



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES BUREAU

**Substance Abuse Testing Services
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) 1214**

**Questions & Answers
Posted November 1, 2024**

All questions regarding RFP 1214 are shown as submitted by the deadline of October 25, 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Who is the incumbent provider for the requested services?

Answer: Phamatech.

PROGRAM

1. What is the County's estimated positivity rate?

Answer: The County does not currently track the positivity rate of Clients.

2. Can the County clarify the need for SAMHSA licensure and whether it would consider a laboratory that is CLIA certified by not SAMHSA certified? Our reasoning for this request is as follows: The County notes that CLIA is acceptable, where applicable, on page 15. SAMHSA lab certification is intended for federal workplace testing and includes requirements for split specimen collection and MRO review of all positives, which do not appear to be requirements of this bid. As your agency focuses on court-mandated testing as opposed to workplace or employment testing, SAMHSA licensure and practices may not be quite as appropriate or necessary. Moreover, it appears that your agency is interested in testing for additional non-SAMHSA-regulated drugs, such as Alcohol, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, and a number of other drugs.

Answer:

- a. Bidders must be "accredited" as referenced in Section 4.3.A.1. that references accredited Organization minimum licensure/certification requirements and **conform** to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) requirements.
 - b. Bidders should identify their accreditation and how they do or do not conform to DHHS, SAMHSA and NIDA. Bidders should include in their proposal responses any corresponding justification for their accreditation and conformance status.
3. It is our understanding that NIDA does not currently mandate specific drug testing requirements and does not accredit drug testing laboratories. Can the County either remove NIDA requirements from the specifications or clarify what NIDA requirements it is referring to in the RFP?

Answer:

- a. Correct, NIDA does not provide accreditation, they are a referential organization for supporting drug abuse testing and services.
- b. Bidders should identify their accreditation and how they do or do not conform to DHHS, SAMHSA and NIDA. Bidders should include in their proposal responses any corresponding justification for their accreditation and conformance status.

4. Is the County currently utilizing collection sites outside of the County? If so, how many?

Answer: Yes, the County utilizes collection sites outside of the County. There are over 25 Out of County Collection Sites, including some out of State, which are utilized to support the locations of Contra Costa County Child Welfare clients.

5. What is the County's most commonly utilized urinalysis lab panel?

Answer: A 14-panel urinalysis lab test is most commonly utilized.

6. Can the County clarify what configuration of instant devices it is interested in receiving pricing for?

Answer:

- a. On-Demand Self-Testing/Results Kits as referenced in Section 4.2.1.B.1.iv. must meet the testing requirements listed in the RFP to ensure accurate and comprehensive testing for substances listed in Section 4.2.1.B.3.
- b. The County utilizes the On-Demand Self-Testing/Results/Kits during Juvenile Court proceedings if/as needed when instant results are necessary.

7. How many instances of retesting has the County requested in the past year?

Answer: The County does not currently track the number of retesting requests.

8. Approximately how many instances of testimony has the County requested in the past year?

Answer: The County has not requested nor required testimony for contracted substance abuse testing partners in the past year.

9. Will the County accept remote testimony options?

Answer: Decisions to support and accept remote testimony options are determined on a case-by-case basis by the Court.

10. Can the County further expand on what they mean by "official letters" in section 4.2.2.B.6.? Is the County seeking written interpretation on letterhead that may be used in court?

Answer: Per Section 4.2.2.B.6., the County requires official letters to County that may be utilized for case file and/or court purposes to address test results, testing anomalies, testing issues, and the like on a case-by-case basis.

11. How many “official letters” has the County requested in the past year?

Answer: The County does not currently track the number of official letters requested.

12. Can the County clarify the requirement of a Phlebotomist noted in section 4.3.B.2? Does the County anticipate any blood testing under this contract?

Answer: Bidder’s providing blood testing as a viable testing solution must have Phlebotomists on staff that meet the requirements of section 4.3.B.2.

13. Regarding section 4.3.B.4., can the County clarify if they are referring to background checks prior to employment or ongoing background checks? Is this required of collection personnel, laboratory testing personnel, or both?

Answer: Background checks are expected as a requisite for all staff prior to or at the point they would be providing Substance Abuse Testing and Supportive Services delivered under the RFP.

FISCAL

1. What is the County currently paying for the requested services?

Answer: The County currently contracts for substance abuse testing and supportive services in an annual amount that is not to exceed \$359,820.

2. The anticipated costs noted in the RFP seems quite high for the stated volumes. Can the County clarify what is factoring into anticipated costs, aside from collection + drug testing, if any?

Answer:

- a. Please refer to Sections 4.2.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 of the RFP which identify the services expected to be delivered under this RFP.
- b. Bidders should identify and include in their proposal responses any corresponding costs and budgetary justification associated with supporting delivery of the required substance abuse testing and supportive services identified in this RFP.