

State of Washington Office of Insurance Commissioner

Request for proposals (RFP) S2405

Addendum 1 Preproposal Conference Follow Up

Question 1: Is the vendor required to have done work specific to essential workers or would other similar populations be considered "very similar?"

Answer: Similar experience could be related to identifying the best ways to provide health care coverage to other groups or populations – it doesn't need to be specific to essential workers. Many essential workers are lower-income professions, so relevant experience related to offering health coverage to lower income populations would be helpful.

Question 2: What information is available on Washington's history of applying for federal funding, particularly federal Medicaid matching funds, for other programs?

Answer: WA state has been active in using its Medicaid program to support access to coverage. We have a history of identifying opportunities to draw down federal matching funds when available. See the links provided on pg. 2.

Question 3: Will that history be part of the information available for the vendor to complete their analysis and work?

Answer: WA State has obtained two Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waivers. The WA Health Benefit Exchange obtained a section 1332 waiver from CMS to allow people who would not otherwise be eligible to enroll in coverage through the exchange to do so. Publicly available information related to those waivers could be referenced. Medicaid state plan amendments are public documents as well.

Question 4: What types of relevant data (if any) does the State have access to that they can share with the vendor? The RFP asks what information vendors have that the state may not.

Answer: WA state Office of Financial Management monitors the insurance coverage status of people in Washington, tracking trends of uninsured individuals (see link on pg. 2). OIC has high level data around fully insured health plan enrollment in Washington. The WA Health benefit Exchange has demographic data regarding people who purchase coverage through the exchange (see link on pg. 2)

We do not have a lot of information regarding employer-sponsored health care coverage for essential workers. We can assist in connecting the vendor with associations or other entities that cover these workers, to, for example, see if surveys could be sent out or additional information could be gathered.

Question 5: What information does the state have about the entities employing essential workers that the RFP is intended to cover? (list of entities; information around size / # employees; geographic distribution; other industry info; etc)

Answer: Data about those industries would be with partner agencies that license the entities, such as childcare providers, long term health and support providers, etc. (such as DCYF and DSHS). OIC can provide virtual introductions to those agencies.

Question 6: If oral presentations are deemed necessary, do you expect those to be in person, or by teleconference?

Answer: Oral presentations would be held via teleconference such as Zoom or Teams.

Question 7: The RFP mentions other stakeholders – how does Wash St Health Care Authority (HCA) and Wash State Dept of Social and Health Services (DSHS) fit in, what other “interested organizations” are expected?

Answer: The Budget proviso directing OIC to do this work directs OIC to collaborate with DSHS and HCA. DSHS will be doing work regarding health care coverage for nursing home employees preceding and somewhat overlapping this work. We will be working closely with DSHS as the agency that regulates nursing homes, and HCA related to any Medicaid funding options.

Various Service Employees International Union (SEIU) labor representatives (e.g. childcare and health care) will be engaged in this work.

Provider associations and carriers may be interested in participating in the discussion.

OIC anticipates involving the Health Benefit Exchange in the discussion.

History of WA drawing down Medicaid matching funds:

- Medicaid Transformation Project (1115 waiver renewal): <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/programs-and-initiatives/medicaid-transformation-project-mtp>
- HCA state plan amendments: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/programs-and-initiatives/apple-health-medicaid/approved-state-plan-amendments>

Additional state data available:

- HBE enrollment reports, including demographic data: <https://www.wahbexchange.org/about-the-exchange/reports-data/enrollment-reports-data/> and <https://www.wahbexchange.org/content/dam/wahbe-assets/reports-data/enrollment-reports/240422%20Spring%20Enrollment%20Report.pdf>
- DSHS: Office of Rates Management: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/management-services-division/office-rates-management>
- OFM: health coverage statistics and reports: <https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/health-care/health-coverage>