

RFP Questions and Clarifications Memorandum

To: Vendors Responding to RFP Number 3677 for the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS)

From: Craig P. Orgeron, Ph.D.

Date: April 20, 2012

Subject: Responses to Questions Submitted and Clarifications to Specifications

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The following questions were submitted to ITS and are being presented as they were submitted, except to remove any reference to a specific vendor. This information should assist you in formulating your response.

Question 1: Does the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) consider proprietary software owned by the vendor, to be owned by the State of Mississippi (#28 Ownership of Developed Software) or is this only for custom software developed from scratch for the State of Mississippi?

Response: **No, the State does not consider proprietary software owned by the Vendor to be owned by the State of Mississippi.**

Question 2: What specific proprietary assessment instruments does this refer to in 7.3.6.2 from each of these three providers?

Response: **Assessment instruments such as ERS and evaluation tools from online professional development trainings used to address the Early Learning Guidelines and the Common Core Standards.**

Question 3: Can you provide more clarification on what is meant by the term interface in 7.3.6.1?

- a. What type of interface is expected? I.e. Batch, etc.
- b. What specific systems are we interfacing to?
- c. To what extent does MS expect the child care solution to automatically transact business with the three vendors mentioned in the RFP? Is a link to their website sufficient for any of the three?
- d. Do any departments in MS have existing interfaces with these systems?

Response:

- a. **Batch**
- b. **The Early Learning Management System will need to interface with the following Child Care Exchange Providers: Teacher's College Press, Child Care Exchange, and Kaplan All About. The Child Care Exchange Providers supply the evaluation instruments used by sub-grantees to evaluate Child Care Providers.**
- c. **The Early Learning Management System must provide the ability to upload information on a per assessment per center basis. As indicated above, a batch update will suffice.**
- d. **No.**

Question 4: In the past, MS provided a response sheet for potential vendors in .xls format. Will this type of response sheet be provided for this RFP?

Response: **No, Vendors should provide a point by point response to all items in Section VII by interspersing their response following each RFP specification.**

Question 5: What will be the format of the report output generated by Teachers College Press, Child Care Exchange and Kaplan All About? How frequently will these reports be generated?

Response: **The reports provided by the Child Care Exchange Providers, Teachers College Press, and Kaplan All Aout will either be in Word or PDF format. Reports are generated on a daily basis.**

Question 6: Would MS be willing to provide a budget range for this project?

Response: Project budget data will not be released. However, all State Agency budgets are considered public record and may be viewed at www.dfa.ms.gov.

Question 7: What is the problem that the LMS is hoping to address?

Response: DECCD wants to compare all treatments given to child care centers to evaluate the sub-grantee and child care center performance. DECCD will also look at the center treatments compared to their QRIS star levels to compare growth.

Question 8: What metrics do you have that provide a profile of current performance/problem?

Response: None.

Question 9: Is there a competency model that will be used to provide a framework for matching resources, evaluation and assessment?

Response: No.

Question 10: Who are the customers of the system? Will it be staff of early childhood care and development or will it include others and should it?

Response: Technical Assistants from various agencies that provide help to child care centers.

Question 11: If program performance is a concern - how will the end users be able to participate in the evaluation?

Response: The sub-grantees of MDHS will be in communication to modify project goals and objectives to better meet the needs of child care centers.

Question 12: Is there to be a development program tied to the system so that providers can participate in giving and receiving feedback?

Response: No.

RFP responses are due April 27, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. (Central Time).

If you have any questions concerning the information above or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Donna Hamilton at 601-432-8114 or via email at Donna.Hamilton@its.ms.gov.

cc: ITS Project File Number 39356