



CONNECTED
NATION.

VENDOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question One:

Sect 2.3 Term of Contract (page 8) – Wording says the contract is for two years, but dates are only one year.

Answer One:

The term of the contract is two (2) years.

Question Two:

Section 4.1.2 Expertise – Item b) requests examples of reports and analysis (generally confidential info) and analysis, but specs are only for field and tab? Will we need this?

Answer Two:

If a Vendor is applying to either a) fulfill the data analysis consultant requirements; or b) fulfill the requirements of *both* data analysis consultant *and* the quantitative data provider requirements, then the Vendor should submit at least two (2) examples of finished work products (for example, reports, white papers, or data analysis summaries). If the Vendor is applying to fulfill *only* the requirements of the quantitative data provider, then the Vendor should provide a narrative explaining the type of data fields that were provided to the data's final user for its own report creation.

Question Three:

Sec 4.1.1 Company Financial, Insurance and Security Information -- CN asks for audited financials for 3 years. Do these need to be submitted with proposal on Dec. 8, or are these the types of documents that you will request only from the successful offeror as described in Sec 3.3.7 Request for Documents Notice?

Answer Three:

Yes, the financial, insurance and security information needs to be submitted with the proposal.

Question Four:

You are asking for an hourly rate. How many hours will be worked during a given week? Normally, we have supplied total cost for a project. Would we need to break down total project cost by a period of time within which to complete a particular project or would just giving total cost with specific labor rates within total cost acceptable?

Answer Four:

Services in both Section 6.3.1 and Section 6.3.2 will be awarded on a firm fixed cost basis to include both one residential survey and one business survey so it is acceptable to provide total cost with specific labor rates within the total cost. If your proposal includes providing services in both sections 6.3.1 and 6.3.2, please provide a separate quote for each section. If the respondent is willing to contribute any services in-kind to be used as a match on Connected Nation's federal grants, please indicate the hours to be contributed in your cost proposal. For example, some of our current vendors contribute one hour for each hour for which they are compensated. In-kind contributions, however, are not required nor are they a condition for award.

Question Five:

RFP states prevailing wage. Is this based upon government regulations of prevailing wage for all labor classes within a given geographical area on government contracts or actual prevailing wage w/o government mandates?

Answer Five:

All of the language in the Terms and Conditions for Contracts and Grants using ARRA Funds is standard language that is included in our contracts to ensure compliance with federal guidelines. In Section 2.6 of the RFP, it states, "Much of the language included in the Standard Terms and Conditions for Contracts and Grants using ARRA Funds and the Vendor Contract reflects requirements of state and federal law. Although some requirements in Appendix C may not be applicable to the Vendor awarded this Contract, CN reserves the right to enforce any such provision if NTIA rules that subcontractors are subject to every term and condition required for receipt of ARRA funds."

Question Six:

In section 6.3.1, bullet point 8, about residential quotas, refers to "country" of residence. I believe this should read as "county" of residence. Urban and rural area definitions within a state are based on counties.

Answer Six:

Correct. That is a mistake in drafting.

Question Seven:

Section 6.3.2 is the portion of the RFP that lines up well with my company's expertise and previous work I have done for CN and other clients. My proposal will only cover this set of requirements. If desired, I could submit a proposal including requirements of 6.3.1, although I would need to outsource and coordinate this part of the project with a third party vendor.

Answer Seven:

Connected Nation, Inc. (CN) is seeking experienced Market Research Vendor(s) to fulfill the requirements of a quantitative data provider (as set forth in section 6.3.1) and a data analysis consultant (as set forth in section 6.3.2). A Vendor must be able to fulfill the requirements of *at least one* of those roles. A Vendor may choose to submit a proposal to fulfill the requirements of only one role (quantitative data provider *or* data analysis consultant) or the Vendor may submit a proposal to fulfill the requirements of both roles (quantitative data provider *and* data analysis consultant). If a Vendor submits a proposal to fulfill both roles, Connected Nation reserves the right to accept the proposal for only one of the two roles.

Question Eight:

The question I have regarding 6.3.2 is whether or not the requirements set forth within 6.3.2 include or exclude work related to coding or categorization of open end text responses as part of the data processing step laid out in bullet 5. This can be rather labor intensive and therefore can have a significant impact on the proposal costs. If this is not something that can be answered right now, due to the passed deadline, or for another reason, I will break out these costs as a line item that can be included or omitted from the final contract, at the discretion of CN.

Answer Eight:

Section 6.3.2 reads: "After surveys have been conducted, process data (including weighting of survey respondents to match the latest federal statistics based on age and gender, and verifying the integrity of data collected by Quantitative Data Provider) and prepare SPSS data file and WinCross job files to CN for further analysis." One part of the preparation of the SPSS data file is to include the categorization of open-end text responses.