

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR
DISABILITY BENEFITS ADVOCACY PROJECT
OBF/CARM/14-002-S

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES #3

Question 78: Can you please explain the pre-screening process that will be completed by DHR to determine the list of clients deemed potentially eligible for Title II and Title XVI benefits? What measures will be put in place to insure that no children or adults are inadvertently pre-screened and excluded from the list of potentially eligible clients?

Response: Using the documented information in the SACWIS system (MD CHESSIE), DHR will pull a list of children in Maryland's foster care system that are potentially disabled and/or have been identified as having a deceased or disabled parent.

Question 79: Can the state provide us with its Title IV-E penetration rate for foster care children?

Response: Due to the removal of the requirement for dual claiming from the RFP (see Amendment #1), this information is not relevant.

Question 80: Of those total children on the transmittal list (XML file), what is the number and/or percentage breakdown for the categories of "potentially disabled." How are they screened or identified by DHR before transmission to the contractor, e.g. review of existing medical records, social service observations?

Response: DHR cannot provide a percentage breakdown for the children in foster care. For information on the screening process, please review the response to Question 78.

Question 81: What specific proofs needed for the SSA applications are available from the SPM and/or the LDSS caseworker, e.g. original or certified copies of birth certificates?

Response: The Contractor can obtain original birth certificates from the LDSS caseworkers.

Question 82: In RFP Section 3.2.A.3: Who from the State of Maryland signs on the Notification to Child's Counsel form on behalf of the child?

Response: The LDSS Director or their designee will sign the form on behalf of the State.

Question 83: Section 3.2.A.6: Is there any special arrangement in place at this time with the Maryland DDS(s) e.g. cooperative agreement with the state or a contractor doing this work?

Response: No.

Question 84: Section 3.2.A.8: Is there any special arrangement in place at this time with the Maryland DDS(s) e.g. cooperative agreement with the state or a contractor doing this work?

Response: No.

Question 85: Section 3.2.A.9: SSA initiates redeterminations at age 18 with the beneficiary/appointed representative; how will the contractor become aware they need to act on a Continuing Disability Review and come into possession of the beneficiary's response to the SSA contact/SSA redetermination packet?

Response: DHR will supply the Contractor with a list of required redeterminations.

Question 86: Given the delay in receiving responses to substantive questions that will have a significant impact on the drafting of proposals, is the State willing to extend the due date of this proposal?

Response: No. Per Section 1.11 of the RFP, requests for extensions of the due date or time will not be granted.

Question 87: Are there technical eligibility reasons, such as immigration status, income, etc - that a Public Assistance to Adults (PAA) member would NOT be receiving SSI or SSDI? Of the 3,500 members, why are only 500 not receiving?

Response: No, there are no technical eligibility reasons that would lead to a PAA recipient not receiving SSI or SSDI benefits. Individuals

who receive PAA have been certified for: a licensed assisted living program; a CARE home; or a Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) rehabilitative residence. These facilities are “protective living environments” for those who cannot manage activities of daily living. These individuals are typically profoundly disabled or are elderly and infirm. Persons in those states of health typically receive either federal disability or retirement benefits. The PAA program also requires that recipients either receive SSI or SSDI or are in the application or appeal process for the benefits.

Question 88: Regarding RFP Section 3.2B – Scope of Work – Adult TDAP, TCA or PAA - can the state clarify how the adults will be selected to be included on the electronic XML file referenced on pg 30 as “...a list of Adult TDAP, TCA, and PAA recipients who are potentially disabled...” Will the vendor not receive a list of all TDAP, TCA and PAA recipients to screen for potential SSA benefit eligibility? If not, how many adults in each category does the state anticipate will be included on this referral list?

Response: The list will contain TDAP and TCA recipients who are potentially disabled and all PAA recipients. Please refer to the Attachment to this Question Series for a breakdown of the anticipated number of disabled TDAP and TCA recipients.

Question 89: How many adults are expected to be transmitted in the first week and in subsequent weeks or will all currently pending be transmitted in the first week and new applications in following weeks?

Response: The initial list will include all potentially disabled individuals (a numerical estimate is included in the Attachment to this Question Series). The Department will add individuals to future lists after adding them to the Department’s rolls.

Question 90: Is the Contractor required to submit or consult with the State on criteria used to reject any recipient for application?

Response: Per RFP Section 3.2.D.1 (q) and (r), the Contractor is required to submit the top 5 reasons for SSA’s denial of applications and reconsiderations or appeals during a given month. The State requires no further information regarding the rejection of an application, reconsideration, or appeal.

Question 91: Will the selected vendor be provided access to these medical records at the referral point?

Response: Yes, the State will provide access to the medical records and, if needed, allow the Contractor to obtain records from the client's medical provider.

Question 92: The RFP states that there are over 22,000 adults on TDAP, TCA and PAA that are not currently receiving any type of SSA benefit. Does the Department have a geographical breakdown of where these adults reside?

Response: See the Attachment to these Questions and Responses.

Question 93: In RFP Section 3.1, the State provides a table of the Average Monthly Figures for approved applications. With regards to the statistics presented for the approved TDAP, TCA, and PAA applications, are these numbers a combination of approved Title XVI and II applications or of just the Title XVI or Title II applications?

Response: The numbers in the chart represent the number of approved applications filed for TDAP, TCA, or PAA. The numbers shown in the chart have no relation to Title II or Title XVI benefit applications.

Question 94: As a condition of being in the PAA program, clients are required to apply for SSI. That poses two issues. Are we required to apply for these clients irrespective of screening disposition?

Response: No. The Contractor only has to file applications for clients it identifies as being potentially disabled based on its screening process.

Question 95: Secondly, if it is permissible to appropriately, screen and apply for clients whose case merits an application, will PAA clients whose case does not demonstrate merit for an SSI application be required to apply for SSI independently?

Response: Yes. If the Contractor's screening process leads it to believe an individual is not disabled or eligible for SSA benefits, the

Contractor does not have to file an application on behalf of that individual. In that case, the PAA applicant will independently apply for SSA disability benefits.

Question 96: Section 3.2.B.2 provides that the “*Contractor shall cover the cost of the exam/assessment*” for individuals identified as requiring additional medical examinations to substantiate a claim for federal disability benefits. Has the State contemplated that such costs could very likely exceed the per case fee to the contractor in the event of success on that case thereby providing a disincentive to a Contractor to pursue the case? Is the State willing to offer a separate payment mechanism for those cases to ensure that the Contractor is appropriately compensated for its efforts in those instances?

Response: No, the State will not offer a separate payment mechanism. However, Offerors can factor this cost into their Fully Loaded Fixed Unit Price per case.

Question 97: Is the contractor expected to become the appointed representative in order to communicate with the Maryland DDS and SSA?

Response: Yes.

Question 98: Of those total adults on the transmittal list (XML file), what is the number and/or percentage breakdown for the categories of “potentially disabled”?

Response: See the response to Question 92.