

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is soliciting proposals for professional services.

1. PROJECT INFORMATION.

- 1.1. Project Title: The Bureau of Maternal, Child & Family Health (BMCFH) Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality (OCPIM) Administrative Support.
- 1.2. Posting and Due Date: August 26, 2020 – September 16, 2020.
- 1.3. Inquiry Period: August 26, 2020 – September 4, 2020

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND, & OBJECTIVE.

2.1. Project Background: The Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality (OCPIM) is a large statewide group of stakeholders with an interest in eliminating infant mortality and advocating for health equity in birth outcomes. The mission of OCPIM is: To eliminate preventable infant mortality and improve the health of all women of childbearing years throughout the state of Ohio through sharing of best practices, community engagement, and advocacy.

OCPIM operates on four tenets:

- 1. Community engagement to support those at most risk to experience the direct consequences of infant death and sub-optimal birth outcomes.
- 2. Exchange of novel interventions and practices designed to improve birth outcomes in Ohio. This includes unsuccessful as well successful practices.
- 3. Optimization of relevant data collection, analysis, and dissemination among stakeholder organizations.
- 4. Advocate for legislation and policies that optimize women’s health, improve birth outcomes, and eliminate preventable infant mortality.

2.2. Project Objective: The objective of this project is to provide administrative support to OCPIM in order to continue the collaborative work to reduce infant mortality and to improve healthy equity in birth outcomes - see project background above.

3. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.

- 3.1. Contractor Experience Requirement: At least two (2) years’ experience leading a statewide collaborative on activities to reduce infant mortality.
At least two (2) years” experience with infant mortality reduction initiatives.
- 3.2. Candidate Experience Requirement. Key agency staff must have high-level experience with issues of maternal and child health, particularly in infant mortality reduction strategies; convening and leading large groups; and translating data to action. It is imperative that the awarded vendor have a deep connection to, and participation in, current programmatic activities directed at reducing infant mortality in the state of Ohio.

4. SCOPE OF WORK.

4.1.	Plan and convene four (4) Statewide Quarterly Meetings of OCPIM. This includes selection of date(s); agenda development; advance notifications; invitations; meeting logistics; speakers; presentations; after-action assignments.
4.2.	Plan and convene ten (10) Regional Quarterly Meetings (10 meetings annually) This includes selection of date(s); agenda development; advance notifications; invitations; meeting logistics; speakers; presentations; after-action assignments.

4.3.	Plan and convene six (6) Executive Committee Meetings (6 meetings annually) This includes selection of date(s); agenda development; advance notifications; invitations; meeting logistics; speakers; presentations; after-action assignments;
4.4.	Plan and convene two (2) Statewide Stakeholders Meetings (2 meetings annually) This includes selection of date(s); agenda development; advance notifications; invitations; meeting logistics; speakers; presentations; after-action assignments;
4.5.	Create and submit an evaluation and analysis report quarterly, four (4) reports annually. The report should include, but not limited to qualitative and quantitative information regarding infant mortality reduction initiatives in Ohio and be conducted local/regional or statewide. The reports should highlight innovative programs used, be evidence-based; evidence-informed; and provide best/emerging practices used.

5. DELIVERABLES.

	Deliverables	Due Date
5.1.	Plan and convene four (4) Statewide Quarterly Meetings (4 meetings held in person or virtually annually).	Quarterly
5.2.	Plan and convene ten (10) Regional Quarterly Meetings (20 meetings annually in person or virtually).	5 Quarterly Meetings
5.3.	Plan and convene six (6) Executive Committee Meetings (6 meetings annually in person or virtually).	Bi-monthly
5.4.	Plan and convene two (2) Statewide Stakeholders Meetings (2 meetings annually in person or virtually).	Bi-annually
5.5.	Conduct an evaluation and analysis report (4 quarterly reports).	Quarterly

6. PROPOSAL SCORING.

Criteria	Maximum Allowable Points
Technical Proposal	500 Points
Cost Proposal	200 Points
Total	700 Points

7. EVALUATION CRITERION.

CONTRACTOR PROFILE		Weight
7.1.	Offeror showed in their proposal that they have at least two (2) years' experience leading a statewide collaborative on reducing infant mortality.	5
7.2.	Offeror showed in their proposal that they have at least two (2) years' experience with infant mortality reduction initiatives.	10
STAFFING PLAN (PERSONNEL PROFILE)		Weight
7.3.	Offeror showed in their proposal a staffing plan that included personnel staff that has a high-level of experience with issues of maternal and child health, particularly in infant mortality reduction strategies; leading large groups; and translating data to action	10
WORK PLAN		Weight
7.4.	Offeror showed in their proposal that they can plan and convene four (4) Statewide Quarterly Meetings annually (in person or virtually).	15
7.5.	Offeror showed in their proposal that they could plan and convene ten (10) Regional Quarterly Meetings annually (in person or virtually).	15
7.6.	Offeror showed in their proposal that they can plan and convene six (6) Executive Committee Meetings (in person or virtually).	15
7.7.	Offeror showed in their proposal that they can plan and convene two (2) Statewide Stakeholders Meetings annually (in person or virtually).	15
7.8.	Offeror showed in their proposal that they can produce and submit four (4) evaluation and analysis reports annually (4 quarterly reports).	15
TOTAL		100

8. CONTRACT AWARD.

Notice: This RFP is not an offer or a Contract.

Parties interested in submitting a formal offer must submit a written response on provision of the required services or supplies specified in this RFP.

9. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CONTRACTOR INSTRUCTIONS

- 9.1. Scope of Work and Specifications. ODH is authorized to prepare scope of work and specifications to obtain supplies and services. The purpose of the scope or work or deliverables is to describe the supplies or services to be purchased and will serve as a basis for comparison of proposal responses.
- 9.2. Technical Proposal Format. Contractor's technical proposal shall address all items in the scope of work and deliverables and be submitted as the "Technical Proposal". Failure to sufficiently address each item may result in ODH's determination that the Proposal does not provide sufficient detail to adequately evaluate the Proposal and is, therefore, incomplete and nonresponsive. If the Proposal contains elements that exceed the requirements of the RFP, the Proposal should state the degree to which the requirement will be exceeded and how this will be accomplished. Proposals should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise, and complete description of the Contractor's proposal and capabilities to perform the Contract. Emphasis should be on completeness, specificity, and clarity of content.
- 9.2.1. Company Narrative. Responses to the RFP shall include a short narrative describing the following:
- 9.2.1.1. Description of the Contractor's experience and expertise conducting projects of similar size and scope.
 - 9.2.1.2. Contractor's ability to meet minimum requirements.
 - 9.2.1.3. Contractor's capacity to provide the services required.
 - 9.2.1.4. Documentation of Contractor's soundness and financial capability to perform the work.
 - 9.2.1.5. List of three (3) references for whom the Contractor has performed similar services and deliverables. ODH may, but is under no obligation to, contact the references.
- 9.2.2. Project Narrative. Responses to the RFP shall include a detailed project narrative describing the following:
- 9.2.2.1. Identification of the objectives, strategies, methodology, services and deliverables that Contractor proposes to provide.
 - 9.2.2.2. Use of evidence-based practices, if applicable.
 - 9.2.2.3. Timeline for completion of services and deliverables.
 - 9.2.2.4. Ability and experience of key project personnel intended to work on the project and their responsibilities to the project. Include resumes.
 - 9.3.2.5. Identification and description of any proposed Subcontractors. Contractor may not subcontract any work or services of the type described in project scope of work and deliverables without ODH prior written approval.
- 9.2.3. Project Implementation. Responses to the RFP shall include a detailed project implementation plan describing the following:
- 9.2.3.1. Clearly identify and discuss with specificity how the Contractor will perform the requirements specific to this project, including each item under Scope of Work and Deliverables.
 - 9.2.3.2. Description of the location and principal office from which the work is to be performed.
 - 9.2.3.3. Identification of the amount of time that lead, and key project personnel will be expected to work on the project.
 - 9.2.3.4. Description of contingency plans for completing the project, should the lead or key project personnel become unavailable for any reason.
 - 9.2.3.5. Identification of any anticipated difficulties in meeting the project specifications and a description of proposed solutions to these difficulties.
- 9.3. Contractor's Compensation. Contractor's proposed compensation by deliverable shall be submitted as the "Cost Proposal". If in the event a Contract ensues as a result of this RFP, the Contractor will be required to fulfill the

Contractual obligations at the amount proposed. The proposed cost must include all costs associated with performing the work, including travel, shipping, overhead, etc.

- 9.4. Proposal Submittal. Contractor must submit both a “Technical Proposal” and a “Cost Proposal” as a part of its Proposal package. These are two separate components which shall be submitted as separate electronic documents, clearly identified as either “Technical Proposal” or “Cost Proposal” and the RFP number.
- 9.5. When Proposals May Be Emailed. ODH must receive proposals via email by no later than 4:00 p.m., the day the proposals are scheduled to be due. Proposals received after 4:00 p.m. on the scheduled opening date will not be opened.
- 9.6. Where Proposals Must Be Emailed. Proposals must be emailed (no fax, mailed or hand delivered proposals will be accepted) to the following email address:
procurement@odh.ohio.gov
- 9.7. Proposals are a Public Record. Once proposals have been reviewed, they will be forwarded to the ODH Project Evaluation Committee to begin the evaluation process. After proposals are opened, they are public records as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 149.43 and are subject to all laws appurtenant thereto. Contractor may request that certain information, such as trade secrets or proprietary data, be designated as confidential and not considered as public records. Pricing is not considered as confidential. The decision as to whether or not such trade secrets or proprietary data shall be disclosed shall rest solely with ODH.
- 9.8. Withdrawal of Proposal Prior to Scheduled Opening. Contractor may withdraw a proposal by written request any time after ODH receives the proposal and before scheduled opening.
- 9.9. Withdrawal of Proposal After Scheduled Opening. Contractor may by written request withdraw its proposal after scheduled opening if there is reasonable proof that an inadvertent mistake was made, and the correction cannot be determined with reasonable certainty.
- 9.10. Correction of Proposal Before Scheduled Opening. If a Contractor withdraws its proposal and resubmits it with revisions, the revisions should be clearly identified and initialed by the Contractor. Any corrections must be completed off the ODH premises.
- 9.11. Correction after Scheduled Opening. ODH may permit a Contractor alleging an inadvertent error to correct its proposal after opening, only if the mistake and the correction are clearly evident from the proposal and correction does not affect the amount of the proposal or otherwise give the Contractor an unfair competitive advantage.
- 9.12. Proposals are Firm for 90 Days. Unless stated otherwise, once opened all proposals are irrevocable for ninety (90) days. Beyond ninety (90) days, the Contractor will have the option to honor their proposal or make a written request to withdraw their proposal from consideration.
- 9.13. Rejected Proposals. ODH may reject any proposal in whole or in part, if any of the following circumstances are true:
- 9.13.1. Proposals are not in compliance with the required format stated in the RFP.
 - 9.13.2. Proposals do not address all of the requirements of the RFP.
 - 9.13.3. The price is excessive in comparison with market conditions or with the available funds of the Agency.
 - 9.13.4. ODH determines that awarding any item is not in the best interest of the Agency.
- 9.14. Alternative Proposals. A Contractor may desire to submit an alternative proposal that achieves the purpose, specifications and scope of ODH's request. A Contractor submitting an alternative proposal shall clearly identify and quantify the advantages of the alternative.
- 9.15. Proposal Preparation. ODH assumes no responsibility for costs incurred by the Contractor prior to the award of the Contract resulting from this RFP. Proposals may not include any amounts attributable to its preparation.

- 9.16. Contractor May Request Clarification. If a Contractor discovers an inconsistency, error or omission in this RFP, the Contractor should request clarification from ODH Office of Procurement Services. Such clarification may be made only through email. No other form of clarification is acceptable. Failure of Contractor to comply may result in the Contractor being deemed not responsive.
- 9.17. Communication Prior to the Response Due Date. From the Release Date of this RFP until the date of a Contract award, there shall be no communications concerning this RFP between any Contractor who may ultimately submit a Proposal and any employee of ODH involved in the issuing of the RFP, or any other state employee who is in any way involved in the ODH project, except as follows:
- An ODH employee may send communications to potential Contractors with a link to ODH's RFP announcement after the Release Date to encourage a diversity of Contractors to submit a Proposal.
- 9.18. ODH Modifications to the RFP. When it is necessary to modify an RFP prior to the RFP opening, ODH does so by written addendum only. Revisions to an RFP, after the RFP opening, shall be distributed to only those Contractors that submitted a proposal. A Contractor may elect to withdraw the proposal, provided that the Contractor files a written request within ten (10) calendar days of ODH's distribution of the addendum.
- 9.19. Unit Costs. Contractors shall not insert a unit cost of more than two (2) digits to the right of the decimal point. Digits beyond the two (2) will be dropped and not used in the evaluation of the proposal.
- 9.20. Responsive Contractor. A Contractor is responsive if its proposal responds to the RFP completely and contains no irregularities or deviations from the RFP that would affect the proposal or otherwise give the Contractor an unfair advantage.
- 9.21. Responsible Contractor. ODH will determine if a Contractor is responsible using the following factors:
- 9.21.1. Experience of the Contractor.
 - 9.21.2. Contractor's financial condition.
 - 9.21.3. Contractor's conduct and performance on previous Contracts.
 - 9.21.4. Contractor's facilities.
 - 9.21.5. Contractor's management skills.
 - 9.21.6. Contractor's ability to execute the Contract properly.
 - 9.21.7. Review of Federal and State debarment lists.
- 9.22. Information Requested. ODH may request additional information to evaluate a Contractor's responsiveness to the RFP or to evaluate a Contractor's responsibility. If a Contractor does not provide the requested information, it may adversely impact ODH evaluation of the Contractor's responsiveness or responsibility.
- 9.23. Samples. ODH may require Contractors to provide samples or examples of work, at the Contractor's expense. Samples must be clearly identified by the Contractor, the RFP number, and the item the sample represents. ODH will return samples that are not destroyed in testing, at the Contractor's expense, upon the Contractor's timely request. ODH may keep the samples of the Contractor awarded the Contract until the completion of the Contract.
- 9.24. Estimated Usage. Unless otherwise stated, the usage indicated for each item(s), if applicable, are to be considered as estimates only and should be considered as information relative to potential purchases that may be made from the Contract. ODH makes no representation or guarantee as to the actual amount of the items(s) to be purchased.
- 9.25. Technical Proposal Evaluation. Proposals submitted by Contractors that do not meet the minimum requirements will not be evaluated. Proposals determined by ODH to lack completeness, specificity or clarity of content may be deemed nonresponsive and, therefore, will not be evaluated. The remaining proposals will be evaluated, scored, and ranked by a committee of selected staff. Proposals will be evaluated by the technical review criteria.

The evaluation committee will assign a numerical rating to each technical competency in the above section 7 table of the RFP based upon a review of that Contractor's Proposal. The ratings are to be awarded as follows:

0 Points	Does Not Meet	Proposal does not comply with the requirements.
1 Point	Weak	Response does not substantially meet the requirements.
2 Points	Moderate	Proposal meets most of the requirements but is weak in some areas.
3 Points	Meets	Proposal meets all requirements.
4 Points	Strong	Proposal substantially exceeds requirements.
5 Points	Greatly Exceeds	Proposal significantly exceeds requirements.

The value assigned to each criterion is only a value used to determine which Proposal is the most advantageous to the Agency in relation to the other Proposals that ODH received.

The evaluation committee will evaluate each proposal and award up to the maximum amount specified for each criterion. A proposal must receive a total technical score of at least 300 points (60 percent of the maximum total technical score of 500) for ODH to consider awarding a Contract for that proposal.

9.26. Presentations and Interviews. ODH may require top Contractors to be interviewed. Such interviews will provide a Contractor with an opportunity to present its Proposal and to ensure a mutual understanding of the Proposal’s content. This will also allow ODH an opportunity to test or probe the professionalism, qualifications, skills, and work knowledge of the proposed candidates. The interviews will be scheduled at the convenience and discretion of ODH. ODH may record any presentations and interviews. The one (1) to three (3) highest scoring Contractors; but no more than the top three (3) may be required to participate. Interviews will be scheduled to be held in Columbus, Ohio at the vendor’s expense, if applicable.

9.27. Cost Proposal Evaluation. ODH will calculate the Contractor’s Cost Proposal points after the Contractor’s total technical points are determined, using the following method:

Cost Points = (Lowest Contractor’s Cost/Contractor’s cost) x Maximum Allowable Cost Points as indicated in the “Scoring Breakdown” table. In this method, the lowest cost proposed will receive the maximum allowable points.

The number of points assigned to the cost evaluation will be prorated, with the lowest accepted Cost Proposal given the maximum number of points possible for this criterion. Other acceptable Cost Proposals will be scored as the ratio of the lowest Cost Proposal to the Proposal being scored, multiplied by the maximum number of points possible for this criterion.

9.28. Final Stages of Evaluation Contractor with the highest point total from all phases of the evaluation (Technical Points + Cost Points) will be recommended for the next phase of the evaluation.

Technical Score: _____ + Cost Score: _____ = Total Score: _____

If ODH finds that one or more Proposals should be given further consideration, ODH may select one or more of the highest-ranking Proposals to move to the next phase. ODH may alternatively choose to bypass any or all subsequent phases and make an award based solely on the Proposal evaluation phase.

9.29. Clarifications & Corrections. During the evaluation process, ODH may request clarifications from any potential Contractor under active consideration and may give any Contractor the opportunity to correct defects in its Proposal if ODH believes doing so does not result in an unfair advantage for the Contractor and it is in ODH’s best interests. Any clarification response that is broader in scope than what ODH has requested may result in the Contractor’s proposal being disqualified.

9.30. Contract Negotiation. It is at the discretion of DOH whether to permit negotiations. A Contractor must not submit a proposal assuming there will be an opportunity to negotiate any aspects of the RFP. When it has been determined that it is in the Agency’s best interest to conduct negotiations, ODH may request a submission of a best and final quotation.

9.31. Contract Award. The ODH Project Committee evaluating the Proposals and, if applicable, the Presentations will recommend to the Director of Health the award of a Contract based upon the total Contractor score and whether awarding a Contract will result in obtaining the best value and advantage to ODH. The Director’s award of a Contract will be identified by the Director’s signature on the Contract. The Director’s award is final and not

appealable. ODH at any time may determine that award of a Contract is not in the best interest of ODH and may reject, cancel, or re-issue this RFP in whole or in part.

- 9.32. Contract Contents. If this RFP results in a Contract award, the Contract will consist of this RFP, along with attachments, addenda, purchase orders, change orders, and terms and conditions. ODH reserves the right to award multiple Contracts under this RFP.
- 9.33. Contractor Start Date. ODH expects the Contractor to commence work upon contract execution. If the Contractor is unable or unwilling to commence work, ODH reserves the right to cancel the award and resume the evaluation process with the next most advantageous proposal.
- 9.34. Non-Collusion Certification. The Contractor certifies that he/she is (sole owner, partner, president, secretary, etc.) of the party making the forgoing proposal, that such proposal is genuine and not collusive or sham; that Contractor has not colluded, conspired or agreed, directly or indirectly, with any Contractor or person, to submit a sham proposal; or colluded or conspired to have another not proposal; and has not in any manner, directly or indirectly, sought by agreement or collusion, or communication or conference, with any person to fix the proposal price of its proposal or any other Contractor, or to fix any overhead, profit or cost element of the proposal price, or of that of any other Contractor, to secure any advantage against any Contractor or any person or persons interested in the Contract and that all statements contained in the proposal are true; and further, that the Contractor has not, directly or indirectly, submitted this proposal, or the contents thereof, or divulged any related information or data to any association or to any member or agent of any association.
- 9.35. ODH Withdrawal of the RFP. ODH reserves the right to withdraw the RFP at any time prior to the award the Contract.
- 9.36. Damages Arising from RFP Specifications. A Contractor may not be compensated for damages arising from inaccurate or incomplete information in the RFP, specifications or from inaccurate assumptions based upon the specifications.
- 9.37. Protests. Objections to the contract award may be filed through a protest. Such protest must comply with the following information:
- 9.37.1. The protest must be filed by a prospective or actual Contractor objecting to the award of a Contract resulting from this RFP. The protest must be in writing and contain the following information:
- 9.37.1.1. Name, address and telephone number of the protester;
- 9.37.1.2. Name and number of the RFP being protested;
- 9.37.1.3. Detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds for the protest, including copies of any relevant document;
- 9.37.1.4. Request for a ruling by ODH;
- 9.37.1.5. Statement as to the form of relief requested from ODH; and
- 9.37.1.6. Any other information the protester believes to be essential to the determination of the factual and legal questions at issue in the written request.
- 9.37.2. A timely protest will be considered within the following periods:
- 9.37.2.1. A protest based on alleged improprieties in the issuance of the RFP, or any other event preceding the closing date for receipt of Proposals which are apparent or should be apparent prior to the closing date for receipt of Proposals, must be filed not later than five (5) business days prior to the Proposal due date.
- 9.37.2.2. If the protest relates to the recommendation of the evaluation committee for an award of the Contract, the protest must be filed within fifteen (15) business days of the award communication.
- 9.37.3 All protests must be filed at the following location:
- Ohio Department of Health

Office of Procurement Services, 4th Floor
Attention: Carol Cook
246 North High Street