreement involving the sharing or exchange of data involving potentially confidential and/or personal information, you shall comply with any and all state and/or federal laws or regulations applicable to confidential and/or personal information you receive from the City, including but not limited to the Rhode Island Identity Theft Protection Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 11-49.3-1, during the term of the Agreement. You shall implement and maintain appropriate physical, technical, and administrative security measures for the protection of, and to prevent access to, use, or disclosure of, confidential and/or personal information. In the event of a breach of such information, you shall notify the City of such breach immediately, but in no event later than twenty-four (24) hours after discovery of such breach.
16. The Agreement is governed by the laws of the State of Rhode Island. You expressly submit yourself to and agree that any and all actions arising out of, in connection with, or resulting from the performance of the Agreement or relationship between the parties shall occur solely in the venue and jurisdiction of the State of Rhode Island or the federal court located in Rhode Island.
17. The failure of the City to require performance of any provision shall not affect the City's right to require performance at any time thereafter, nor shall a waiver of any breach or default of this Agreement constitute a waiver of any subsequent breach or default or a waiver of the provision itself.
18. If any term or provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall, in any extent, be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby, and each term and provision shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.