

New Hampshire Department of Education
Bureau of Student Support
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

October 17, 2018

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP #SPED-2018-11

iSocial: Pyramid Model Framework Infusion/Implementation in New Hampshire Institutions of Higher Education Teacher Preparation Programs

Deadline for Receipt of Proposals: 4:00pm, Friday, November 30, 2018

Proposal Inquiries: All questions about this Request for Proposals (RFP) should be submitted in writing by e-mail or fax (include your fax number) to:

Barbara Dauphinais
New Hampshire Department of Education
Bureau of Student Support
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
Fax: (603) 271-3791
E-mail: Barbara.Dauphinais@doe.nh.gov

The deadline for receipt of inquiries is 4:00pm, Friday, November 2, 2018. The Department of Education (**Department**) will address inquiries received by the deadline, in writing. If they are determined to be vital to the competitive bidding process, a written response will be sent no later than five (5) working days after the deadline to all who submitted inquiries. In addition, any modifications to the specifications contained in this RFP shall be made only in writing by the Department immediately following the deadline for receipt of inquiries and no other changes will be entertained after that date. All questions and responses will be posted on the New Hampshire Department of Education website (www.education.nh.gov). Verbal agreement or instructions from any other source are not authorized or binding on the State of New Hampshire (**State**).

All advisory committees are encouraged to distribute this Request for Proposals (RFP) to any/all qualified individuals/organizations.

Purpose:

The purpose of this RFP is to seek proposals from New Hampshire Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) to expand upon the needed knowledge, skills and experience of early childhood degree faculty members to teach coursework related to the implementation of evidence-based practices in the Pyramid Model Framework. The intent is for students to leave early childhood teacher preparation programs with the knowledge and skills to implement Pyramid Model practices to improve the social emotional outcomes of young children ages birth to five years old including those with disabilities.

Grant Award:

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) expects to award two (2) two-year contracts, each with the option to renew for two additional fiscal years, upon Governor and Council approval, whichever is later, to two successful applicants.

1.0 SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

The successful applicant will be responsible for:

- 1.1 Conducting an initial needs assessment (program review) of their teacher preparation coursework.
- 1.2 Developing an action plan for improving program curriculum that includes embedding Pyramid Model Framework and related evidence-based practices.
- 1.3 Implementing program improvements aligned with approved action plan.
- 1.4 Ensuring key faculty included in your proposal are available to participate in Pyramid Model trainings offered by the Department as appropriate, additional faculty are welcome.
- 1.5 Data collection and reporting on progress, including action plan implementation, syllabi changes, assignments created, challenges faced and other evidence of improvement.
- 1.6 Collaborating with other New Hampshire IHEs to promote expansion of the needed knowledge, skills and experience of early childhood degree faculty members to teach coursework related to the implementation of evidence-based practices in the Pyramid Model Framework.
- 1.7 Participating in the existing New Hampshire IHE Task Force to promote the infusion of evidence-based Pyramid Model Framework practices.
- 1.8 Attending quarterly IHE collaboration meetings coordinated by the New Hampshire Department of Education.
- 1.9 Providing written reports of activities on an as needed basis.
- 1.10 Participating in State level meetings such as:
 - 1.10.1 iSocial State Leadership Team (monthly)
 - 1.10.2 iSocial Evaluation Team (quarterly)
- 1.11 Attend the National Training Institute on Effective Practices (NTI) Conference (<http://nti.cbcs.usf.edu/>) annually to acquire knowledge and skills that inform New Hampshire's implementation of practice-based coaching and the Pyramid Model Framework.
- 1.12 Contribute resources to the project website.
- 1.13 Support the dissemination of project information by delivering sessions at state, regional and/or national events as appropriate.

2.0 REPORTING

The successful individual(s) or agency shall provide the Department, Bureau of Student Support monthly invoices using the Bureau of Student Support invoice template by the 10th of each month, supported by a report that reflects a summary of activities that have taken place in accordance with the terms of the contract. Approval of funds must meet requirements stipulated in the New Hampshire Federal Funds Handbook:

http://www.education.nh.gov/documents/fed_funds_handbk.pdf

3.0 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The successful individual or agency will inform the Department of any conflicts of interest (appearance of or actual) prior to accepting the contract and while engaged in the contract.

4.0 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 Approved New Hampshire Institutions of Higher Education granting degrees (Associate, Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral degrees) in Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, Early Care and Education for Young Children with Disabilities, Child Development and Education with a focus on Early Childhood.
- 4.2 Knowledge of the Pyramid Model Framework including Pyramid Model practices.
- 4.3 Knowledge of implementation science and connecting the Pyramid Model Framework to related evidence-based practices and strategies such as DEC recommended practices and trauma-informed care.
- 4.4 Knowledgeable and committed faculty/staff to engage in the work.

5.0 TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 5.1 The Department shall not be responsible for or pay any costs incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the proposal submitted in response to this RFP.
- 5.2 The Department reserves the right to seek clarification of any information contained in a proposal submitted in response to this RFP.
- 5.3 The Department reserves the right to reject any and all proposals submitted in response to this RFP. In addition, the distribution of this RFP shall not commit the Department to issue a contract.
- 5.4 If the Department chooses to award a contract in response to this RFP, the successful bidder shall be notified by letter. The Department shall then develop a contract for Governor and Council approval. The contract shall incorporate, by reference, all provisions of this RFP and the successful bidder's proposal. In preparing a contract with the successful bidder, the Department reserves the right to clarify any terms and conditions contained in the proposal.
- 5.5 Public announcements or news releases pertaining to the award of a contract shall not be made until approved by the Governor and Council.
- 5.6 The Department shall not be responsible for any work performed by the successful bidder prior to the effective date of a contract approved by Governor and Council.
- 5.7 All obligations of the Department, including the continuance of payments under an approved contract shall be contingent upon the availability and continued appropriation of Department, federal or other funds and in no event shall the Department be liable for any payments in excess of such available appropriated funds. In the event of a reduction or termination of those funds, the Department shall have the right to withhold payment until such funds become available, if ever, and shall have the right to terminate or amend the contract immediately upon giving the contractor notice of such termination or amendment.
- 5.8 When delivering services under an approved contract, the contractor shall work under the broad supervision of the Department Contracting Officer for this project.
- 5.9 Unless otherwise deleted or modified by mutual agreement between the Department State and the contractor, all general provisions contained on the Form P-37 (see **Attachment A**) shall be incorporated into the contract.
- 5.10 The Department expects to award a contract to the successful bidder. Unless there is a change in the program requirements and/or services to be delivered, the cost for this contract shall not exceed the amount bid in response to the **Services to be Provided** section of this RFP. The successful bidder will be required to provide the Department with the following information:
 - A recent financial statement, and
 - A Certificate of Existence from the Secretary of State's OfficeIn addition, the successful bidder will need to submit a Certificate of Authority authorizing the company to do business with the State of New Hampshire, Department of Education at the time the contract is signed.

5.11 **“Any information submitted as part of a bid in response to this request for proposal (RFP) (or request for bid (RFB) or request for information (RFI) may be subject to public disclosure under RSA 91-A. In addition, in accordance with RSA 9-F:1, any contract entered into as a result of this RFP (RFI, or RFB) will be made accessible to the public online via the website Transparent NH (<http://www.nh.gov/transparentnh/>).** Accordingly, business financial information and proprietary information such as trade secrets, business and financials models and forecasts, and proprietary formulas may be exempt from public disclosure under RSA 91-A:5, IV. If you believe any information being submitted in response to a request for proposal, bid or information should be kept confidential as financial or proprietary information, you must specifically identify that information in a letter to the agency.”

5.12 Audit

§200.501 Audit Requirements

(a) *Audit required.* A non-Federal entity that expends \$750,000 or more during the non-Federal entity's fiscal year in Federal awards must have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year in accordance with the provisions of this part.

(b) *Single audit.* A non-Federal entity that expends \$750,000 or more during the non-Federal entity's fiscal year in Federal awards must have a single audit conducted in accordance with §200.514 Scope of audit except when it elects to have a program-specific audit conducted in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) *Program-specific audit election.* When an auditee expends Federal awards under only one Federal program (excluding R&D) and the Federal program's statutes, regulations, or the terms and conditions of the Federal award do not require a financial statement audit of the auditee, the auditee may elect to have a program-specific audit conducted in accordance with §200.507 Program-specific audits. A program-specific audit may not be elected for R&D unless all of the Federal awards expended were received from the same Federal agency, or the same Federal agency and the same pass-through entity, and that Federal agency, or pass-through entity in the case of a subrecipient, approves in advance a program-specific audit.

(d) *Exemption when Federal awards expended are less than \$750,000.* A non-Federal entity that expends less than \$750,000 during the non-Federal entity's fiscal year in Federal awards is exempt from Federal audit requirements for that year, except as noted in §200.503 Relation to other audit requirements, but records must be available for review or audit by appropriate officials of the Federal agency, pass-through entity, and Government Accountability Office (GAO).

(e) *Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC).* Management of an auditee that owns or operates a FFRDC may elect to treat the FFRDC as a separate entity for purposes of this part.

(f) *Subrecipients and Contractors.* An auditee may simultaneously be a recipient, a subrecipient, and a contractor. Federal awards expended as a recipient or a subrecipient are subject to audit under this part. The payments received for goods or services provided as a contractor are not Federal awards. Section §200.330 Subrecipient and contractor determinations sets forth the considerations in determining whether payments constitute a Federal award or a payment for goods or services provided as a contractor.

(g) *Compliance responsibility for contractors.* In most cases, the auditee's compliance responsibility for contractors is only to ensure that the procurement, receipt, and payment for goods and services comply with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of Federal awards. Federal award compliance requirements normally do not pass through to contractors. However, the auditee is responsible for ensuring compliance for procurement transactions which are structured such that the contractor is responsible for program compliance or the contractor's records must be reviewed to determine program compliance. Also, when these procurement transactions relate to a major program, the

scope of the audit must include determining whether these transactions are in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of Federal awards.

- (h) *For-profit subrecipient*. Since this part does not apply to for-profit subrecipients, the pass through entity is responsible for establishing requirements, as necessary, to ensure compliance by for-profit subrecipients. The agreement with the for-profit subrecipient must describe applicable compliance requirements and the for-profit subrecipient's compliance responsibility. Methods to ensure compliance for Federal awards made to for-profit subrecipients may include pre-award audits, monitoring during the agreement, and post-award audits. See also §200.331 Requirements for pass-through entities.

5.13 Debarment and Suspension

Organization/Individual submitting a proposal will comply with the provision of the US Code of Federal Regulations 34 CFR 364 and the following US Circular if applicable: Office of Management and Budget (OBM) Circular A-110 "Uniform Administrative Non-Profit Organizations.

The bidder/offer or certifies, by submission of this proposal or acceptance of this contract, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency. It further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include this clause without modification in all lower tier transactions, solicitations, proposals, contracts, and subcontracts. **Where the bidder/offer or/contractor or any lower tier participant is unable to certify to this statement, it shall attach an explanation to this solicitation/proposal.**

5.14 Copyrights

The Department reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use, for Department of Education purposes:

- (a) The copyright in any work developed under a grant, subgrant, or contract under a grant or contract under a grant or subgrant; and
- (b) Any rights of copyright to which a grantee, subgrantee or a contractor purchases ownership with grant support.

6.0 LIMITATIONS ON CONTRACT PERIOD

The Department expects to award two (2) two-year contracts effective upon Governor and Council approval to the successful applicants each with the option to renew for two additional years. Unless there is a change in the plan requirements and/or services to be delivered, the cost for each contract shall not exceed \$16,000.00 year one and \$14,000.00 year two for a total of \$30,000.00 for the two (2) year contract period.

Funding for the iSocial: Pyramid Model Framework Infusion/Implementation in New Hampshire Institutions of Higher Education Teacher Preparation Programs is 100% federal funds under the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) CFDA #84.323A.

7.0 APPLICATION PROCEDURES

7.1 For purposes of this RFP, a proposal will include:

- (a) A letter of interest detailing the institution's commitment to the work and professional and educational experience of key faculty/staff as related to the Services to be Provided (1.0) and Minimum Requirements (4.0);
- (b) Current resume(s) of key staff
- (c) Three (3) letters of recommendation that highlight the IHE's and key staff member's skills or abilities to carry out the RFP requirements in sections 1.0 through 4.0;
- (d) Letter of commitment from the Department Head or Academic Dean (pursuant to requirements outlined in 4.3);
- (e) Any products that may demonstrate the applicant's level of expertise;

- (f) A detailed management plan describing how the applicant will accomplish the services to be provided, with metrics for measuring critical elements of the plan and an implementation timeline; and
 - (g) A comprehensive budget for each year of the contract.
- 7.2 This documentation will be evaluated to determine if the applicant has the ability to accomplish the Services to be Provided (1.0) and if the applicant meets or exceeds the Minimum Requirements (4.0).
- 7.2.1 Significance of Proposal: Description of applicant's capabilities to deliver the services to be provided. The description should also indicate why the applicant wishes to expand upon the needed knowledge, skills and experience of early childhood degree faculty/staff members to teach coursework related to the implementation of the Pyramid Model evidence-based practices and the Pyramid Model Framework. This will include a review of the letter of interest, letters of recommendation, letter of commitment, resume(s) and any products demonstrating expertise (25 pts);
 - 7.2.2 Quality of Services: Include a management plan that describes how the applicant will accomplish the Services to be Provided in 1.0 of this RFP and includes roles, responsibilities and partners to be involved as well as an implementation timeline. Also, describe the plan to review the IHE's existing Teacher Preparation curriculum and incorporate the evidence-based practices and the Pyramid Model Framework as well as a sustainability plan. (35 pts);
 - 7.2.3 Content knowledge, including but not limited to, knowledge in the evidence-based practices of the Pyramid Model and curriculum design. Expertise or working knowledge of promoting partnerships between IHEs and schools/districts, parents and family members, and State and community agencies that have the potential to promote the Pyramid Model Framework (20 points); and
 - 7.2.4 Budget Completion and Relevance: the budget will be clear, accurate and include a budget narrative justifying all expenses. Expenditures will be sufficient and directly related to the Services to be Provided (1.0). Indirect costs may not exceed 8% unless you have an approved federal rate that is higher. (20 Points)
- 7.3 In order to provide bidders with the opportunity to present a response to this RFP which best presents their credentials and approach, no page limit has been established for the proposal.
- 7.4 Each bidder shall submit, along with the formal proposal, a completed/signed "Alternate W-9 Form" (see **Attachment B**).
- 7.5 Each bidder shall submit, along with the formal proposal, a completed/signed "Cover Page" (see **Attachment C**).
- 7.6 An original and four (4) identical copies of a formal proposal shall be submitted by 4:00pm, Friday, November 30, 2018:

Barbara Dauphinais
 New Hampshire Department of Education
 Bureau of Special Education
 101 Pleasant Street
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

8.0 Evaluation of Proposals

All proposals will be reviewed and rated by an evaluation team. The Department shall be under no obligation to contact bidders for clarification of their proposals, but it shall reserve the right to do so at any time prior to the award of the contract(s). All proposals received by the deadline will be evaluated based on the application procedures outlined in this RFP.

The Department reserves the right to interview applicants with the highest average scores for their proposal, but the Department shall be under no obligation to interview applicants. If the Department conducts an interview, it will be done so by a team who will develop structured questions and scoring criteria that will clarify the applicant's ability to fulfill this RFP.

If the Department chooses to award a contract(s) relative to this RFP, it shall be to the responsive and responsible applicants that receives the highest total rating as a result of the proposal evaluation and/or interview process.

9.0 Post Submission Deadline

After the submission deadline, the Department will post, on its website, the number of proposals that it received from vendors.

After the Department's review and selection of a vendor, it will post all vendor names and their rank or score five days prior to submission of the Governor and Council contract packet to the Department of Administrative Services.

A vendor questioning the Department's identification of the selected vendor may request that the Department review its selection process. The request shall be in writing and be submitted to the Department within five (5) business days of the posting of the bid results, rank or score.

The Department has five (5) business days to review the request and issue a written response either affirming its initial selection of a vendor or cancelling the RFP. No hearing shall be held as part of the review. The outcome of the Department's review is not subject to appeal.

Enclosures:

Attachment A: P-37 Contract Form

Attachment B: ALT W-9 Form

Attachment C: Cover Page