

Evaluation of Models for Internet Consumer Health Care Cost and Quality Information RFP

- 1. The overview states that the vendor will “...evaluate price transparency platforms.” Is the evaluation expected to include significant technical detail, such as the types of information technology platforms, the security of the network, or software functionality? Or is the evaluation’s primary focus on ease of consumer use and content?**

As it relates to the ease and likelihood of consumer use and the overall efficacy of the platform, the evaluation should include discussion of varying platform options, software functionality ,and network security.

- 2. Some payers may limit their price transparency platforms to their members. If needed, will the Green Mountain Care Board request payers to permit the vendor to view templates or provide demonstrations?**

The GMCB has the ability to request that information and make it available to the vendor, subject to the vendor agreeing to protect any confidential information.

- 3. What types of services is [sic] the Green Mountain Care Board contemplating being included on the website, e.g. inpatient, outpatient, pharmacy, long-term care services and supports, lab, imaging?**

The Green Mountain Care Board expects the report to provide information on best and most efficacious practices, which may include some or all of these categories of services on both a stand-alone basis and as bundles that typically pertain to medical management of conditions and episodes of care.

- 4. Is there a page limit for the technical bid or for the proposal overall?**

No.

- 5. Please confirm that the cost proposal requires only hourly rates, and that hours and a maximum obligation is not required.**

Hours, hourly rates and maximum obligation, inclusive of all expenses are required in proposal.

- 6. What is the funding source for this contract? If the funds are provided through federal funds, please provide the CFDA number.**

The funding source is Federal “Grants to States to Support Health Insurance Rate Review and Increase Transparency in the Pricing of Medical Services, Cycle IV.”

CFDA number: 93.511.

- 7. Are there restrictions related to the funding source that vendors should be aware of?**

Proposals must be in compliance with CFDA number 93.511.

8. Does the state have an expected budget for this task order?

To be determined.

9. Is GMCB interested in providing information online related to the quality of health care providers as well as health plans?

The winning vendor should evaluate the effectiveness and uptake of such information by consumers and provide a results-based recommendation.

10. Does GMCB intend to provide data on hospital quality, physician quality, or both?

GMCB is expecting the vendor to provide an environmental scan of the state of the art and the utility and value to date of federal, state, and proprietary efforts to provide data for reporting on hospital and physician quality. The vendor will take and assess the inventory of data resources managed by GMCB and other agencies in the state that can be applied to public reporting of provider quality.

11. Does GMCB have access to health care cost data from Vermont providers and/or health plans that could be used as sources of data for the public website?

The Green Mountain Care Board has the Vermont Health Care Uniform Reporting and Evaluation System (VHCURES) with eligibility and claims data filed by commercial insurers, Medicaid, and Medicare. The claims data set includes claim line level allowed amounts and paid amounts including both the insurer payments to providers and the members' liability for copayments, deductibles, and co-insurance amounts. The data are consolidated quarterly based on monthly submissions by commercial insurers and Medicaid. Medicare data are the final action fully adjudicated annual files and have a two year lag.

12. Would GMCB implement the cost and quality transparency tools in-house or contract with a vendor to carry them out?

The Green Mountain Care Board will likely contract with a vendor for implementation.

13. Section 5.3, page 8, includes instruction that vendor proposals must "describe their qualifications for meeting the Professional Service Requirements in Section 4." There is nothing in Section 4 of the RFP that is called Professional Services Requirements. Does this term refer to the list of evaluation factors in Section 4, or to something else? If something else, please specify what are the Professional Services Requirements?

This refers to the list of evaluation factors in Section 4.

14. Section 7.12 Business Registration-page 16: The following link in Section 7.12 does not work: <http://www.state.vt.us/tax/pdf.word.excel/forms/business/s-1&instr.pdf>. Please provide an updated link.

Please see the following updated links: www.sec.state.vt.us/corporations.aspx and <http://www.state.vt.us/tax/pdf.word.excel/forms/business/BR-400.pdf>

- 15. Section 7.18 Terms and Conditions for Technology Contracts-page 19: The following link in Section 7.18 does not include policies or guidelines:**

http://dii.vermont.gov/Policy_Central. Please provide an updated link to the policies/guidelines.

Please see the following updated link: www.dii.gov/policy_planning_reporting

- 16. Will conducting work on this project preclude the contractor from bidding on any work based on the recommendations of this report?**

Any future work will be put out for a separate competitive bid process and proposals will be scored on the merits of its contents. Proposals from any future RFPs would be evaluated on its own merits and the successful vendor on this RFP would not be precluded from bidding on any subsequent RFP.

- 17. Will the selected bidder have access to cost and quality websites made available by Vermont health insurers?**

The Board anticipates cooperation and access to any existing cost and quality websites from Vermont insurers.

- 18. Please clarify the mailing address for bid deliveries. Page 1 and 10 state the address of the Green Mountain Care Board while page 7 says bids should be delivered to the Office of Purchasing & Contracting.**

Please send bid proposals to: Janet Richard, Green Mountain Care Board, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05620.

- 19. The RFP states on page 10 that the cost bid must include one hourly rate for each staff class identified in the proposal. Are there staff classifications that should be used?**

Example: Project director, research assistant, analyst, etc.

- 20. Is there a page limit for the proposal? Is there a required font and font size?**

There is no page limit, no required font. Please use size 12-point font.

- 21. Can you share budget or budget range for this project?**

To be determined.

- 22. Can you confirm that the assessment should include a review of all websites offering cost and quality info to VT consumers (including, but not limited to, those provided by private and non-profit insurers)?**

Confirmed.

- 23. Which health care service settings or providers should be included when considering the scope of work for this RFP? For instance, is the reporting of quality and cost information limited to hospitals, or will it also include nursing homes, physicians, and other health care providers that quality and cost information currently exists?**

Although we expect the successful bidder to discuss the range of consumer medical pricing websites now available and the efficacy of each, we do not expect to include nursing homes in any state- or insurer-run website.

24. Similarly, should reporting on the quality and cost of health plans be considered within scope?

No.

25. Lastly, is there a page limit for the proposals?

No.