



Request for Proposals to Conduct Survey to Assess Awareness, General Sentiment, Satisfaction Levels and Concerns about Mississippi's Public Charter Schools

Request for Proposals

Deadline for Submission – March 10, 2020 3:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THE RFP: The Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board is requesting written proposals to provide professional services. The Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board will receive proposals from firms having specific experience and qualifications in the areas identified in this solicitation. For consideration, proposals for the services must contain evidence of the firm's experience and abilities in the specified area and other disciplines directly related to the proposed services. Other information required by the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board may be included elsewhere in the solicitation. Unless otherwise stated, all offerors shall provide references, illustrative examples of similar work performed, and any other information that clearly demonstrates the offeror's expertise in the area of the solicitation.

SCOPE OF SERVICES: Conducting Scientific Surveys. The Independent Contractor shall perform and render these professional services in compliance with Board direction, its laws, rules and regulations as well as the terms and conditions detailed in the contract. The tasks to be performed by Independent Contractor shall include but not be limited to:

Scientific Survey Services and Assessments of Public Awareness

- Design survey tools and instruments
- Establish criteria for surveys and also for general public awareness
- Conduct *annual/periodic* scientific surveys on a statewide basis;
- Assess awareness, general sentiment, satisfaction levels and concerns of charter school parents including follow up questions to discern details around satisfaction or dissatisfaction;
- Conduct in-depth analysis of survey results and public opinion; and,
- Prepare materials to present results to varied audiences in partnership with and approval by the MCSAB

INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY RESPONDING ENTITIES: The following information must be provided in the proposal:

Executive Summary – Provide a summary of the respondent's qualifications and ability to meet the overall requirements. It must include specific authorization to contact all references.

Place of Incorporation or Formation and Years of Experience - The proposer must provide the firm's date and state of incorporation or formation, years in business, and the years of firm's experience.

Statement of Qualifications - Describe the qualifications and experience that demonstrate the respondent's capability to provide the requested services. The following minimum information must be included:

- The qualifications, including licenses, certifications, education, skills and experience of all persons who would be assigned to provide the required services;
- A listing of other contracts under which services of a similar scope, size or discipline have been performed or undertaken;
- Sample of previous work

Work Plan

Provide a work plan which details the tasks to be performed, the methodology for completing the tasks performed, the timeframe for each task, and other information which will describe the services to be provided.

Budget

A detailed budget and budget narrative shall be included. The budget shall include an offer that encompasses all requirements of this Request for Proposals. To be considered, offers must submit a budget that addresses all costs for services and expenses. Each component should be priced individually.

Time Frame

The anticipated contract period will be from the date the contract is signed by all parties through September 30, 2020.

Contract

A contract will be awarded to the vendor whose offer is determined to be the most advantageous to the Board, based on the evaluation factors set forth below.

Attachment A of this RFP contains a list of the clauses that will be required in any executed contract.

Proposal Evaluations

A selection committee shall review and evaluate all replies. The selection committee will have only the response to the solicitation to review for selection of finalists. It is, therefore, important that respondents emphasize specific information pertinent to the work. Evaluation of the responses will be based on the following criteria.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| • Demonstrated Experience and Ability for Conducting Statewide Surveys and Assessments | 40% |
| • Knowledge of Mississippi Charter School laws and procedures | 25% |
| • Work Plan | 15% |
| • Price | 20% |

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposal must be directed in writing to:

Dr. Lisa Karmacharya, Executive Director
Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board
239 N. Lamar, Suite 207
Jackson, MS 39201
lkarmacharya@mississippi.edu

Submission of Responses

Written proposals subject to the conditions herein stated and attached hereto, will be received at this office until **March 10, 2020 at 3:00 pm** Central Standard time for furnishing the services as described above for the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board. Any proposal received after the deadline will not be considered and will be returned unopened to the proposer. **Proposals submitted by facsimile or by electronic mail will not be accepted.** Proposals and attachments must be submitted to:

Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board
239 N. Lamar Street, Suite 207
Jackson, MS 39201

1. The vendor is required to submit one (1) clearly marked original response with a signed proposal cover sheet and signed Statement of Compliance. Three additional copies must be submitted with the original response.
2. **Responses are strictly limited to a total of eight (8) pages**, not including attachments. References must be made to the specific section of the RFP to which the offeror is responding.
3. To prevent opening by unauthorized individuals, all submittals must be sealed in the package marked, "PROPOSAL FOR SURVEY - DO NOT OPEN".
4. Number each page of the proposal.
5. Respondent should allow sufficient mail and internal delivery time to ensure timely receipt.
6. As a guideline, The Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board anticipates the following tentative timetable for the selection of management services:

DATE

January 21, 2020

January 21 and 28

February 4, 2020

February 18, 2020

March 10, 2020

April 6, 2020

*Subject to Board Approval

ACTIVITY/EVENT

Request for Proposals Issued & Published to Website

Newspaper Notification

Deadline for Written Questions (3:00 p.m. CST)

Published to Website ~ Response to Written Questions

Proposals Due Prior to Deadline (3:00 p.m. CST)

Award Contract*

Questions and Answers

Questions concerning the RFP should be sent to: lkarmacharya@mississippi.edu. The deadline for submitting written questions by email is February 4, 2020 (3:00 p.m. CST). Copies of all questions submitted, and the responses will be posted on the Board's website: <http://www.charterschoolboard.ms.gov>

Proposers shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to the solicitation and return the Acknowledgement Form (Attachment B to this RFP) with their proposal. Questions and responses shall be considered amendments to the Request for Proposals.

Responsibility of The Offeror

The offer must meet the following conditions to ensure the submitted proposal will be considered:

- Ensure the proposal is delivered by the deadline and assume all risks of delivery as late proposals will not be accepted.
- Provide the appropriate response as required under the Statement Regarding Contingent Fees clause on page 8 of this RFP.
- Ensure all responses are complete as incomplete proposals will not be returned for revisions and will not be evaluated.
- Ensure the required number of copies are provided.

Right to Reject, Cancel and/or Issue Another RFP

The Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received in response to the RFP, cancel the RFP in its entirety, or issue another RFP.

Withdrawal of a Proposal

A proposer may withdraw a submitted proposal by submitting a written notification for its withdrawal to the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board, signed by the proposer, and emailed, or mailed to the address provided in this RFP. No amendments, revisions, or alterations to proposals are accepted after the due date unless requested by the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board.

Additional Information Regarding the RFP

The Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board is committed to diversity and equal employment opportunities among its contractors and encourages all firms, including firms that are minority-owned or women-owned, to submit responses to this RFP.

News releases pertaining to the RFP or any part of the RFP shall not be made without prior written approval from the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board.

Duration of Proposal

Within the introduction section of the proposal, you must state that the proposal is valid for a period of at least 90 days subsequent to the date proposals are due. The proposal shall become part of the contract in the event that the contract is awarded to your organization.

Disposition of Proposals

All submitted proposals become the property of the State of Mississippi.

Acknowledgment of Amendments

Bidders shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to the solicitation by signing and returning the amendment with the bid, by identifying the amendment number and date in the space provided for this purpose on the bid form, or by letter. The acknowledgment must be received by the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board by the time and at the place specified for receipt of bids.

Proprietary Information

The bidder should mark any and all pages of the response considered to be proprietary information which may remain confidential in accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated Sections 25-61-9 and 79-23-1 (1972, as amended). Each page of the response that the bidder considers trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information should be on a **different color paper** than non-confidential pages and be marked in the upper right-hand corner with the word “**CONFIDENTIAL.**” Any pages not marked accordingly will be subject to review by the general public after award of the contract. Requests to review the proprietary information will be handled in accordance with applicable legal procedures. Failure to clearly identify trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information will result in that information being released to a public records request.

Certification of Independent Price Determination

The bidder certifies that the prices submitted in response to the solicitation have been arrived at independently and without, for the purpose of restricting competition, any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other bidder or competitor relating to those prices, the intention to submit a bid, or the methods or factors used to calculate the prices bid. Note: The following clause shall be completed and conspicuously placed within the response bid or proposal.

Prospective Contractor’s Representation Regarding Contingent Fees

The prospective Contractor represents as a part of such Contractor’s bid or proposal that such Contractor has/has not (use applicable word or words) retained any person or agency on a percentage, commission, or other contingent arrangement to secure this contract.

Representation Regarding Gratuities

The bidder, offeror, or Contractor represents that it has not violated, is not violating, and promises that it will not violate the prohibition against gratuities set forth in Section 7-204 (Gratuities) of the *Mississippi Personal Service Contract Review Board Rules and Regulations*.

Procurement Regulations

The contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Mississippi Personal Service Contract Review Board Rules and Regulations, a copy of which is available at 210 East Capitol, Suite 800, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 for inspection, or downloadable at <http://www.mspb.ms.gov>.

Certification Statement

Carefully review the Certification Statement. At least one (1) original copy of the proposal must contain the original signature of a company official or agent duly authorized to sign proposals or contracts on behalf of the organization. Failure to submit a signed Certification Statement may result in your proposal being eliminated from further consideration.

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby acknowledges she/he has read and understands all requirements and specifications of the Request for Qualifications (RFP), including attachments, if any.

OFFICIAL CONTACT

The Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board requires that the proposer designate one person to receive all documents and the method in which the documents are best delivered. Identify the Contact name and fill in the information below:

Date	
Official Contact	
Name	
Phone Number with Area Code	
Email Address	
Facsimile Number with Area Code	
U.S. Postal Service Address (Mailing)	

Proposer certifies that the above information is true and grants permission to the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board to contact the above-named person or otherwise verify the information provided.

By its submission of this proposal and authorized signature below, proposer certifies that:

- (1) The information contained in its response to this RFP is accurate;
- (2) Proposer complies with each of the mandatory requirements listed in the RFP and will meet or exceed the requirements specified therein;
- (3) Proposer accepts the procedures, evaluation criteria, mandatory contract terms and conditions, and all other administrative requirements set forth in this RFP;
- (4) Proposer's fee and expense quote is valid for at least 90 days from the date of submission of proposal;
- (5) Proposer understands that if selected as the successful proposer, he/she will have five (5) business days from the date of delivery of the final contract in which to execute final contract document; and
- (6) Proposer provides authorization for The Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board to verify work performed for prior clients of the proposer.

Authorized Signature					
Typed or Printed Name:					
Title:					
Company Name:					
Address:					
City		State		Zip	

ATTACHMENT A – REQUIRED CONTACTUAL CLAUSES

APPLICABLE LAW: The contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi, excluding its conflicts of laws, provisions, and any litigation with respect thereto shall be brought in the courts of the State. Contractor shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS: It is expressly understood and agreed that the obligation of The Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board to proceed under this agreement is conditioned upon the appropriation of funds by the Mississippi State Legislature and the receipt of state and/or federal funds. If the funds anticipated for the continuing fulfillment of the agreement are, at any time, not forthcoming or insufficient, either through the failure of the federal government to provide funds or of the State of Mississippi to appropriate funds or the discontinuance or material alteration of the program under which funds were provided or if funds are not otherwise available to **The Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board, The Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board shall have the right upon ten (10) working days written notice to Contractor, to terminate this agreement without damage, penalty, cost or expenses to the [State] of any kind whatsoever.** The effective date of termination shall be as specified in the notice of termination.

REPRESENTATION REGARDING CONTINGENT FEES: The contractor represents that it has not retained a person to solicit or secure a State contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee.

REPRESENTATION REGARDING GRATUITIES: The contractor represents that it has not violated, is not violating and promises that it will not violate the prohibition against gratuities set forth in Section 7-204 of the Mississippi Personal Service Contract Procurement Regulations.

PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS: The contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Personal Service Contract Review Board Regulations.

TRADE SECRETS, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION: It is expressly understood that Mississippi law requires that the provisions of this contract which contain the personal or professional services provided, the price to be paid, and the term of the contract shall not be deemed to be a trade secret or confidential commercial or financial information and shall be available for examination, copying, or reproduction.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS: Contractor understands that the State of Mississippi is an equal opportunity employer and therefore, maintains a policy which prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, physical handicap, disability, genetic information, or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws. All such discrimination is unlawful and Contractor agrees during the term of the agreement that Contractor will strictly adhere to this policy in its employment practices and provision of services. Contractor shall comply with, and all activities under this agreement shall be subject to, all applicable federal, State of Mississippi, and local laws and regulations, as now existing and as may be amended or modified.

STOP WORK ORDER: *Order to Stop Work:* The Board, may, by written order to Contractor at any time, and without notice to any surety, require Contractor to stop all or any part of the work called for by this

contract. This order shall be for a specified period not exceeding 90 days after the order is delivered to Contractor, unless the parties agree to any further period. Any such order shall be identified specifically as a stop work order issued pursuant to this clause. Upon receipt of such an order, Contractor shall forthwith comply with its terms and take all reasonable steps to minimize the occurrence of costs allocable to the work covered by the order during the period of work stoppage. Before the stop work order expires, or within any further period to which the parties shall have agreed, the Board shall either:

- Cancel the stop work order; or,
- Terminate the work covered by such order as provided in the Termination for Default clause or the Termination for Convenience clause of this contract.

Cancellation or Expiration of the Order: If a stop work order issued under this clause is canceled at any time during the period specified in the order, or if the period of the order or any extension thereof expires, Contractor shall have the right to resume work. An appropriate adjustment shall be made in the delivery schedule or Contractor price, or both, and the contract shall be modified in writing accordingly, if:

- The stop work order results in an increase in the time required for, or in Contractor's cost properly allocable to, the performance of any part of this contract; and,
- Contractor asserts a claim for such an adjustment within 30 days after the end of the period of work stoppage; provided that, if the Procurement Officer decides that the facts justify such action, any such claim asserted may be received and acted upon at any time prior to final payment under this contract.

Termination of Stopped Work: If a stop work order is not canceled and the work covered by such order is terminated for default or convenience, the reasonable costs resulting from the stop work order shall be allowed by adjustment or otherwise.

E-PAYMENT: Contractor agrees to accept all payments in United States currency via the State of Mississippi's electronic payment and remittance vehicle. The agency agrees to make payment in accordance with Mississippi law on "Timely Payments for Purchases by Public Bodies," which generally provides for payment of undisputed amounts by the agency within forty-five (45) days of receipt of invoice. Miss. Code Ann. § 31-7-305 (1972, as amended).

E-VERIFICATION Mississippi Employment Protection Act: Contractor represents and warrants that it will ensure its compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act, Section 71-11-1, et. seq. of the Mississippi Code Annotated (Supp 2008), and will register and participate in the status verification system for all newly hired employees. The term "employee" as used herein means any person that is hired to perform work within the State of Mississippi. As used herein, "status verification system" means the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 that is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, also known as the E-Verify Program, or any other successor electronic verification system replacing the E-Verify Program. Contractor agrees to maintain records of such compliance and, upon request of the State and approval of the Social Security Administration or Department of Homeland Security, where required, to provide a copy of each such verification to the State. Contractor/Seller further represents and warrants that any person assigned to perform services hereunder meets the employment eligibility requirements of all immigration laws of the State of Mississippi. Contractor/Seller understands and agrees

that any breach of these warranties may subject Contractor/Seller to the following: (a) termination of this Agreement and ineligibility for any state or public contract in Mississippi for up to three (3) years, with notice of such cancellation/termination being made public, or (b) the loss of any license, permit, certification or other document granted to Contractor/Seller by an agency, department or governmental entity for the right to do business in Mississippi for up to one (1) year, or (c) both. In the event of such termination/cancellation, Contractor/Seller would also be liable for any additional costs incurred by the State due to contract cancellation or loss of license or permit."

TRANSPARENCY: Proposals submitted, including any accompanying exhibits, attachments, and appendices, is subject to the "Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983," and its exceptions. See Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-61-1 et seq., (1972, as amended) and Miss. Code Ann. § 79-23-1 (1972, as amended). In addition, this contract is subject to the provisions of the Mississippi Accountability and Transparency Act of 2008. Miss. Code Ann. §§ 27-104-151 et seq. (1972, as amended). Unless exempted from disclosure due to a court-issued protective order, a copy of this executed contract is required to be posted to the Department of Finance and Administration's independent agency contract website for public access at <http://www.transparency.mississippi.gov>. Information identified by Contractor as trade secrets, or other proprietary information, including confidential vendor information, or any other information which is required confidential by state or federal law or outside the applicable freedom of information statutes, will be redacted.

PAYMODE: Payments by state agencies using the State's accounting system shall be made and remittance information provided electronically as directed by the State. These payments shall be deposited into the bank account of Contractor's choice. The State may, at its sole discretion, require Contractor to electronically submit invoices and supporting documentation at any time during the term of this Agreement. Contractor understands and agrees that the State is exempt from the payment of taxes. All payments shall be in United States currency.

TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE: The Agency may, when the interests of the State so require, terminate this contract in whole or in part, for the convenience of the State. The Agency shall give written notice of the termination to the Contractor specifying the part of the contract terminated and when termination becomes effective.

The Contractor shall incur no further obligations in connection with the terminated work and on the date set in the notice of termination the Contractor will stop work to the extent specified. The Contractor must complete the work that is not terminated by the notice of termination.

TERMINATION FOR DEFAULT: If the Contractor refuses or fails to perform any of the provisions of this contract with such diligence as will ensure its completions within the time specified in this contract, or any extension thereof otherwise fails to timely satisfy the contract provisions, or commits any other substantial breach of this contract, the Agency may notify the Contractor in writing of the delay or nonperformance and if not cured in ten days or any longer time specified in writing by the Agency, the Agency may terminate the Contractor's right to proceed with the contract or such part of the contract as to which there has been delay or a failure to properly perform.

In the event of termination for default, in whole or in part, the Agency, after due written notice, may procure the services from other sources and hold the Contractor responsible for any resulting additional

administrative costs associated with the procurement. This remedy shall be in addition to any other remedies that the Agency may have.

TERMINATION UPON BANKRUPTCY: The contract may be terminated in whole or in part by the Board upon written notice to Contractor, if Contractor should become the subject of bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, whether voluntary or involuntary, or upon the execution by Contractor of an assignment for the benefit of its creditors. In the event of such termination, Contractor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for satisfactory work performed under this contract, but in no case, shall said compensation exceed the total contract price.

ATTACHMENT B – Acknowledgement of RFP Amendments

Proposer acknowledges all amendments to the RFP. Responses to questions will be treated as amendment to the RFP and require acknowledgment.

Offeror's Signature

Date

RFP Title