

State of Minnesota

Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Logger Safety Education Program

SWIFT Event #2000012137

Date Posted: September 1, 2021

- Responses must be received not later than 11:59 pm, Central Time, September 30, 2021
- Late responses will not be considered

Minnesota's Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

The State of Minnesota is committed to diversity and inclusion in its public procurement process. The goal is to ensure that those providing goods and services to the State are representative of our Minnesota communities and include businesses owned by minorities, women, veterans, and those with substantial physical disabilities. Creating broader opportunities for historically under-represented groups provides for additional options and greater competition in the marketplace, creates stronger relationships and engagement within our communities, and fosters economic development and equality.

To further this commitment, the Department of Administration operates a program for Minnesota-based small businesses owned by minorities, women, veterans, and those with substantial physical disabilities. For additional information on this program, or to determine eligibility, please call 651-296-2600 or go to [the Office of Equity in Procurement home page, at www.mn.gov/admin/oep](http://www.mn.gov/admin/oep).

SPECIAL NOTICE: This is a request for proposal. It does not obligate the State of Minnesota to award a contract or complete the proposed program, and the State reserves the right to cancel this solicitation if it is considered in its best interest.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Solicitation Content

SECTION 1 – INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPONDERS	3
SECTION 2 – SUMMARY OF SCOPE.....	4
SECTION 3 – PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....	6
SECTION 4 – PROPOSAL CONTENT	7
SECTION 5 – EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA	8
SECTION 6 – SOLICITATION TERMS	9

Solicitation Attachments

- Attachment A: Responder Declarations
- Attachment B: Exceptions to State's Terms and Conditions
- Attachment C: Cost Detail
- Attachment D: Responder Forms
 - Veterans Preference Form
 - Workforce Certification

Sample Contract

- Exhibit A: Contract Terms
- Exhibit B: Insurance Requirements
- Exhibit C: Specifications, Duties, and Scope of Work
- Exhibit D: Pricing

SECTION 1 – INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPONDERS

Steps for
Completing Your
Response

Follow the steps below to complete your response to this Solicitation:

- Step 1: Read the solicitation documents and ask questions, if any
- Step 2: Write your response
- Step 3: Submit your response

Incomplete
Submittals

A response must be submitted along with any required additional documents. Incomplete responses that materially deviate from the required format and content may be rejected.

STEP 1 – READ THE SOLICITATION DOCUMENT & ASK QUESTIONS, IF ANY

How to Ask
Questions

The contact person for questions is:

Dave Ferkul, Supervisor
Department of Labor & Industry – Workplace Safety Consultation
dave.ferkul@state.mn.us

Questions should be emailed to the contact by September 21, 2021.
Other personnel are not authorized to answer questions regarding this Solicitation.

STEP 2 – WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

The Proposal Content section is in Section 4. Prepare a written response and supply all requested content. Responses should address the requested information and documents detailed in Section 4. **DO NOT INCLUDE** Non-Public/Trade Secret data (as defined by Minn. Stat. § 13.37).

Review, sign, and include the Responder Declarations with your response.

STEP 3 – SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE

Where to Send
Your Response

All responses to this solicitation (termed an “Event” within SWIFT) must be submitted through SWIFT using the Supplier portal (<https://mn.gov/supplier>). Training and documentation on how to submit your response is available through the Supplier portal link above. Fax, e-mail, and printed responses will not be accepted or considered. All costs incurred in responding to this solicitation will be borne by the responder.

Late responses will not be considered. Responses received after End Date above will not be considered, even if errors or delays were caused by issues outside of responders’ control. If you need assistance please contact the SWIFT Vendor Assistance Helpline at 651-201-8100, Option 1, and then Option 1.

By submitting a response, your company is making a binding legal offer for the period of time set forth below in Section 6, Conditions of Offer.

SECTION 2 – SUMMARY OF SCOPE

1. Procurement Overview and Goals.

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry is soliciting proposals for logger safety training for Minnesota loggers' under Minn. Stat. 176.130. The Logger Safety Education Program administered by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, is a special program whose goal is to help reduce occupational injuries and illnesses in the logging industry. The Logger Safety Education Program provides on-site training, on-site consultative services, outreach training and safety seminars throughout the State of Minnesota. This request for proposals is for providing logger safety training seminars throughout the State of Minnesota.

It is the goal of this project, that Minnesota loggers' have the opportunity to receive safety training throughout the year and throughout the State of Minnesota. The locations of the training should be so arranged to provide safety training with-in a reasonable distance to where loggers live and work. The training should focus on the most recent trends in the logging industries injuries, illnesses and fatalities, in the State of Minnesota.

2. Tasks and Deliverables.

1. Gather input from sources such as logger feedback on past training surveys, organizations that represent loggers, and logging industry injury and illness statistics, to identify logging industry needs and trends.
2. Develop classroom safety and health training programs, approved by the Commissioner, on topics relevant to logging operations.
3. Develop classroom training programs for First aid and CPR.
4. Require picture ID of class participants and administer classroom safety training programs.
5. Issue announcements for the training sessions based on a mailing list provided by the Department of Labor and Industry.
6. Maintain all classroom training records, including specifics on "OSHA" general safety topics provided.
7. Provide a list of participants of all classroom training, upon completion of the spring training, and again upon completion of the fall session, or upon request.
8. Conduct evaluations of classroom training with an evaluation form provided by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry or comparable form.
9. Provide an electronic summary of the participant's records and evaluation.

The safety training shall be offered in the spring of the year during the normal spring thaw when the logging industry is idle and again in a limited offering in the fall of the year.

The spring locations should be arranged around or near such locations as, Rochester, Baudette, International Falls, Tower, Two Harbors, Cloquet, Grand Rapids, Bemidji, and Brainerd.

The fall locations should be around or near Rochester, International Falls, Bemidji, Cloquet, and Chisholm.

Locations and dates shall be approved by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry.

Spring safety seminar training attendance has been approximately 600-800 and fall safety seminar attendance has been approximately 150 each year.

Training session segments must be designed in 4-hour blocks. Each 4-hour training block may have one or multiple training topics. Participants are required to attend 12 hours of training over a two-year period.

Attendees must present a valid photo ID when attending a training seminar.

The term of this contract is anticipated to run from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023, with the option to extend up to an additional 2-years.

This request for proposal does not obligate the state to award a contract or complete the project, and the state reserves the right to cancel the solicitation if it is considered to be in its best interest.

SECTION 3 – PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. **Anticipated Contract Term.**

The term of this contract is anticipated to be from January 1,2022 to December 31,2023, with the option to extend up to an additional two years, in one-year increments.

2. **Question and Answer Instructions.**

All questions should be submitted no later than the date and time listed in Section 1, Instructions to Responders. The State is not obligated to answer questions submitted after the question due date and time.

Only personnel listed above are authorized to discuss this solicitation with responders. Contact regarding this solicitation with any personnel not listed above could result in disqualification. This provision is not intended to prevent responders from seeking guidance from state procurement assistance programs regarding general procurement questions.

If a Responder discovers any significant ambiguity, error, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other deficiency in the solicitation, please immediately notify the contact person detailed above in writing of such error and request modification or clarification of the document.

SECTION 4 – PROPOSAL CONTENT

Please submit the following information:

1. Work Plan. Responder should provide a description of the deliverables to be provided by the Responder along with a detailed work plan that identifies the major tasks to be accomplished and be used as a scheduling and managing tool, as well as the basis for invoicing. This document should NOT list cost detail. If cost detail is included in this document, the State may disqualify the proposal as non-responsive. Responder should provide a statement of the objectives, goals, and tasks to show or demonstrate the Responder's view and understanding of the nature of the contract.
2. Qualifications and Experience. Responder should provide an outline of background and experience in developing and implementing training programs, with examples of similar work done by the Responder and a list of personnel who will conduct the project, detailing their training, and work experience. Resumes or other information about project personnel should not, if possible, contain personal telephone numbers, home addresses, or home email addresses. If it is necessary to include personal contact information, please clearly indicate in the response that personal contact information is being provided.
3. Understanding of Project Objectives. Responder should describe their understanding of safety and health issues affecting the logging industry, how deliverables provided by the responder will speak to the pertinent issues of safety and health in logging, and what the deliverables will help to accomplish.
4. Cost Detail. Complete and submit Attachment C, "Cost Detail," attached to this solicitation.
5. License Agreements, Maintenance Agreements, or Other Terms and Conditions.

The State may require Responder to provide any license agreements, maintenance agreements or any other terms and conditions relevant to the work under a resulting contract. Review and approval by the State will be required prior to contract execution. In the event Responder fails to comply with a request under this provision, Responder agrees that it will not seek to enforce terms and conditions of any such agreement against the State. Further, failure to provide any of the pertinent documents upon request may result in the State not agreeing to sign any additional documents, rejecting your response, or cancelling the award.

Submit all requested documentation, including, but not limited to, the following documents:

1. Attachment A: Responder Declarations
2. Attachment B: Exceptions to State's Standard Terms and Conditions
3. Attachment C: Cost Proposal
4. Attachment D: Responder Forms
 - a. Veterans Preference Form
 - b. Workforce Certification

DO NOT INCLUDE Non-Public/Trade Secret data (as defined by Minn. Stat. § 13.37).

SECTION 5 – EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA

The State will conduct an evaluation of responses to this Solicitation. The evaluations will be conducted in three phases:

- Phase 1 - Review responses for responsiveness and pass/fail requirements
- Phase 2 - Evaluate responses
- Phase 3 - Select finalist(s)

1. Phase 1 – Responsiveness and Pass/Fail Requirements

The purpose of this phase is to determine if each response complies with mandatory requirements. The State will first review each proposal for responsiveness to determine if the Responder satisfies all mandatory requirements. The State will evaluate these requirements on a pass/fail basis.

Mandatory Requirements. The following will be considered on a pass/fail basis:

- Responses must be received by the due date and time specified in this RFP.
- Responses must provide all required documents and requested information.

2. Phase 2 - Evaluate Responses

Only those responses found to have met Phase 1 criteria will be considered in Phase 2.

The factors and weighting on which responses will be evaluated are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Work Plan for Deliverables | 200 points |
| 2. Qualifications and Experience | 300 points |
| 3. Expressed understanding of project objectives | 200 points |
| 4. Cost Detail | <u>300 points</u> |
| | 1000 points |
| 5. Preference Points (if applicable) | 60 points (in addition to 1,000 available) |

Preference points are described under Solicitation Terms and will be applied to the total score after points have been awarded.

3. Phase 3 - Select Finalist(s)

Only those responses that have been evaluated under Phase 2 shall be eligible for Phase 3.

The State will make its selection based on best value, as determined by this evaluation process. The State reserves the right to pursue negotiations on any exception taken to the State's standard terms and conditions. In the event that negotiated terms cannot be reached, the State reserves the right to terminate negotiations and begin negotiating with the next highest scoring responder or take other actions as the State deems appropriate. If the State anticipates multiple awards, the State reserves the right to negotiate with more than one Responder.

It is anticipated that the evaluation and selection will be completed by October 28, 2021.

SECTION 6 – SOLICITATION TERMS

1. Competition in Responding

The State desires open and fair competition. Questions from responders regarding any of the requirements of the Solicitation must be submitted in writing to the Solicitation Administrator listed in the Solicitation before the due date and time. If changes are made the State will issue an addendum.

Any evidence of collusion among responders in any form designed to defeat competitive responses will be reported to the Minnesota Attorney General for investigation and appropriate action.

2. Addenda to the Solicitation

Changes to the Solicitation will be made by addendum with notification and posted in the same manner as the original Solicitation. Any addenda issued will become part of the Solicitation.

3. Data Security - Foreign Outsourcing of Work is Prohibited

All storage and processing of information shall be performed within the borders of the United States. This provision also applies to work performed by subcontractors at all levels.

4. Joint Ventures

The State allows joint ventures among groups of responders when responding to the solicitation. However, one responder must submit a response on behalf of all the others in the group. The responder that submits the response will be considered legally responsible for the response (and the contract, if awarded).

5. Withdrawing Response

A responder may withdraw its response prior to the due date and time of the Solicitation. For solicitations in the SWIFT Supplier Portal, a responder may withdraw its response from the SWIFT Supplier Portal. For solicitations done any other way, a responder may withdraw its response by notifying the Solicitation Administrator in writing of the desire to withdraw.

After the due date and time of this Solicitation, a responder may withdraw a response only upon showing that an obvious error exists in the response. The showing and request for withdrawal must be made in writing to Solicitation Administrator within a reasonable time and prior to the State's detrimental reliance on the response.

6. Rights Reserved

The State reserves the right to:

- Reject any and all responses received;
- Waive or modify any informalities, irregularities, or inconsistencies in the responses received;
- Negotiate with the highest scoring Responder[s];
- Terminate negotiations and select the next response providing the best value for the State;
- Consider documented past performance resulting from a State contract may be considered in the evaluation process;
- Short list the highest scoring Responders;
- Require Responders to conduct presentations, demonstrations, or submit samples;
- Interview key personnel or references;
- Request a best and final offer from one or more Responders;
- The State reserves the right to request additional information ; and
- The State reserves the right to use estimated usage or scenarios for the purpose of conducting pricing evaluations. The State reserves the right to modify scenarios, and to request or add additional scenarios for the evaluation.

7. Samples and Demonstrations

Upon request, Responders are to provide samples to the State at no charge. Except for those destroyed or mutilated in testing, the State will return samples if requested and at the Responder's expense. All costs to conduct and associated with a demonstration will be the sole responsibility of the Responder.

8. Responses are Nonpublic during Evaluation Process

All materials submitted in response to this Solicitation will become property of the State. During the evaluation process, all information concerning the responses submitted will remain private or nonpublic and will not be disclosed to anyone whose official duties do not require such knowledge. Responses are private or nonpublic data until the completion of the evaluation process as defined by Minn. Stat. § 13.591. The completion of the evaluation process is defined as the State having completed negotiating a contract with the selected responder. The State will notify all responders in writing of the evaluation results.

9. Trade Secret Information

9.1 Responders must not submit as part of their response trade secret material, as defined by Minn. Stat. § 13.37.

9.2 In the event trade secret data are submitted, Responder must defend any action seeking release of data it believes to be trade secret, and indemnify and hold harmless the State, its agents and employees, from any judgments awarded against the State in favor of the party requesting the data, and any and all costs connected with that defense.

9.3 The State does not consider cost or prices to be trade secret material, as defined by Minn. Stat. § 13.37.

9.4 A responder may present and discuss trade secret information during an interview or demonstration with the State, if applicable.

10. Conditions of Offer

Unless otherwise approved in writing by the State, Responder's cost proposal and all terms offered in its response that pertain to the completion of professional and technical services and general services will remain firm for 180 days, until they are accepted or rejected by the State, or they are changed by further negotiations with the State prior to contract execution.

11. Award

Any award that may result from this solicitation will be based upon the total accumulated points as established in the solicitation. The State reserves the right to award this solicitation to a single Responder, or to multiple Responders, whichever is in the best interest of the State, providing each Responder is in compliance with all terms and conditions of the solicitation. The State reserves the right to accept all or part of an offer, to reject all offers, to cancel the solicitation, or to re-issue the solicitation, whichever is in the best interest of the State.

12. Requirements Prior to Contract Execution

Prior to contract execution, a responder receiving a contract award must comply with any submittal requests. A submittal request may include, but is not limited to, a Certificate of Insurance.