

WHOLE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE FOR ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS

VENDOR FAQs

- 1) Please provide the following information:
 - a. List of items, schedule of requirements, scope of work, terms of reference, bill of materials required
All required items are included in the Request for Proposal.
 - b. Soft copy of the tender document through email
All required items are included in the Request for Proposal.
 - c. Names of countries that will be eligible to participate in this tender
There is no discrimination based on country of origin against proposals for this project.
 - d. Information about the tendering procedure and guidelines
All required items are included in the Request for Proposal.
 - e. Estimated budget for this purchase
The estimated budget for this project is not being disclosed.
 - f. Any extension to the bidding deadline?
There is no possible extension to the bidding deadline for this project.
 - g. Any addendum or pre-bid meeting minutes?
There are no addenda or pre-bid meeting minutes for this project. Any additional addenda will be posted on the Iowa DAS website.

- 2) In the Specifications and Technical Requirements section of the RFP, there is reference made to review of after action reports both nationally and internationally to catalog best practices and lessons learned from the different specialties involved in an active shooter response. To gather information for this research there will be a requirement to access official police records (where available), FBI records, and open source documents to provide substantive results and aid in preparedness and response efforts. Is the Agency prepared to introduce its contractor to these different disciplines in order to facilitate access to these historical documents and will this require some level of security clearance which the Agency, through the Department of Homeland Security will provide?
If necessary, the Agency will facilitate the introduction of the contractor to partner agencies, starting with the members of the steering committee. This project will not require a security clearance.

- 3) This study does not appear, nor is the RFP written to explore all facets of active shooter incidents, but rather the intention appears to provide a baseline summary to guide law enforcement, along with other first responders, corporations, educators, and the general public to a better understanding of active shooter incidents. There will most likely be a requirement to involve Federal partners in this project since incidents studied show approximately 40% meet criteria and fall under the federal statute passed in 2012 which defines mass killing as three or more killed in a single incident. Will the Agency facilitate introduction and endorsement of its contractor to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) locally and at the Federal level?
If necessary, the Agency will facilitate the introduction of the contractor to partner agencies, starting with the members of the steering committee.

- 4) Request for clarification - studies show some 39 mass killings have occurred between 2006 and present. These results indicate that of the defined location categories, the majority of incidents have occurred in an environment related to commerce (malls, theaters, etc.), while second most common incident locations were in educational environments at all levels (kindergarten, middle school, high school, college, etc). Incidents identified in this project should not encompass all gun-related solutions and proper caution should be taken when using this information without placing it in the proper context. In the news within the State of Iowa we have all heard of shootings that resulted from gang or drug-related violence. These are pervasive, long-tracked criminal acts that could also affect the public, but does the Agency desire to include this data in their study?

HSEMD is interested in assisting communities, school districts, the private sector etc. by developing tools that ease the response to an active shooter incident. While random acts of violence are an important component of any agency's emergency planning, this project focuses specifically on active shooter incidents.

- 5) In addition, other gang-related shootings such as the accidental discharge of a firearm in a building or a person who chose to publicly commit suicide lot should not be included when these incidents generally appear not to have put others in peril. Is there additional information to be shared on the level of development of these templates (Elementary, High School, College, or is it all of them) for numerous disciplines given the fact that Federal, tribal, state, and campus law enforcement along with other first responders, corporations, educators, and the general public need to have a better understanding of active shooter incidents?

HSEMD will share whatever information it has on active shooter incidents with the chosen vendor, and will assist the vendor in finding information when possible. This project does not include accidental discharge of firearms within a building nor does it include publicly committed suicide that is not the result of an active shooter incident.

- 6) The reference RFP states ten (10) basic tabletop exercise scenarios geared toward different disciplines, sizes of community, and targets that can be used to both generate discussion on specific roles, responsibilities and actions before, during and after an active shooter incident are to be developed. Will exercise personnel from HSEMD be assigned or available for this task? What groups are currently working together for all possible events to address similar situations both internal and external?

The chosen vendor will be responsible for developing a minimum of ten (10) tabletop exercise scenarios. These scenarios will provide users with actionable exercise topics that assist them in developing and testing their own plans and procedures. The development of these exercises is the sole responsibility of the vendor, and will be reviewed by the steering committee. The vendor will not be responsible for the execution or evaluation of these exercises. Local agencies, school districts, emergency responders will be responsible for the implementation of exercises.

- 7) Is the following copied from the RFP standard language, or is this something I need to be concerned with?

In accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code 73.1 a preference will be given to products and provisions grown and coal produced within the State of Iowa, when they are found in marketable quantities in the State and are of a quality reasonably suited to the purpose intended, and can be

secured without additional costs over foreign products or products of other states. Preferences required by additional statute or rule shall also be applied, where appropriate.

This language is standard template language, and should have been removed. However, when two proposals are deemed equal in scoring, and one originates from an in-state vendor while one originates from an out of state vendor, preference will be given to the in-state vendor.

- 8) Does HSEMD have any further guidance on what the final product should actually look like?
While the parameters of the project are set, there's a lot of opportunity with this RFP for vendors to create and develop. Ultimately, Iowa is looking for a product that encompasses collecting and sharing resources, and then doing resource development where appropriate. The product is not specifically tactical – it simply provides “things to think about” and resources for all disciplines and stakeholders that would have a role to play before, during and after an active shooter incident. Designing a product and process that achieves these deliverables while being as expeditious and effective as possible is what will set the chosen vendor apart from other applicants.

- 9) Can HSEMD provide the number of meetings that will be conducted with the steering committee?
There is no required number of meetings with the steering committee – the vendor should include the number of meetings it needs to accomplish the development of the deliverables. The steering committee has already developed the basic parameters for the project and the scope of work. The expectation is that the chosen vendor will collect information and synthesize it into a product, while the steering committee will be available if necessary to answer questions, provide insight and information, etc. The final product will be reviewed by the steering committee, and comments will need to be incorporated by the vendor.

- 10) Will HSEMD conduct the steering committee meetings remotely? If not, will HSEMD provide a venue for the in-person meetings?
Depending on the purpose of the meeting, the steering committee meetings can be conducted remotely or in-person. HSEMD will work with the vendor to find sites at no cost for in-person meetings.

- 11) The State of Iowa has 99 counties and over 900 cities. Does HSEMD anticipate stakeholder feedback from outside of the steering committee? Does HSEMD anticipate engaging local stakeholders for feedback?
We anticipate stakeholder feedback being diffused through the members of the steering committee, which includes local partners, state partners, education partners and private sector partners. We expect that the vendor will solicit feedback on the product, at the direction of the steering committee.

- 12) On page 6 of the RFP and IowaTrainingNow.com, HSEMD references ALICE and ALERRT. Will the vendor be required to expand/build off or incorporate these trainings to the whole community?
ALERRT and ALICE training are important components of an active shooter response, but they are geared toward law enforcement and private citizens. This project expands upon those two groups and focuses on the whole community. Most likely, the vendor will be expected to reference the training as “further training available,” rather than regurgitating or expanding them. Specifically,

the project will not endorse either program, but the vendor may use best practice components from each.

- 13) Has HSEMD developed a budget for this initiative? If so, will HSEMD please provide the budget or budget estimate?

HSEMD has established a total amount that is available for this project. We are not sharing that amount.

- 14) It states in Section 6.3 “At the discretion of the Agency, the Contract may require the successful Contractor to maintain insurance coverage(s) of the type and in the minimum amounts set forth below.” Is insurance required for this project?

That is standard language in any RFP with the State of Iowa. There is no insurance requirement.