

*******THIS IS NOT A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL*******

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DIVISION OF HEALTH PROMOTION AND CHRONIC DISEASE
PREVENTION**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
for**

**OPIOID EPIDEMIC PREVENTION SERVICES FOR IOWA CRITICAL
ACCESS HOSPITALS (CAHS)**

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Table of Contents

Section 1 PURPOSE, BACKGROUND, AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- 1.1 Purpose
- 1.2 Background Information for the Project
- 1.3 Relevant Dates
- 1.4 Submission of Response
- 1.5 Contact Information
- 1.6 Administrative Matters
- 1.7 Review and Rejection of RFI Responses
- 1.8 Public Records and Requests for Confidentiality
- 1.9 Copyrights
- 1.10 Restrictions on Gifts and Activities
- 1.11 Cost to Interested Party
- 1.12 Responses / Property of Department
- 1.13 Source of Information Used in Addition to the Responses
- 1.14 No Obligation to Issue Request For Proposal
- 1.15 Interested Party Responses Identifying Information
- 1.16 Interested Party References

Section 2 INFORMATION SOUGHT

Section 3 OTHER FEATURES

SECTION 1: PURPOSE, BACKGROUND, AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

1.1 Purpose.

The Iowa Department of Public Health, hereafter known as the Department, is seeking information from interested parties who are interested in providing opioid epidemic prevention services for Iowa critical access hospitals (CAHs). Refer to Section 2 for specific information requested.

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to allow all interested parties to provide the department with information that may assist the department in preparation of a Request for Proposals (RFP) or a Request for Bids (RFB).

The goal of the project would be to identify strategies for enhancing screening for opioid misuse, improving access to treatment and recovery services, promoting use of overdose-reversing drugs, providing support for cutting-edge research on pain and addiction, and advancing better practices for pain management offered by CAHs across Iowa.

1.2 Background Information for the Project.

In the late 1990s, pharmaceutical companies reassured the medical community that patients would not become addicted to prescription opioid pain relievers, and healthcare providers began to prescribe them at greater rates. This subsequently led to widespread diversion and misuse of these medications before it became clear that these medications could indeed be highly addictive. Subsequently, opioid overdose rates began to increase. In 2015, more than 33,000 Americans died as a result of an opioid overdose, including prescription opioids, heroin, and illicitly manufactured fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid. That same year, an estimated 2 million people in the United States suffered from substance use disorders related to prescription opioid pain relievers, and 591,000 suffered from a heroin use disorder (not mutually exclusive).

In Iowa, there were 59 opioid overdose deaths in 2015 and 163 opioid-related deaths, according to legislative staffers. That number rose to 86 overdose deaths and 180 opioid-related deaths in 2016. Preliminary data for 2017 shows 103 overdose deaths and 206 opioid-related deaths.

In October 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that the rates of drug overdose deaths were rising in rural areas, surpassing rates in urban areas. In addition, a December 2017 survey by the National Farmers Union and the American Farm Bureau Federation found that as many as 74 percent of farmers have been directly impacted by the opioid crisis.

USDA is approaching the opioid crisis with a dedicated urgency. The opioid epidemic is devastating to its victims and their families. It has a compounding ripple effect throughout communities, affecting quality of life, economic opportunity, and rural prosperity. No corner of the country has gone untouched by the opioid crisis, but the impact of this issue on small towns and rural places has been particularly significant. Rates of drug-related deaths in rural areas have surpassed those in urban centers. The Department is interested in partnering with rural leaders to combat this crisis.

1.3 Relevant Dates

Event	Date
Issue RFI	June 20, 2018
RFI Responses Due	July 6, 2018
Issue RFP/RFB (Tentative date)	Late August 2018
RFP/RFB Decision to Award Contract (Tentative date)	September-October 2018
Contractor Begins Implementation (Tentative date)	October - November 2018

1.4 Submission of Response

This request requires any interested party wishing to submit information to respond to this Request for Information (RFI) by 4:00 p.m., local Iowa time, **July 6, 2018**.

The interested party's response may be hand-delivered, faxed, emailed, or mailed to the Department. Responses will not be accepted over the telephone. However, the Department reserves the right to make telephone contacts or follow up on information submitted in any manner deemed appropriate by the Department.

1.5 Contact Information

The contact at the Department for technical questions and submission of responses will be:

Name of IDPH Contact:	Amanda Ramirez
Department Address:	Iowa Flex Program IDPH 321 East 12 th Street Des Moines, IA 50319
Email Address:	Amanda.ramirez@idph.iowa.gov
Fax Number:	(515) 242-6384

1.6 Administrative Matters

- 1.6.1 This RFI is designed to provide interested parties with the information necessary for the preparation of an appropriate response. It is not intended to be comprehensive, and each interest party is responsible for determining all factors necessary for submission of a comprehensive response.
- 1.6.2 The Department reserves the right to modify this RFI at any time.
- 1.6.3 Responses should be based on the material contained in this RFI or any other relevant information the interested party thinks is appropriate.
- 1.6.4 By submitting a response each interested party agrees that it will not bring any claim or have any cause of action against the Department, the State of Iowa, or any employee of the Department or the State, based on any misunderstanding concerning the information provided or concerning the Department's failure, negligent or otherwise, to provide the interested party with pertinent information as intended by this RFI.

1.7 Review and Rejection of RFI Responses

- 1.7.1 The Department reserves the right to reject any and all responses, in whole and in part, received in response to this RFI at any time.
- 1.7.2 An RFI response may be rejected outright and not reviewed for failure of the interested party to deliver the response by the due date. Therefore interested parties are asked to make every effort to meet the RFI timelines and to include the requested information.
- 1.7.3 An RFI response will not be subject to a RFP type of evaluation but only a review of information in the RFI.

1.8 Public Records and Requests for Confidentiality

- 1.8.1 The release of information by the Department to the public is subject to Iowa Code Chapter 22 and other applicable provisions of law relating to the release of records in the possession of a State agency. Interested parties are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these provisions prior to submitting a RFI response. All information submitted by an interested party may be treated as public information by the Department unless the interested party properly requests that information be treated as confidential at the time of submitting the response.

- 1.8.2 Any requests for confidential treatment of information must be included in a cover letter with the interested party's RFI response and must enumerate the specific grounds in Iowa Code Chapter 22 or other legal reasons which support treatment of the material as confidential and must indicate why disclosure is not in the best interests of the public. The request must also include the name, address and telephone number of the person authorized by the interested party to respond to any inquiries by the Department concerning the confidential status of the materials.
- 1.8.3 Any documents submitted which contain confidential information must be marked on the outside as containing confidential information, and each page upon which confidential information appears must be marked as containing confidential information. The confidential information must be clearly identifiable to the reader wherever it appears. All copies of the proposal submitted, as well as the original proposal, must be marked in this manner.
- 1.8.4 In addition to marking the material as confidential material where it appears, the interested party must submit one copy of the RFI response from which the confidential information has been excised. The confidential material must be excised in such a way as to allow the public to determine the general nature of the material removed and to retain as much of the document as possible. These pages must be submitted with the cover letter and will be made available for public inspection.
- 1.8.5 The interested party's failure to request in the RFI response confidential treatment of material pursuant to this Section and the relevant laws and administrative rules will be deemed by the Department as a waiver of any right to confidentiality which the interested party may have had.

1.9 Copyrights

By submitting a response the interested party agrees that the Department may copy the response for purposes of facilitating the internal review of the information or to respond to requests for public records. The interested party represents that such copying will not violate any copyrights in the materials submitted.

1.10 Restrictions on Gifts and Activities

Iowa Code chapter 68B contains laws which restrict gifts which may be given or received by state employees and requires certain individuals to disclose information concerning their activities with state government. Interested parties are responsible for determining the applicability of this chapter to their activities and for complying with these requirements. In addition, Iowa Code chapter 722.1 provides that it is a felony offense to bribe a public official.

1.11 Cost to Interested Party

The Department is not responsible for any costs incurred by an interested party which are related to the preparation or delivery of the response, any on-site inspection that may be required, or any other activities related to this RFI.

1.12 Responses Property of Department

All printed information used in the interested party's response becomes the property of the Department. The Department will have the right to use ideas or adaptations of ideas that are presented in the responses.

1.13 Sources of Information Used by the Department in Addition to the Responses

The Department reserves the right to contact interested parties after the submission of responses for the purpose of clarification and to ensure mutual understanding.

1.14 No Obligation to Issue Request for Proposal (RFP) or Request for Bid (RFB)

The issuance of this RFI in no way constitutes a commitment by the Department to issue a RFP, RFB or contract for the project described in this RFI.

1.15 Interested Party Responses Identifying Information

1.15.1 State the name and principal place of business or residence of the interested party.

1.15.2 Identify the interested party's type of business organization/entity such as a corporation, partnership or educational institution.

1.15.3 State the interested party's state of incorporation, if applicable

1.15.4 State the name, address, email address, telephone number and FAX number of the interested party representative to contact regarding all technical matters concerning this RFI.

1.16 Interested Party References

Please include any applicable references demonstrating your ability to provide relevant responses to this RFI.

SECTION 2: INFORMATION SOUGHT

The Department is seeking information about potential programs, including but not limited to training opportunities with a focus on the opioid epidemic for Iowa's CAHs. It is desirable by the Department if the program includes a baseline assessment and action planning for the CAH and the surrounding community. The overall goal would be to provide recommendations and specific action items on how to improve CAH strategies to address the epidemic.

In addition, the Department is requesting information on the following:

1. Are there currently any trainings or processes in place in hospitals or communities for preventing opioid misuse or the development of an opioid use disorder?
2. If yes to item 1, describe practices, policies, or trainings.
3. What cost is associated with each training or service, process, or program?

SECTION 3: OTHER FEATURES

Is there any other feature, service or option you believe the Department should be aware of in preparation of an RFP? If so, please describe the feature, service product or option and explain how it would improve the program served as identified in this RFI.