

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is conducting a market survey to seek potential sources from qualified small business firms under North American Industry Classification (NAICS) Code 541511 which have the capability to provide timely and efficient database management, computer programming—including statistical and econometric analysis, longitudinal, time dependent analysis, Bayesian techniques, microsimulation modeling, and complex survey design estimates and analytical statistics from large administrative databases—computer-related consulting and technical assistance, web support, public use file production, and statistical analysis activities for the Agency.

Under the contract, tasks will address a variety of assignments, such as installing, editing, documenting, and maintaining large complex data bases for staff and, where appropriate, outside researchers; developing analytic files from those databases, and maintaining and updating documentation of those files; developing, executing and documenting computer programs based on staff specifications; design, install, and maintain AHRQ web sites as directed; providing consultation services to staff on security arrangements for confidential data; and advising staff of economic and statistical programs available for the analysis of complex national survey data and large multi-user health care databases. Much of the data management and computer programming support services to be provided by this contract will be based on the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) and the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). The services may also be based on a variety of survey data, administrative and medical records, clinical trials data, pharmaceuticals and prescription drug data, as well as patient-based outcomes and health-related quality-of-life (HRQL) assessment data sets including, but not limited to, the Consumer Assessment of Health Plans Survey (CAHPS), the Medicare and Medicaid administrative, assessment and survey data (e.g., Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS), Home Health Compare, Nursing Home Compare, and Hospital Cost data), other federal and state government health system and related data (e.g., Census Bureau Current Population Survey (CPS), NIH and HRSA health system data (SEER, ARF), CDC surveys such as NHIS, NHANES), and commercially available health data (e.g., Medi-span Master Drug Data Base (MDDDB), MarketScan Database and HMO InterStudy Database) .

The successful offerors is expected to have expertise in data management, computer programming, web support, public use file production and computer-related consulting and technical assistance. To evaluate offerors expertise in the aforementioned areas, the information set out below must be included in the proposal, when the solicitation is issued. Specifically, offerors process for: (1) designing, instituting and maintaining a comprehensive and efficient system of database management, file development, system security and documentation; (2) executing transfers of data to and from the AHRQ network Data Center servers, the contractor secure PC-based environment, and other locations; (3) providing programming and related support for staff research projects (e.g., microsimulation modeling projects); (4) updating data products currently available on AHRQ's home page; (5) providing detailed

documentation of all data files and work performed related to data editing and analysis and other data processing and programming efforts; (6) creating public use files while preserving the confidentiality of the data; (7) providing on-site technical expertise in support of AHRQ Data Centers; (8) providing 508 compliant on-site Web support in accordance with procedures and standards approved by AHRQ; (9) providing programming, statistical consultation and related support services in support of long-term care research activities and specialized statistical analyses.

The Offerors are expected to have a core staff of seasoned professionals in fields such as data management, computer programming, statistics, Web site services and development, writing and editing. The proposed Project Director should have at least 5 years of experience in each of the following: 1) directing the maintenance and analysis of large, complex, hierarchical, multi-user survey databases and large administrative encounter-level and clinical data in direct support of health services research; 2) data processing management, including responsibility for the recruitment and supervision of multi-disciplinary teams including programming and other support staff, fiscal controls, and technical oversight; 3) production and documentation of edited and imputed health-related variables from raw survey data and administrative records; 4) production of public use data files and documentation from large, complex, hierarchical, multi-user survey databases and large administrative encounter-level data, for independent use by persons not affiliated with the originating organization; 5) use of computers in health services research, including use of SAS, STATA, SUDAAN techniques and software for sample selection, missing data imputation (including weighted sequential hot-decking), estimation and hypothesis testing with data from a complex survey design, micro-simulation modeling, and econometric analysis of micro-level data; 6) analysis of health care quality (both clinical and patient satisfaction), patient outcomes, access and continuity/coordination of care, utilization, and/or expenditure data; 7) collaboration with health services researchers on statistical analyses and behavioral research appearing in government reports, in scholarly books or journals, or similar publications; 8) management of multiple simultaneous data processing tasks, for users with competing demands in a timely and efficient manner.

Interested SMALL BUSINESSES only should submit their capability statements (no more than 15 pages in length) to Jessica Alderton, Contracting Officer, by email at jessica.alderton@ahrq.hhs.gov, no later than 12pm (noon) EST on Monday, October 27, 2008. Capability statements must be tailored to this request and identify the sources capabilities to complete this requirement including information on key staff experience and education, and a description of corporate experience with similar projects.