



**California Health Benefit Exchange
Covered California™**

**Request for Proposal
RFP 2016-16**

**Covered California for Small Business Agent and
Employer Enrollment Application Technology
Development**

December 7, 2016

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

You are invited to review and respond to this Request for Proposal (RFP). By submitting a proposal, your organization agrees to the terms and conditions stated in this RFP.

Read this document carefully. You must comply with the instructions contained in this document. Responses to this RFP must be submitted to the California Health Benefit Exchange (Covered California) contact noted in section 1.3 below.

1.2 Key Action Dates

Bidders are advised of the key dates and times shown below and are expected to adhere to them. All times noted in this document are Pacific Time (PT).

KEY ACTION DATES

Request for Proposal Release Date:	December 7, 2016
Questions Due Date and Time:	December 12, 2016 by 03:00 p.m.
Responses Posted By:	December 15, 2016
Proposals Due Date and Time:	December 21, 2016 by 03:00 p.m.
Interviews:	December 27, 2016
Notice of Intent to Award:	Week of December 29, 2016 to December 30, 2016
Estimated Term Dates:	January 17, 2017 to January 16, 2018

1.3 Contact

E-mail address: HBEXSolicitation@covered.ca.gov
For all communications, subject line must include: RFP 2016-16.

California Health Benefit Exchange
Business Services Branch/Feuy Saechao
1601 Exposition Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95815

Phone calls will not be accepted.

1.4 Contract Amount

Responses shall not exceed \$300,000 in total costs. Responses that exceed this amount will not be considered for selection.

It is expected that the estimated funding for the contract will be approximately \$300,000 per year for the term of the contract including extensions, if any.

Funding is subject to annual budget approval by the Covered California Board of Directors. If full funding does not become available, Covered California may terminate or amend the contract to reflect reduced funding and reduced deliverables.

1.5 Contract Term

The initial term of the contract shall be for 1 year, January 17, 2017 through January 16, 2018. The contract term is subject to change.

The resulting contract will be of no force or effect until signed by both parties. Performance shall not commence until a valid contract has been executed between the successful Bidder and Covered California. Covered California will not pay for any services performed prior to the execution of a valid contract.

1.6 Contract Amendment

Covered California may, at its sole discretion, extend the term of the contract for two (2) additional consecutive years for the same services.

If mutually agreed by Covered California and the Contractor, this contract shall be amended to include additional funding at the same rates provided in the Bidder's original proposal.

1.7 Bidders' Questions

Bidders shall submit questions regarding this RFP by the due date and time specified in the Key Action Dates table in section 1.2. Only email questions addressed to the contact person listed in section 1.3 will be accepted. Bidders shall provide specific information to enable Covered California to identify and respond to their questions. When submitting questions, please reference the RFP number. Answers to questions received during the Bidder Question time period shall be posted on the HBEX website at <http://hbex.coveredca.com/solicitations/>. Bidders who fail to report a known or suspected problem with the RFP or who fail to seek clarification or correction of the RFP, shall submit a proposal at their own risk.

At its discretion, Covered California may contact a Bidder to seek clarification of any question received.

1.8 Submission of Final Proposals

1. Bidders' Cost: Costs for developing proposals or attending Bidder conferences are entirely the responsibility of the Bidder and are not chargeable to Covered California.
2. Completion of Proposals: Proposals must be complete in all respects as described in the requirements established within the RFP. A Final Proposal may be rejected if it is conditional or incomplete, or if it contains any alterations of form or other irregularities of any kind. A Final Proposal must be rejected if any such defect or irregularity constitutes a material deviation from the RFP requirements as determined by Covered California, in its sole discretion. The Final Proposal must contain all items required in the RFP.
3. False or Misleading Statements: Proposals which contain false or misleading statements, or which provide references which do not support an attribute or condition claimed by the Bidder, may be rejected. If, in the opinion of Covered

California, such information was intended to mislead Covered California in its evaluation of the proposal, and the attribute, condition or capability is a requirement of this RFP, it will be the basis for rejection of the proposal.

4. Errors: If a Bidder discovers any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission or other error in this RFP, the Bidder shall immediately notify Covered California of such error in writing and request modification or clarification of the RFP. Modifications or clarifications will be given by written notice and posted on the HBEX website at <http://hbex.coveredca.com/solicitations/> without divulging the source of the request for modification or clarification. Covered California shall not be responsible for failure to correct errors.
5. Importance of Meeting Deadlines: Bidders are responsible for the delivery of submissions to Covered California prior to the submission deadline. If Bidder mails or ships the submission and provides Covered California with the tracking information and the package tracking information indicates its arrival at Covered California by the submission deadline, the package will be considered to have arrived on time. Postal service postmarks, however, will not be accepted as proof of timely delivery. Faxed or electronic submissions will not be accepted. The RFP has stated deadlines for submitting materials to Covered California which will be strictly enforced. Submissions that are incomplete or received after the stated deadline will not be accepted or reviewed.

Responses to the RFP will be assessed based on determining the “Best Value” and the selection, if made, will be to a single Bidder. The Scope of Work (SOW) and bid may be made a part of the resulting Contract.

1.9 Format of Proposals

This RFP requires Bidders to submit a Final Proposal that shall contain all required Administrative and Technical Attachments and Exhibits, and that is submitted in a sealed envelope or container when delivered to Covered California. The sealed package must be plainly marked with the (1) RFP number and title, (2) Bidder’s name and address, and (3) must be marked “DO NOT OPEN,” as shown in the following example:

**RFP 2016-16: Covered California for Small Business Agent and Employer Enrollment
Application Technology Development
Attention: Feuy Saechao
California Health Benefit Exchange
Business Services Branch
1601 Exposition Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95815
DO NOT OPEN**

Bids not submitted under sealed cover may be rejected.

1. Copies Required

Provide one (1) hardcopy marked “MASTER,” and five (5) additional hard copies and one CD-ROM of all requested materials. The digital copy, including all attachments and

exhibits, must be provided in searchable text format (e.g., Microsoft™ Word®, searchable Adobe® PDF) and free of any password or encryption protection.

Each copy of the proposal must be complete, including all required attachments and documentation submitted in the “MASTER.”

2. Narrative Format

- a. Narrative portions of proposal responses should be prepared so as to provide a straightforward, concise delineation of capabilities to satisfy the requirements of this RFP. Emphasis should be on conformance with the RFP instructions, responsiveness to the RFP requirements and completeness and clarity of content. Expensive bindings, colored displays, promotional materials, etc., are not necessary or desired.
- b. Bidders must follow the format requirements listed below for all narrative portions of the RFP. Failure to do so may result in an entire proposal or affected section not being read or evaluated.
 - 1) Use a Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri font of at least 12-point size throughout. Exception: if a form is required by the State that contains a smaller font.
 - 2) Print pages single-sided on letter size (8.5 by 11 inches) white paper with 1.0 line spacing, unless otherwise noted.
 - 3) Use one-inch margins at the top, bottom and sides.
 - 4) Sequentially number the pages in each section and clearly identify each section in the order requested. When a page limit is noted, pages exceeding the limit will not be scored. It is not necessary to paginate the required forms.
 - 5) Place the Bidder's name in a header or footer on every page. If the Bidder's name is not already entered elsewhere on a completed certification or form, add it to a header, footer or signature block.
 - 6) Have a person who is authorized to bind the proposing firm sign each RFP attachment that requires a signature in **blue** ink. Signature stamps are not acceptable.
 - 7) Place the original signed attachments in the set marked “MASTER.” Additional copies may have photocopied signatures on attachments and throughout the document.
3. All proposals must be based on the Model Contract provided with this solicitation as described in Exhibit A – Scope of Work, and contract General Terms and Conditions provided in Exhibits C, D, E and F. Bidders should review the Model Contract in its entirety prior to submitting a proposal. Bidders must submit as part of their response any changes or exceptions to the Model Contract that they wish to negotiate. However, extensive exceptions to the Model Contract may make the proposal non-responsive to the RFP if Covered California determines the proposed exceptions

materially change the contractual relationship between the parties. Bidder changes or exceptions must be documented via track changes to the documents contained in the Model Contract. All Model Contract changes or exceptions must be included in the Bidder Proposal at the time of submission. No additional exceptions may be presented during contract negotiations and Covered California reserves the right to reject all exceptions in the Bidder Proposal.

1.10 Covered California Rights

1. Verification of Bidder Information

By submitting a proposal, Bidders agree to authorize Covered California to:

- a. Verify any and all claims made by the Bidder including, but not limited to, verification of prior experience and the possession of other required qualifications.
 - b. Check any reference identified by a Bidder or other resources known by the State to confirm the Bidder's business integrity and history of providing effective, efficient, competent and timely services.
2. Covered California may modify the RFP prior to the bid submission deadline by the issuance of an addendum on the HBEX website at <http://coveredca.com/solicitations/>.
 3. Covered California reserves the right to reject any bid that does not satisfy the requirements set forth in the RFP. Before submitting a response to this RFP, Bidders should review, correct all errors, and confirm compliance with the RFP requirements.

1.11 Rejection of Proposals

Deviations may cause a proposal to be non-responsive and may not be considered for award. Covered California may reject any or all proposals and may waive any immaterial deviation or defect in a proposal. Covered California's waiver of any immaterial deviation or defect shall in no way modify the RFP documents or excuse the Bidder from full compliance with the RFP specifications if awarded a contract.

FINAL PROPOSALS NOT RECEIVED BY THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED IN SECTION 1.2 KEY ACTION DATES OR NOT SEALED will remain unopened and will be maintained by the Contact listed in section 1.3 separately from proposals that have been timely received. Proposals received after expiration of the deadline may only be opened and considered upon written approval of the Executive Director or designee specifying the reason(s) for acceptance and consideration of the untimely proposal.

Issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by Covered California to award a contract. Covered California reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions of proposals, received in response to this RFP, or to amend or cancel this RFP at any time. In the event of such cancellation, Covered California may reissue the RFP at a later date.

Covered California reserves the right to consider contractor's past performance with Covered California in its selection of a Bidder pursuant to this RFP.

1. Non-responsive Proposals

A proposal may be deemed non-responsive and subsequently rejected if any of the following occurs:

- a. At any time a submission is received after the exact time and date set forth in section 1.2 Key Action Dates for receipt of each submission.
- b. The Bidder fails to meet any of the eligibility requirements as specified in section 2, Minimum Qualifications.
- c. The Bidder fails to submit or fails to complete and sign required Attachments as instructed in this RFP.
- d. The submission contains false, inaccurate or misleading statements or references.
- e. The Bidder is unwilling or unable to fully comply with the proposed contract provisions.
- f. The Bidder supplies conditional cost information, incomplete cost information, or cost information containing unsigned/uninitiated alterations or irregularities.

2. Business In Good Standing

Bidder acknowledges that when agreements are to be performed in the State by corporations or vendors, the State will verify, prior to awarding any State contract, the following information in order to ensure that all obligations due to the State are fulfilled:

Corporation in Good Standing

The State will verify with the Office of the Secretary of State (SOS) that the Bidder is a corporation currently qualified to do business in California. The bid will be considered non-responsive if the Bidder is not listed with the SOS.

“Doing business” is defined in Revenue and Taxation Code section 23101 as actively engaging in any transaction for the purpose of financial or pecuniary gain or profit. Although there are some statutory exceptions to taxation, rarely will a corporate contractor performing within the State not be subject to the franchise tax.

Both domestic and foreign corporations (those incorporated outside of California) must be in good standing in order to be qualified to do business in California.

State Tax Delinquency

The State will verify with the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) and Board of Equalization (BOE) that the Bidder is not on a prohibited list due to tax delinquencies. The bid will be considered non-responsive if the Bidder appears on any of these lists.

The list established by FTB can be found here:

https://www.ftb.ca.gov/aboutFTB/Delinquent_Taxpayers.shtml

The list established by BOE can be found here: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/cqi-bin/deliq.cqi>

1.12 Errors in Final Proposals

An error in the Final Proposal may cause the rejection of that proposal; however, Covered California may, AT ITS SOLE OPTION, retain the proposal and make certain corrections. In determining if a correction will be made, Covered California will consider the conformance of the proposal to the format and content required by the RFP, and any unusual complexity of the format and content required by the RFP.

1. If the Bidder's intent, as determined by Covered California, is clearly established based on review of the complete Final Proposal submittal, Covered California may at its sole option correct an error based on that established intent.
2. Covered California may at its sole option correct obvious clerical errors.
3. A Bidder may modify a bid after submission by withdrawing its original bid and resubmitting a new bid prior to the bid submission deadline. Bidder modifications offered in any other manner, oral or written, will not be considered.
4. A Bidder may withdraw its bid by submitting a written withdrawal request to Covered California, signed by the Bidder or an authorized agent. Bids may not be withdrawn subsequent to the bid submission deadline without cause.
5. No oral understanding or contract shall be binding on either party.

Covered California reserves the right to contact Bidders at any stage of the proposal process to collect additional clarifying information, if deemed necessary.

1.13 Protest

For formal competitive solicitations, any protest properly submitted within five (5) business days of the posting of the Notice of Intent to Award must be considered. All protests are reviewed and decided by the Executive Director or designee.

The following protest procedures must be followed and included in all formal competitive solicitations:

General

An unsuccessful Bidder may protest the proposed award to another bidder by following the terms and conditions outlined below. The protestant challenging Covered California's proposed award bears the burden of proof.

Grounds

Protestant must cite the grounds for the protest and provide facts and citations of law sufficient to support the protest. Covered California will determine, in its sole discretion, if the protestant has demonstrated sufficient grounds to allow the protest to be heard. Abuse of the protest process by unsuccessful Bidders solely for the purpose of securing confidential information about other Bidders will be rejected by Covered California. The only grounds for a protest are:

1. Protestant reasonably believes that Covered California has acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner; or
2. Protestant reasonably believes that Covered California committed an error in its bid process, as stated in the solicitation that is sufficiently material to justify invalidation of the proposed award.

There is no basis for protest if Covered California rejects all bids or proposals, based on its best interests.

Requirements for Protest

Protests will be heard and resolved by the Covered California Executive Director or designee. Protests must be submitted in writing, signed by an individual who is authorized to contractually bind the Bidder and contain a statement asserting the grounds for the protest including citations of law, rule, regulation or procedures on which the protest is based. The protestant must allege facts and evidence in support of their claim. A protest must be delivered to Covered California by certified or registered mail or in person, in which case the protestant should obtain a delivery receipt. Protests must be received by Covered California no later than the close of business five days after the Notice of Intent to Award has been posted.

Protests must be mailed or delivered to:

Mailing Address:
California Health Benefit Exchange
Attn: Peter Lee, Executive Director
1601 Exposition Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95815

The Executive Director's or designee's decision is final.

Terms of Protest

Scoring documents, evaluation and selection documents, other Bidders' submissions or any other record created during the review of bids submitted in response to the RFP are not public records and are exempt from disclosure as public records pursuant to Government Code section 100508(a).

A protestant who has demonstrated a legitimate ground for protest as described above may have access to certain relevant, non-public information regarding the RFP and Covered California's consideration of submissions in response to the RFP upon the protestant's execution of a Non-Disclosure Agreement provided by Covered California. Trade secret, proprietary and confidential information will be redacted from documents disclosed to protestant as part of the protest process.

1.14 Disposition of Bids

Upon bid opening, all documents submitted in response to this RFP will become the property of the State of California.

1.15 Contract Execution and Performance

Performance shall begin no later than the date set forth in the RFP by Covered California and after the contract is fully executed, unless a later date is mutually agreed on by Covered California and the Contractor. Should the Contractor fail to commence work on the agreed date and time, Covered California, upon five (5) days written notice to the Contractor, reserves the right to terminate the contract. In addition, the Contractor shall be liable to Covered California for the difference between the Contractor's bid price and the actual cost of performing the work by a replacement contractor.

All performance under the contract shall be completed on or before the termination date of the contract.

1.16 Subsequent Solicitation

At Covered California's sole discretion, after the contract award has been made and the contract has been executed, if the contract is terminated with or without cause after performance has begun, Covered California may engage the next-highest-ranked Bidder without performing a subsequent solicitation.

Additionally, if at any time during negotiation of an agreement with the successful Bidder, Covered California determines it is not able to reach an agreement with the successful Bidder, Covered California may terminate the negotiations and engage the next-highest-ranked bid without performing a subsequent solicitation.

1.17 Addition or Subtraction of Services

Notwithstanding that bids have been submitted, at Covered California's sole discretion, the Scope of Work may be modified prior to contract award to add or remove services through an addendum. If bids have been submitted at the time Covered California posts the addendum, Covered California may restrict responses so that only entities that have submitted bids in response to the initial RFP may respond to the addendum.

1.18 News Releases and Social Media

Bidders and the selected Contractor may not issue news releases nor make statements to the news media or through social media channels pertaining to this RFP, its proposal, the contract, or work resulting therefrom, without first obtaining prior approval from Covered California.

2. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

2.1 Project Team Minimum Qualifications

The minimum required qualifications for Bidders include:

1. Strong ability to effectively communicate verbally and in writing with all levels of staff.
 - a. Necessary skills to build consensus with stakeholders and inform establishment of functionality goals and scope.
2. Knowledge and experience in the small group health insurance market in California.
3. Project management experience establishing processes and technology for a web-based and vendor hosted technical solution.
4. Knowledge and experience of the State procurement process, including:
 - a. Drafting Request for Proposals (RFP), or similar procurement documents, and defining all necessary requirements and detailing necessary scope of work required of vendor to meet the business needs of Covered California.

2.2 Project Team Desirable Qualifications

Covered California seeks Bidders with the following desirable skills:

1. Extensive knowledge and experience in the technical aspects of the small group health insurance market in California that will support the Exchange's efforts to create and maintain a competitive and robust health insurance marketplace.
2. Knowledge and experience with private and/or state based health care exchanges.
3. Knowledge of ACA federal and state regulations and applicable state health care laws for group markets.
4. Ability to coordinate with Covered California's vendors on the full cycle of highly complex interrelated technical projects through all phases of design, development and deployment.
 - a. Ability to work with vendor to ensure accurate and timely deliverable submissions.

2.2.1 Project Team Qualifications

Covered California seeks a team with experience and knowledge of, or experience in, the process outlined in this RFP and the Model Contract Exhibit A – Scope of Work. Bidder must demonstrate that project team members assigned to the project possess the experience, education, knowledge and skills required to perform the work described in this RFP.

Minimum Qualifications for the project team include experience in the following areas:

1. Strong ability to effectively communicate verbally and in writing with all levels of staff.
 - a. Necessary skills to build consensus with stakeholders and inform establishment of functionality goals and scope.
2. Knowledge and experience in the small group health insurance market in California.
3. Project management experience establishing processes and technology for a web-based and vendor hosted technical solution.
4. Knowledge and experience of the State procurement process, including:
 - a. Drafting Request for Proposals (RFP), or similar procurement documents, and defining all necessary requirements and detailing necessary scope of work required of vendor to meet the business needs of Covered California

2.3 Reassignment of Personnel

1. The Contractor shall not reassign personnel assigned to the contract during the contract term without prior written approval of Covered California. If a Contractor employee is unable to perform duties due to illness, resignation, or other factors beyond the Contractor's control, the Contractor shall make every reasonable effort to provide suitable substitute personnel.
2. Substitute personnel shall not automatically receive the hourly rate of the individual or position being replaced. Covered California and the Contractor shall negotiate the hourly rate of any substitute personnel to the contract. The hourly rate negotiated shall be dependent, in part, on the experience and individual skills of the proposed substitute personnel. The negotiated rate cannot exceed the hourly rate stated in the contract.
3. Covered California reserves the right to request a Contractor employee be removed from performing any work on the contract and on written notice to the Contractor, the Contractor shall assign a substitute employee.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

3.1 Background

Soon after the passage of national health care reform through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA), California became the first state to enact legislation

to establish a qualified health benefit exchange. The California state law is referred to as the California Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (CA-ACA).

The goals and objectives of Covered California are to:

- Reduce the number of uninsured Californians by creating an organized, transparent marketplace for Californians to purchase affordable, quality health care coverage, to claim available federal tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies, and to meet the personal responsibility requirements imposed under the ACA;
- Strengthen the health care delivery system;
- Serve as an active purchaser, including creating competitive processes to select participating carriers and other contractors;
- Require that health care service plans and health insurers issue coverage in the individual and small employer markets and compete on the basis of price, quality, and service, and not on risk selection; and
- Meet federal and state law requirements, guidance and regulations.

Covered California is an independent public entity within California State government. It is governed by a five-member board appointed by the governor and legislature.

Covered California works in close partnership with:

- The Department of Health Care Services, which oversees and administers California's Medicaid Program (Medi-Cal) and other specifically-focused health programs;
- The two agencies that regulate health insurance in California, the Department of Managed Health Care and Department of Insurance; and
- A broad range of stakeholders whose constituencies will be impacted by health care reform.

For additional information on Covered California, please refer to the consumer website at: www.CoveredCA.com.

3.2 Purpose

The purpose of this RFP is for Covered California to solicit proposals from qualified Bidders to provide a complete business and technical analysis of the systems currently available to Covered California to support agents, general agents, employers, and employees in enrolling and managing enrollments for the Covered California for Small Business (CCSB) program.

In addition to serving employers directly, CCSB is operationally partnered with insurance Agents and General Agents (GAs) to provide the professional guidance and ongoing support required by the small group employer-sponsored healthcare market. Consumer

online application tools and Agent/GA engagement and retention are key essential elements to meeting the specific goals of Covered California to reduce the number of uninsured Californians; create a transparent marketplace to purchase affordable, quality healthcare coverage; strengthen the healthcare delivery system; require that healthcare service plans and health insurers issue coverage in the small employers market; and compete on the basis of price, quality, and service; and meet federal and state law requirements and regulations.

To meet this challenge, CCSB must partner with a technical project management contractor to provide analytical review of existing online portals, develop go forward strategy, and develop a scope of work for a future solicitation to build a new Consumer Portal and Agent Portal for CCSB. Under Public Contract Code section 10365.5, Contractor and its subcontractors will not be permitted to bid on any subsequent solicitation or work on the implementation of the proposed solution.

Health Care Processing System (HCPS) is the proprietary application to the CCSB Third Party Administrator (TPA), to process enrollments and financial transactions for CCSB. CCSB is entering its fourth year of program development. The TPA for CCSB has developed and launched an online portal that allows for agents to select and manage enrollments for groups and is currently developing an employer facing portal to allow groups to manage their own enrollments.

Current systems do not meet operational requirements and do not satisfy all agent and General Agent (GA) management requirements. The TPA proprietary employer application portal creates issues for the State related to future maintenance and enhancements, which is why Covered California must partner with a technical project management contractor to determine the strategy going forward.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released guidance on the extension of state-based Small Business Health Options Program (known as CCSB in California) direct enrollment transition. The guidance extends the option for state-based small business exchanges to use direct enrollment as a transitional measure for up to an additional two years – for plan years beginning in 2017 and 2018. Within the two-year window allowed by the CMS extension, the opportunity exists for CCSB to create a professional interface expected by CCSB consumers.

Links to external resources:

- [Link to CCSB website](#)
- [Link to most current CCSB regulations](#)
- [Link to CMS Guidance for CCSB](#)

3.3 Scope of Work

See attachment Model Contract Exhibit A – Scope of Work, for a detailed description of the services and work to be performed as a result of this procurement.

3.4 Contract Completion Criteria

The contract resulting from this RFP will be considered complete when Covered California has approved and accepted all assigned contract deliverables.

3.5 Deliverable Acceptance Criteria

All concluded work must be submitted to Covered California for review and approval or rejection. Payment for all tasks performed under this RFP will be based on deliverables. It will be Covered California's sole determination as to whether any tasks have been successfully completed and are acceptable.

Throughout the contract, Covered California will review and validate services performed. In addition, the Covered California Representative will verify and approve the Contractor's invoices. Signed acceptance is required from the Covered California Representative to approve an invoice for payment.

Deliverable acceptance criteria consist of the following:

1. Deliverable-specific work was completed as specified and the final deliverable product or service was rendered.
2. Plans, schedules, designs, documentation, digital files, photographs and reports (deliverables) were completed as specified and approved.
3. All deliverable documentation and artifact gathering have been completed.
4. All deliverables are in a format useful to Covered California.
5. If a deliverable is not accepted, Covered California will provide the reason, in writing, within ten (10) business days of receipt of the deliverable.

3.6 Contractor's Roles and Responsibilities

The Contractor shall:

1. Designate a person to whom all project communications may be addressed and who has the authority to act on all aspects of the contract. This person will be responsible for the overall project and will be the contact for all invoicing and Contractor staffing issues.
2. Provide written reports for review and approval by Covered California and formally respond to Covered California review findings as necessary.
3. Meet as required with Covered California staff to discuss progress.
4. Make its best efforts to maintain staff continuity throughout the life of the project. If, however, a substitution becomes necessary, the Contractor must submit resumes for review, in advance, for all proposed personnel substitutions. All Contractor personnel substitutions must be approved in writing by the Covered California Representative. Failure to receive the required approvals may result in termination of the contract.

3.7 Covered California's Roles and Responsibilities

Covered California shall:

1. Designate a Covered California contact person (Representative) to whom all Contractor communications will be addressed and who has the authority to act on all aspects of the contract.
2. Provide access to business and technical documents as necessary for the Contractor to complete the tasks identified in this RFP.
3. Ensure appropriate resources are available to perform assigned tasks, attend meetings, and answer questions.
4. Ensure that decisions are made in a timely manner.
5. Provide work areas and meeting rooms as needed.
6. Identify and provide access to Subject Matter Experts to assist in the development of technical requirements.

3.8 Project Assumptions and Constraints

1. The Contractor's work hours must be consistent with Covered California's key staff on-site, whose normal business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PT, Monday through Friday, except for State holidays.
2. Overtime rates will not be reimbursed under the contract.
3. Travel will not be reimbursed under the contract.

Any modifications to tasks within Exhibit A – Scope of Work of the contract will be defined, documented, and mutually agreed upon by the Contractor and Covered California's Representative prior to starting work on the modified task. Covered California's Representative may refine or clarify the services deemed necessary to meet the needs of this project according to Covered California's priorities.

4. Covered California and the Contractor are mutually obligated to keep open and regular channels of communication in order to ensure the successful performance of the contract. Both parties are responsible for communicating potential problems or issues to Covered California's Representative and the Contractor's project team manager, respectively, within forty-eight (48) hours of becoming aware of the problem or issue.

3.9 Contract Amendment

Covered California may, at its sole discretion, extend the term of the contract for two (2) additional one (1) year terms for the same services. If mutually agreed by Covered California and the Contractor, this contract shall be amended to include additional funding at the same rates provided in the Bidder's proposal. Total number of contract years is not to exceed three (3).

3.10 Payment and Invoicing

Payment to Contractor is contingent on Covered California's receipt of funding from the Federal government or the collection of fees assessed on the Qualified Health Plans. Covered California shall bear no liability or responsibility for payment to Contractor, even for services provided and delivered, in the event payment to Covered California from the Federal government or the collection of fees assessed on the Qualified Health Plans is delayed, suspended or terminated.

The Contractor may invoice Covered California only after the successful completion and acceptance of the contract deliverables. The Contractor may not invoice Covered California for any costs exceeding the maximum amount identified to complete a deliverable.

4. PROPOSAL RESPONSE CONTENT

Final proposal requirements are contained in the following areas that are described in detail in subsequent sections of this document:

1. Administrative Requirements
2. Understanding and Approach
3. Corporate Qualifications Summary
4. Project Team Experience
 - a. Staff Resumes
5. Past Projects Completed
6. Assumptions
7. Updated Model Contract
 - a. Using the Exhibit A – Scope of Work template, include revised Exhibit A with updated Scope of Work, using track changes.
 - 1) Understanding and Description of the tasks to be performed (Work Plan)
 - b. Costs: Include revised Exhibit B – Budget Detail and Payment Provisions and Exhibit B, Attachment 1 – Cost Worksheet, using track changes.

Include Exhibits C, D, E, and F with track changes to the Terms and Conditions. Submission of Exhibits without track changes will be deemed to be Bidder's acceptance of the Exhibits as drafted.

4.1 Proprietary Information and Confidential Status of Responses

Any documentation submitted which has been marked "Proprietary" or "Trade Secrets" may be rejected.

4.2 Administrative Requirements

Final Proposals will be assessed on a pass/fail basis to verify compliance with all Administrative Requirements.

4.2.1 *All Final Proposals must be submitted within the timelines specified in Section 1.2 of this RFP, and shall include the following Administrative Requirements in this order:*

1. The "Proposal Checklist" form (Attachment 1) completed and assigned by a representative authorized to bind your organization.
2. A Certificate of Liability Insurance equal to or greater than \$1,000,000.
3. Proof of Workers' Compensation Liability Insurance.
4. Proof of Automobile liability, including non-owned auto liability, of \$1,000,000 per occurrence for persons used by Contractor for services provided pursuant to this Agreement.
5. A signed Federal Debarment Certification (Attachment 2).
6. A completed certification form showing, upon contract execution, the Bidder agrees to provide a completed Title 10, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 12, Article 1, Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) (Attachment 3). For more information, see the California Health Benefit Exchange Conflict of Interest Code: <http://hbex.coveredca.com/resources/>, and the Fair Political Practices Commission site: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/>
7. A signed Payee Data Record form STD 204 (Attachment 4)

4.3 Technical Requirements

In addition to the Administrative Requirements, all Final Proposals must:

4.3.1 *Understanding and Approach*

Include a description of the Bidder's understanding of the project's goals, emphasizing the Bidder's understanding of the objectives and the major activities that must be performed to complete the work. Discuss the Bidder's strategy for providing the services outlined in the solicitation within the time period allocated for that task. Provide a table showing hours per week by person covering the contract term. Include expectations of all entities outside the Bidder's own team, if any. Provide the assumptions used to develop the response. (No more than 5 pages).

4.3.2 *Corporate Qualifications Summary*

Describe and provide examples of the Bidder's overall capability and resources as they relate to the general requirements set forth in this RFP's Model Contract Exhibit A – Scope of Work, including the following:

1. Ability to manage the project and the risks involved.
2. Ability to complete projects on time and within budget.
3. Ability to provide quality deliverables.
4. Evidence of the Bidder's experience performing the services outlined in this RFP, including the total number of years the Bidder has been providing these services.

(No more than 3 pages).

4.3.3 Project Team Qualifications

Describe the qualifications of each member of the proposed project team. Identify the role each member is expected to play and describe the experience, education, knowledge and skills each possesses as they relate to their proposed role.

Bidder must identify the key staff that will be the points of contact for Covered California and the percentage of time that staff will be dedicated to the work detailed in the Model Contract Exhibit A – Scope of Work. (No more than 10 pages).

4.3.3.1 Resumes

Provide a resume of the relevant experience for each proposed project team member. For each experience cited on a resume, the resume must include:

1. Total Duration: Indicate the start (month/year), end (month/year), and duration (total number of years and months) for each job experience submitted;
2. Description of Specific Experience: A complete description of the relevant experience, including identification of the client, name of the project, roles and responsibilities of the individual, and types of services provided by the individual.

4.3.4 Past Projects Completed

Describe in a narrative up to five (5) projects the Bidder has completed in the last three years that relate to the tasks listed in Model Contract Exhibit A – Scope of Work. (No more than 10 pages).

4.3.5 Assumptions

Document any assumptions the Bidder is making about the SOW, the responsibilities of the Bidder and Covered California, and any other issues relevant to the Bidder's offer and ability to do the work for the proposed cost. (No more than 2 pages).

5. REVIEW OF FINAL PROPOSALS FOR AWARD AND SELECTION CRITERIA

5.1 Written Responses to this RFP will be evaluated in phases

Phase 1- Administrative Requirements. The Evaluation Team will review responses to the Administrative Requirements as more fully described in 4.2 above.

Phase 2 – Technical Requirements. The Evaluation Team will review the narratives describing understanding and approach, corporate qualifications, project team qualifications, resumes and past projects completed.

5.2 Interviews

After Phase 2, interviews may be conducted with up to three (3) of the highest-rated Bidders. The number of Bidders interviewed and the decision whether to conduct interviews at all is within the sole discretion of Covered California. The specific staff to be interviewed will be agreed on by Covered California and the Bidder at the time the interview is scheduled.

5.3 Evaluation Criteria

Evidence of extensive previous experience in similar complex efforts will receive significant consideration in the evaluation process, as will demonstrated experience related to the SOW.

The table below lists the evaluation categories and the weight each will carry in the overall evaluation of each proposal:

Scoring Criteria	Weight	Points
Administrative Requirements		Pass/Fail
Understanding and Approach	20%	200
Corporate Qualifications/Capacity	10%	100
Project Team Qualifications and Resumes	10%	100
Past Projects Completed	30%	300
Cost	30%	300
Totals	100%	1000

After application of the weighted evaluation criteria described above, the highest-rated proposal shall be recommended for selection. If two or more of the highest-rated responses are evaluated as substantially equal following the application of the weighted evaluation criteria described above, the contract may be awarded to the Bidder with the highest level of Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise participation. See section 6 of this RFP for an explanation of the application of Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise preference points.

The Covered California Evaluation Team will evaluate Bidder proposals in these areas:

1. Administrative Requirements
2. Understanding and Approach
3. Corporate Qualifications/Capacity
4. Project Team Qualifications
5. Past Projects Completed

5.3.1.1 Understanding and Approach

Scoring of this factor shall be based on the Evaluation Team's assessment of the Bidder's understanding of, and insight into, the challenges, issues and risks faced by Covered California as depicted in Model Contract Exhibit A – Scope of Work, and the feasibility, efficiency and expected effectiveness of the approaches offered by the Bidder to provide assistance to Covered California. Evaluators will assign scores based on information contained in the Bidder's Understanding and Approach Narrative described above in section 4.3.1. The Evaluation Team will consider, in descending order of importance:

1. Quality of the Bidder's approach in addressing scope of responsibilities and activities, including how the Bidder will provide the flexibility to address issues as they arise, while maintaining a high level of quality in the approach;
2. Quality of the Bidder's approach to early identification of issues and risks, and how the approach will directly contribute to resolution and mitigation; and
3. Demonstrated understanding of the key characteristics of the project in general.

5.3.1.2 Corporate Qualifications/Capacity

Covered California seeks a vendor with significant corporate capacity to respond to Covered California needs for the duration of the contract, to support a high degree of qualified staff continuity, and to maintain a consistently high level of individual team member performance.

Corporate Description, Capacity and Background: Scoring of this factor will be based on the Evaluation Team's assessment of the Bidder's corporate resources, capacity and historical track record as they relate to the SOW. Evaluators will assign scores based on the Bidder's Corporate Qualifications narrative described above in section 4.3.2.

5.3.1.3 Project Team Qualifications

Covered California seeks a team of highly-qualified, senior staff to provide high-level project management support services as depicted in Model Contract Exhibit A – Scope of Work, combined with technical- or skill-based staff as described above in section 4.3.3. The following describes the evaluation and scoring of key staff qualifications.

Project Team Experience and Credentials

Scoring of this factor shall be based on the Evaluation Team's assessment of the breadth, depth and relevance of each proposed team member's experience and credentials. Evaluators will assign scores based on information contained in the Project Team Qualifications narrative and Resumes. The Evaluation Team will consider, in descending order of importance:

1. Demonstrated capacity to successfully assume responsibility comparable to that proposed for the team members in the project engagement;

2. Demonstrated capacity to perform at a high level in multiple areas of project management;
3. General breadth and extent of experience, as indicated by the number of projects and duration of individual involvement in each;
4. Relevance of experience as indicated by the scope and subject matter of project experience; and,
5. Relevance of education, training, and certifications.

5.3.1.4 Past Projects Completed

Scoring of this factor shall be based on the Evaluation Team's assessment of the breadth, depth and relevance of past projects to the requirements detailed in Model Contract Exhibit A – Scope of Work, as well as corporate resources and capacity as indicated by the characteristics of projects previously completed. Evaluators will assign scores based on information contained in the Past Projects Completed narrative. Scoring may also be based on Bidder's performance in past contracts with Covered California.

5.3.2 Scoring Criteria

Evaluators will assign technical points to all categories using these scoring criteria:

Rating	Relation to Requirements	Strengths	Deficiencies	Weaknesses	Likelihood of Success	Score
Excellent	Superior attainment of all requirements	Numerous and significant in key areas	None	Minor, if any	Very High	10.0
Good	Expected to meet all requirements	Some and significant in key areas	None	Minor, but are far outweighed by strengths	High	7.5
Acceptable	Capable of meeting all requirements	Some in non-key areas	Minor	Minor, but are outweighed by strengths	Fair	5.0
Marginal	May not be capable of meeting all requirements	None, or some that are outweighed by weaknesses or deficiencies	Significant	Significant	Poor	2.5
Unacceptable	Not likely to meet all requirements	None, or some that are far outweighed by weaknesses or deficiencies	Needs major revision	Needs major revision	None	0

5.4 Cost Score

Cost (300 points)

Each Bidder's cost score will be calculated using the ratio of the lowest cost proposal to the Bidder's cost, multiplied by the maximum number of cost points available (300 for this example), as shown in the calculation below:

$$\frac{\text{Lowest Total Cost Bid}}{\text{Bidder Total Cost}} \times \text{Total cost points available}$$

Example: Refer to the table below for an example of the cost score calculation process. **Cost figures in the example below explain the calculations and have no other significance.**

Cost Evaluation and Scoring Methodology (Example only)

Bidder	Grand Total Cost	Calculation	Cost Points Awarded
A	\$400,000	$\frac{\$300,000}{\$400,000} \times 300$	225
B	\$350,000	$\frac{\$300,000}{\$350,000} \times 300$	257
C	\$300,000	$\frac{\$300,000}{\$300,000} \times 300$	300

6. PREFERENCE PROGRAMS

6.1 Small Business (SB) Preference

This RFP does not require Bidders to meet a minimum SB participation percentage or goal. Participation in this program is optional. However, if Bidders use subcontractors, Bidders are encouraged to subcontract with SBs.

Section 14835, et seq. of the California Government Code (GC) requires a 5% preference be given to Bidders who qualify as a SB. The rules and regulations of this law, including the definition of a small business for the delivery of goods and services, are contained in California Code of Regulations (CCR's), Title 2, section 1896, et seq. The SB preference is for California-based Certified SB's (CCSB) only.

A Bidder claiming the 5% preference must be certified by California as a small business or must commit to subcontract at least 25% of the net bid price with one or more CCSB. Certification must be obtained no later than 3:00 p.m. on the bid due date.

The incentive is applied in determining the lowest monetary bid or best value by reducing the qualified Bidder's price by the amount of the incentive as computed on the lowest price submitted by a responsive Bidder. This reduction is applied solely for evaluation purposes.

The preference is used only for computation purposes to determine the winning Bidder and does not alter the amounts of the resulting contract. A contract awarded on the

basis of the preference is awarded to the small business, microbusiness or non-small business for the actual amount of the proposal.

If a Bidder is currently certified as a small business by the Department of General Services, Office of Small Business and DVBE Services, or any city, county, federal, etc., certifying office, only a copy of that certification is required.

For more information on the requirements of, and how to obtain, SB and DVBE certification, visit the DGS website at <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/Programs/OSDS.aspx>.

During the contract term, the Contractor's SB compliance will be calculated on the completed work as verified by an audit of the Contractor's invoices and Contractor's payments to designated subcontractors.

If the Bidder or proposed subcontractor possesses a Small Business Certification and wishes to take advantage of the preference program, the Bidder must complete and submit the Bidder Declaration – Attachment 5 with its proposal package.

6.2 Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) – Declaration & Program Incentive

This RFP does not require Bidders to meet a minimum DVBE participation percentage or goal. Participation in this program is optional. However, Bidders are encouraged to subcontract with DVBEs.

Pursuant to Military and Veterans Code section 999.2, each State department has a participation goal of not less than 3% for disabled veteran business enterprises. These goals apply to the overall dollar amount expended each year by the awarding department.

Covered California recognizes disabled veterans for their service by establishing a DVBE Participation Program. The program is intended to further veterans' participation in Covered California contracting, promote competition and encourage greater economic opportunity. Covered California determines whether to include DVBE participation requirements in specific solicitations based on the availability of contracting or subcontracting opportunities within the scope of services of the particular contract.

A Bidder may achieve participation by qualifying as a DVBE or by contracting with DVBE subcontractors. DVBEs must perform a commercially useful function, related to the bid specifications as required by Military and Veterans Code section 999(b)(5)(B). In order to encourage DVBE participation, Covered California will apply a DVBE incentive as follows:

<u>Confirmed DVBE Participation</u>	<u>DVBE Incentive</u>
5% or More	5%
4% to 4.99%	4%
3% to 3.99%	3%
2% to 2.99%	2%
1% to 1.99%	1%

The incentive is applied in determining the lowest monetary bid or best value by reducing the qualified Bidder's price by the amount of the incentive as computed on the

lowest price submitted by a responsive Bidder. This reduction is applied solely for evaluation purposes.

If the Bidder with the lowest monetary bid or best value, prior to application of the incentive, is a California-certified Small Business, only other certified small businesses will be eligible to receive the Small Business incentive bonus. If after application of incentives, two or more responsive bids tie for lowest monetary bid or best value, the contract may be awarded to the Bidder with the highest level of DVBE participation, if it is determined that the bid provides the Best Value to the State.

During the contract term, the Contractor's DVBE compliance will be calculated on the completed work as verified by an audit of the Contractor's invoices and Contractor's payments to designated subcontractors.

If the Bidder or proposed subcontractor possesses a Disabled Veteran Enterprise Certification and wishes to take advantage of the preference program, the Bidder must complete and submit the Bidder Declaration – Attachment 5, and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Declaration – Attachment 6 with its proposal package.

6.2.1 Commercially Useful Function

Only State of California, Office of Small Business and DVBE Services (OSDS), certified DVBEs who perform a Commercially Useful Function (CUF) relevant to this solicitation may be used to satisfy the DVBE participation goal. The criteria and definition for performing a CUF are below. When responding to this RFP, Bidders will need to verify each DVBE subcontractor's certification with OSDS to ensure DVBE eligibility.

CUF Definition. California Code of Regulations, Title 2, section 1896.61(l): The term "DVBE contractor, subcontractor or supplier" means any person or entity that satisfies the ownership (or management) and control requirements of section 1896.61(f); is certified in accordance with section 1896.70; and provides services or goods that contribute to the fulfillment of the contract requirements by performing CUF.

As defined in Military Veterans Code section 999, a person or an entity is deemed to perform a CUF if a person or entity does **all** of the following:

1. Is responsible for the execution of a distinct element of the work of the contract.
2. Carries out the obligation by actually performing, managing, or supervising the work involved.
3. Performs work that is normal for its business services and functions.
4. Is not further subcontracting a portion of the work that is greater than that expected to be subcontracted under normal industry practices.

A contractor, subcontractor or supplier will not be considered to perform a CUF if the contractor's, subcontractor's or supplier's role is limited to that of an extra participant in a transaction, contract or project through which funds are passed in order to obtain the appearance of DVBE participation.

6.3 Target Area Contract Preference Act (TACPA)

This RFP does not include TACPA preferences. However, during the RFP process, Bidders may apply for the preference. Bidders are encouraged to review the package carefully to ensure that their submittals conform to the program's preference requirements. See <http://www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/disputes/default.htm>.

If the Bidder wishes to take advantage of the TACPA preference program, the Bidder must complete and submit the Target Area Contract Preference Act Preference Request for Goods and Services Solicitations, Form STD 830 – Attachment 7 with its proposal package.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Proposal Checklist

Attachment 2: Federal debarment, suspension, ineligibility and voluntary exclusion certification

Attachment 3: Form 700 Statement of Economic Interest Certification (if applicable)

Attachment 4: Payee Data Record, Form STD 204

Attachment 5: Bidder Declaration

Attachment 6: Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Declaration

Attachment 7: Target Area Contract Preference Act Preference Request for
Goods and Services Solicitations STD 830

Model Contract with Exhibits

Standard 213

Exhibit A – Scope of Work

Exhibit B – Budget Detail and Payment Provisions

Exhibit B, Attachment 1 – Cost Worksheet

Exhibit C – General Terms

Exhibit D – Special Terms and Conditions

Exhibit E – Additional Provisions

Exhibit E, Attachment 1 – Resumes

Exhibit F – Privacy and Security Requirements