

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
**“THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION, INDIVIDUAL STOP LOSS & AGGREGATE STOP LOSS FOR SELF-FUNDED
MEDICAL PLAN, GROUP TERM LIFE AND ACCIDENTAL DEATH & DISMEMBERMENT”**

RFP NO: 2010-228-09-22-YZV

OVERVIEW:

The County of Hidalgo is seeking to engage Proposer’s to furnish benefits for the **“Third Party Administration, Individual Stop Loss & Aggregate Stop Loss For Self-Funded Medical Plan, Group Term Life And Accidental Death & Dismemberment”** offered by Hidalgo County to its employees and the employees’ dependents. This process includes a Request for Proposal for fully **“Third Party Administration, Individual Stop Loss & Aggregate Stop Loss For Self-Funded Medical Plan, Group Term Life And Accidental Death & Dismemberment”** Coverage. The Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will receive sealed envelopes containing proposals for the provision of fully **“Third Party Administration, Individual Stop Loss & Aggregate Stop Loss For Self-Funded Medical Plan, Group Term Life And Accidental Death & Dismemberment”** Coverage as specified herein. Sealed proposals will be accepted until **9:30 A.M., Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 29, 2010 AS PER ADDENDUM 1. ANY RFP RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE AND TIME WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WILL BE RETURNED UNOPENED.**

The Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 Board of Director’s may, at their option, utilize the **“Third Party Administration, Individual Stop Loss & Aggregate Stop Loss For Self-Funded Medical Plan, Group Term Life And Accidental Death & Dismemberment”** Provider(s) selected by Hidalgo County For Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1. Should the Board of Director’s of Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 decide the firm selected as the Provider is the same as the one selected by Hidalgo County, the Provider shall offer Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 the same terms and provisions as it offer s Hidalgo County.

The Hidalgo County Appraisal District Board of Directors may, at their option, utilize the **“Third Party Administration, Individual Stop Loss & Aggregate Stop Loss For Self-Funded Medical Plan, Group Term Life And Accidental Death & Dismemberment”** Provider(s) selected by Hidalgo County For Hidalgo County Appraisal District. Should the Board of Director’s of Hidalgo County Appraisal District decide the firm selected as the Provider is the same as the one selected by Hidalgo County, the Provider shall offer Hidalgo County Appraisal District the same terms and provisions as it offer s Hidalgo County.

Deliver Submittal to:

RFP NO: 2010-228-09-22-YZV
Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2802 South Hwy. 281
Hidalgo County New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539

The Submittal Envelope Must Show:

RFP NO.: 2010-228-09-22-YZV

**“THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION, INDIVIDUAL STOP LOSS & AGGREGATE STOP LOSS FOR
SELF-FUNDED MEDICAL PLAN, GROUP TERM LIFE AND ACCIDENTAL DEATH &
DISMEMBERMENT”**

The following outlines the Request for Proposal:

SECTION I - GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

INQUIREIES/QUESTIONS:

Hidalgo County is requesting that sealed proposals be routed to Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, at 2802 South Hwy. 281, at Hidalgo County New Administration Building, Edinburg, Texas 78539. All inquiries must be directed to Hidalgo County Purchasing Agent, Martha L. Salazar. Hidalgo County Health Benefits Consultants, Alamo Insurance will assist Hidalgo County in addressing any and all inquiries. All responses will be distributed through Hidalgo County Purchasing Department. Proposers are not to directly contact Hidalgo County Health Benefits Consultant except through the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA EMAIL TO: yolanda.velasquez@co.hidalgo.tx.us or VIA FACSIMILE BY NO LATER THAN Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 15, 2010, at 5:00 P.M. at (956) 318-2629. Responses will be sent to all applicants via email or facsimile by Friday, SEPTEMBER 17, 2010 TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

PLEASE NOTE: PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON Thursday, September 09, 2010 at 9:30 A.M (AS PER ADDENDUM 1) at the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department Conference Room located at: 2802 South Business Hwy 281, Edinburg, Texas 78539.

Any interpretation of the Request for Proposal, if made, will be made only by Addendum duly issued. A copy of such Addendum will be mailed or delivered to each person receiving the Request for Proposal. Hidalgo County will not be responsible for any other explanation or interpretation of the proposal made or given prior to the award of the contract. Any objections to the specifications or requirements as set forth in this Request for Proposal must be filed in writing.

Any deviation for the specifications set forth herein must be clearly pointed out; otherwise it will be considered that services proposed are in strict compliance with these specifications and the successful proposer will be held responsible thereof. Deviations shall be explained in detail. Proposers are to furnish all information requested in the Request for Proposal. Proposals not in compliance with these requirements may be subject to rejection. The contractor agrees to protect the County from claims involving infringement of patents or copyrights.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Effective January 1, 2006, Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code requires that any vendor, person, consultant or contractor considering doing business with Hidalgo County ("the County") to disclose in the Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (the "CIQ") attached as **Exhibit D**, the vendor, person consultant or contractor's affiliation or business relationship that might cause a conflict of interest with the County. By law, the CIQ must be filed with the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office no later than the seventh business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require that statement to be filed. The disclosure requirement applies to a person or business who contract or seeks to contract with Hidalgo County for the sale or purchase of property, goods or service. Any purchase order or contract resulting from this process shall be considered null and void if the Vendors, consultants, contractors and others who desire to conduct business with Hidalgo County are encourage to refer to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 for the details of this law. An offense under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 is a Class C Misdemeanor.

Please submit complete CIQ forms to the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office locate at 100 No. Clossner, Edinburg, Texas 78539-Hidalgo County Courthouse **COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIQ IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE BIDDER.**

PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT:

Prior Contract award, respondents to this RFP must submit a signed Proposer's Affidavit (attached herein in **Exhibit E**) certifying that the submission is (1) not the result of Collusion as described in the Proposer's Affidavit or that the Respondent has not and will not attempt to lobby directly or indirectly as described in the Proposer's Affidavit.

NON-DISCRIMINATION:

Submitters, during the performance of this contract, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, sex, national origin or disability except where religion, sex, national origin or disability is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the contractor.

PROCESSING TIME FOR PAYMENT:

Submitters are advised that a minimum of thirty (30) days is required to process invoices for payment.

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF BIDS:

Hidalgo County's Purchasing Department will not accept telegraphic or electronically transmitted submissions.

PROOF OF FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS CAPABILITY:

Submitters must, upon request, furnish satisfactory evidence of their ability to furnish products or services in accordance with the terms and conditions of these requirements. Hidalgo County will make the final determination as to the submitter's ability.

SUBMITTER DEFAULT:

Hidalgo County reserves the right, in case of submitter default, to procure the articles or services from other sources and hold the defaulting submitter responsible for any excess costs occasioned thereby.

RESTRICTIVE OR AMBIGUOUS REQUIREMENTS:

It is the responsibility of the submitter to review the Request for Proposal (RFP) packet and to notify the Purchasing Department if the requirements are formulated in a manner that would unnecessarily restrict competition. Any such protest or question regarding the requirements or proposer's procedures must be received in the Purchasing Department not less than seventy-two hours prior to the time set for the opening. These criteria also apply to requirements that are ambiguous.

HAND DELIVERED PROPOSALS:

Hidalgo County requires submitters, when hand delivering proposals, to make sure that it is stamped with date and time by the County Purchasing Staff.

SIGNING OF PROPOSALS:

In order to be considered all submittals **must** be signed. **Please sign the original in blue ink.**

WAIVING OF INFORMALITIES:

Hidalgo County reserves the right to waive minor informalities or technicalities when it is in the best interest of Hidalgo County.

SUBCONTRACTING:

The successful submitter **may not** subcontract the award without the written consent of the Commissioners' Court of Hidalgo County.

DURATION OF CONTRACT: Effective date to commence is February 1, 2011. The term of the contract is for a three (3) year period, on one of the following basis;

- Fixed Price for the three (3) year period, or
- Two (2) Annual renewal adjustments determined by formula at the time the contract is awarded; or
- One (1) year contract with two (2) annual renewal options for rate and premiums deemed to be favorable to Hidalgo County.

DAVIS BACON ACT:

All selected and awarded firms are required to include the Davis-Bacon Act when advertising and developing specifications.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

All costs and expenses with the preparation and submission of (bids, proposals and/or quotes) shall be the responsibility of the proposer and no reimbursements for such charges or expenses shall be passed onto Hidalgo County.

Any contract awarded to a successful proposer will be in effect until (a) the contract expires, (b) delivery and acceptance of products and/or performance of services ordered, or (c) terminated by County with thirty day's written notice prior to cancellation.

SECTION II - RFP REQUIREMENTS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

The required contents and limitations for the preparation of the RFP are described in this section. Failure to provide the requested information or adhere to any County limitations will result in disqualification of the submitted RFP. A total of **one (1) original and ten (10) copies** of the RFP shall be submitted to the address on the cover letter.

Proposers should apprise themselves of all available information. Proposers shall thoroughly examine the specifications, the schedule and all other contract documents.

Proposals should be in conformance with the specifications. Care should be taken to match the requested plan designs as closely as possible. The Request for Proposal specifications are not intended to be restrictive, but Proposals, not in conformance to the specifications, will not be considered unless such nonconformance is explained in detail. General discussion and plan comparison of competing proposals will be in regards to the specified in-force benefits.

Due care has been exercised in the preparation of these specifications, and the information is believed to be substantially correct. However, the responsibility for verification of all information presented herein shall rest solely on the proposer.

CONTENTS:

1. Conditions of Proposal
 - a. All information required by the proposal form shall be furnished.
 - b. Specification price sheets, specifications and necessary information are attached.
 - c. Alternate Proposal- Request for Proposal. Alternate Proposals will be considered. All alternate Proposals should be clearly marked "ALTERNATE PLAN I, ALTERNATE PLAN II., etc." Offerers are encouraged to be creative and to present their most competitive coverage and pricing Proposal.
 - d. The County reserves the right to revise and amend the specifications prior to the date set for the opening. Such revisions or amendments, if any will be announced by addenda or amendments to these specifications. Copies of these addenda so issued will be furnished to all prospective proposers.
 - e. **If you consider any portion of your proposal to be confidential information and that disclosure of its contents to competing proposers would be detrimental to your company, clearly identify those portions. It is the responsibility of the responding party to separate information it considers to be confidential and to place such confidential information on separate sheets of paper, each clearly labeled "CONFIDENTIAL". The identified portions will be protected from disclosure to the extent possible under the law.**
 - f. Proposals will be opened so as to avoid disclosure of contents to competing proposers, and not be made public during the process of negotiation. However, all Proposals shall be opened for public inspection after the award to of the contract,

except for any bonafide secrets and/or confidential information contained in the proposal and identified as such.

g. Clarification of Objections to Proposal Requirements.

All such requests for information can only be made in writing sent by email or via fax on or before the deadline of **September 15, 2010** to:

Martha L Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Fax No.: 956-318-2629
Email to: yolanda.velasquez@co.hidalgo.tx.us

The required contents for the RFP are presented below in the order they should be incorporated into the submitted document.

UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT:

This section should demonstrate the proposers understanding of the project needs, the work required, and any local issues or concerns. Briefly explain how long you have been organized and your corporate business objectives. Explain how long you have been in business. This description should be concise, candid, and limited to 3 pages in length.

PERSONNEL AND STAFFING:

The proposers should provide an organizational chart for the project and a summary paragraph of the project work to be performed by each proposed staff member. Biographic summaries that highlight the experience relevant to the specific project responsibilities should be provided for all proposed personnel. There is a one (1) page limitation for each biographic summary provided. Information regarding the firm's credentials, education and experience with other government entities is required and will be scored accordingly during the evaluation process.

REQUIRED CERTIFICATES AND SUBMITTAL:

This section will contain any licenses, registrations and certifications as required by the STATE OF TEXAS and HIDALGO COUNTY that you possess that deem you as a qualified provider.

If proposer/company cannot meet any of the following services/responsibilities, such exceptions must be noted on the company's cover letter.

NUMBER OF COPIES TO BE SUBMITTED:

Hidalgo County requires one (1) original submittal and ten (10) copies.

SECTION III – RFP SELECTION AND SCHEDULES

SELECTION PROCEDURES: The RPF shall be submitted according to the schedule below. The County of Hidalgo is not required to select the proposal with the lowest rates, fees, but shall take into consideration other factors, including past experience, evidence of good organization, references, ability to provide requested services and any other factors found necessary for quality services.

PROPOSAL RANKING: Hidalgo County Health Benefit Consultant will evaluate the proposals utilizing the evaluation criteria outlined in “Exhibit B” attached herein Thereafter, Hidalgo County Commissioner’s Court will rank and/or award this proposal.

Hidalgo County Commissioner’s Court, at its sole discretion, may elect (after the proposals have been reviewed, scored and evaluated and presented to Commissioner’s Court for the purpose of ranking), to have participants make presentations in order to complete and finalize the ranking

Sealed Request for Proposals must be submitted by **no later than 9:30 a.m. on SEPTEMBER 29, 2010 AS PER ADDENDUM 1.** Overnight mail must also be properly labeled on the outside of the Express Envelope or Package with reference to: **RFP No.: 2010-228-09-22-YZV “Third Party Administration, Individual Stop Loss and Aggregate Stop Loss for Self-Funded Medical Plan, Group Term Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment”.**

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED: RFPs should be submitted to:
Martha L. Salazar, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2802 South Hwy. 281
Hidalgo County New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539

NEGOTIATION PROCESS:

The number one ranked firm will be contacted to submit a draft contract for negotiation. If negotiations prove unsuccessful, the next highest ranked company will be contacted. The County of Hidalgo reserves the right to reject any and all RFPs.

EVALUATION: The evaluation consist of a **total point section system(s)**. The participants will be ranked after evaluation. **RFP submittal evaluation will be based on the criteria outlined in Exhibit B contained herein.**