

Interoperability Solution RFP

Questions & Answers

Question 1	Hello. I am writing to express [Vendor]'s interest in responding to the RFP published on 11/3/2023. However, we are asking if it is possible to get an extension on the submission deadline because of the short turnaround time for the response. Is it possible to extend the dealing 30 days to 12/13/2023? Thank you for your consideration.
CalMHSA Answer	In consideration of applicable Federal and State deadline, CalMHSA is unable to extend the RFP submission deadline. All RFP responses are due on 11/13, as stated on the RFP. Thank you.
Question 2	Hello, With there only being 5 business days between release of the RFP and the due date, will CalMHSA consider extending the deadline for responding?
CalMHSA Answer	In consideration of applicable Federal and State deadline, CalMHSA is unable to extend the RFP submission deadline. All RFP responses are due on 11/13, as stated on the RFP. Thank you.
Question 3	Does the deadline on March 2024 leave room for phased-in functionality after the initial go-live?
CalMHSA Answer	The March 2024 deadline is aligned with DHCS Behavioral Health Information Notice No. 23-032. Applicant's proposal should assume full compliance must be achieved by the given deadline.
Question 4	What are the use cases supported from this bid? Please provide examples.
CalMHSA Answer	Please reference the California Data Exchange Framework (DxF) for technical guidance for data exchange. For FHIR based API, please visit the CMS website for interoperability , for more information.
Question 5	What state/county programs will this support?
CalMHSA Answer	The program will support, but not be limited to, achieving compliance with the California Data Exchange Framework (DxF), and CMS Interoperability. Additionally, vendors should also consider DHCS-provided guidance for CalAIM data sharing.
Question 6	Hello, We are in the process of submitting the RFP. Could you please provide us with the password to access and fill out the United Pricing Sheet? Whenever we try to enter the "Item name" and "Quantity Required", it prompts us for a password. Thank you.

CalMHSA Answer	Please disregard the Pricing Sheet (BT-60VR). Please instead reference Section 3 of the RFP, Requested Information, for instructions for submission.
Question 7	What are the Project deliverables? Our understanding is to deliver 1. EMPI Application 2. FHIR Patient Access API Platform 3. FHIR Provider Director API Platform What else will be project deliverables? Where the applications will be hosted? What is the contract period?
CalMHSA Answer	Applicant's proposal must include software and/or a development proposal to meet the specified requirements of the RFP in its entirety. Please refer to section 2 of the RFP, Project Scope of Work. Application hosting should be addressed in each respective applicant's proposals. The anticipated contract term is three (3) years and will be addressed during the contract negotiation period.
Question 8	How many provider organizations are participating?
CalMHSA Answer	Variable. Should provider organizations participating be a criterion for architecting and quoting your solution, please provide a range. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under 5 EHR's = XXX - 6 to 10 = XXX - Over 10 = XXX NOTE: Provided range is for example purposes only. Please provide a range applicable to your respective solution.
Question 9	-How many different EMRs? -Please provide a list of the different vendors
CalMHSA Answer	Variable, but the primary EHR will be SmartCare by Streamline. Should the number of EHR's be a criterion for architecting and quoting your solution, please provide a range. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under 25 provider organizations per month = XXX - 26 to 50 = XXX - Over 50 = XXX NOTE: Provided range is for example purposes only. Please provide a range applicable to your respective solution.
Question 10	How many patient/client/citizen lives will be participating?
CalMHSA Answer	Variable. Should patient/client/citizen lives be a criterion for architecting and quoting your solution, please provide a range. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under 1 million patient/client/citizen per month = XXX - 1 million to 2 million = XXX - 2 million to 3 million = XXX

	NOTE: Provided range is for example purposes only. Please provide a range applicable to your respective solution.
Question 11	What additional services will you be offering as part of the platform? Analytics, Care Coordination, Measures Reporting, etc..?
CalMHSA Answer	No additional services will be offered at this time. Additional services may be offered in future phases of the program. Applicants may submit additional capabilities at their own discretion. Please refer to section 2 of the RFP, Project Scope of Work, for the specific components of this RFP.
Question 12	Are there health plan participation?
CalMHSA Answer	Yes.
Question 13	What is the number of connections does CalMHSA anticipate vendors needing to make?
CalMHSA Answer	Variable. Should number of connections be a criterion for architecting and quoting your solution, please provide a range. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under 25 connections = XXX - 26 to 50 = XXX - Over 50 = XXX NOTE: Provided range is for example purposes only. Please provide a range applicable to your respective solution.
Question 14	What type of connections should vendors anticipate/price for - (e.g. HL7, FHIR, API...)?
CalMHSA Answer	Please reference section 2 of the RFP, Project Scope of Work, for more information. Applicants should consider all industry accepted interoperability standards as potential connections.
Question 15	What types/format of data will be exchanged?
CalMHSA Answer	Please reference the California Data Exchange Framework (DxF) for technical guidance for acceptable data formats. For FHIR based API, please visit the CMS website for interoperability , for more information.
Question 16	On the "Responses" tab of the Pricing Sheet (BT-60VR) in column #, could CalMHSA please provide details of what the numbers refer to (e.g. #0-1, #0-2)? Are these just lines for vendors to list the components required to propose a compliant solution? If so, can lines be added if more are needed?
CalMHSA Answer	Please disregard the Pricing Sheet (BT-60VR). Please instead reference Section 3 of the RFP, Requested Information, for instructions for submission.

Question 17	The rows in Column F are locked down, as is the quantity required. In looking at this further, is the State simply looking for an annual cost in row 7?
CalMHSA Answer	Please disregard the Pricing Sheet (BT-60VR). Please instead reference Section 3 of the RFP, Requested Information, for instructions for submission.
Question 18	As [Vendor] had submitted a previous Response to the earlier RFP for interoperability and EMPI , [Vendor] was looking to understand the basis or motive for this new RFP. What has changed? Any insight would be helpful
CalMHSA Answer	CalMHSA would advise prospective applicants to review and respond to this RFP as a net new offering. Please refer to the Interoperability Solution RFP document for additional details.
Question 19	Can you provide more detail as each of the #1-5 areas for BID. We cannot correlate this to the Scope or the RFP document one to one. Are there designated Scopes for #1, #2, etc.....
CalMHSA Answer	Please disregard the Pricing Sheet (BT-60VR). Please instead reference Section 3 of the RFP, Requested Information, for instructions for submission.
Question 20	If we are limited to any additional information outside of the given structure as stated - Where would respondents provide any assumptions related to their pricing - Are we to include that in the #4 section of the PROPOSED BUDGET ?
CalMHSA Answer	Prospective Applicants are required to submit a proposed total budget, which can include pricing assumptions. Please reference Section 3. Requested Information for instructions and a list of items required in each applicant’s response.
Question 21	Does CalMHSA have any better guidelines on the following areas in order to provide a more precise pricing: o Number of Counties oNumber of Members in each of the Counties o Volumes of Transactions for IHE and Patient Matching
CalMHSA Answer	It is variable. Should a measurable figure be a criterion for architecting and quoting your solution, please provide a range. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under 1 million transactions per month = XXX - 1 million to 2 million = XXX - 2 million to 3 million = XXX <p>NOTE: Provided range is for example purposes only. Please provide a range applicable to your respective solution.</p>

Question 22	Can the counties provide the required data sets for the HL7 Implementation guides in flat CSV or JSON File formats? or are you looking for the vendor to create these extracts from the data stores?
CalMHSA Answer	Variable. It is advised that applicants respond knowing that some counties can provide this, and others cannot.
Question 23	Do you anticipate ONE contract to cover all the counties or a separate contract for each county?
CalMHSA Answer	The selected applicant will enter into a single contract with CalMHSA. Contracting or subcontracting directly with a county is not applicable.
Question 24	Does CALMHSA and its counties have one identity Management Service? or do they have their own? If they have their own , are they OPENID Connect and compliant with the CMS Mandate?
CalMHSA Answer	At a minimum, Applicants are required to address all eMPI components specified in section 2.3 of this RFP in their proposal. Please specify any dependencies or additional considerations your proposal may have relative to an existing eMPI solution.
Question 25	Can you please provide the contract referred to in requirement 5 "the selected Applicant must be able to execute a contract with two weeks of award"?
CalMHSA Answer	The contract awarded through this RFP will be negotiated by and between CalMHSA and the selected Applicant. This includes, but is not limited to, term negotiation, contract review, and final execution. The selected Applicant is expected to complete the contracting process within two weeks of the notice of award. Inability to do so may be grounds for withdrawal of award.
Question 26	The RFP looks to be a duplicate from the RFP released earlier this year. Why is the RFP being release again?
CalMHSA Answer	CalMHSA would advise prospective applicants to review and respond to this RFP as a net new offering. Please refer to the Interoperability Solution RFP document for additional details.