

Questions for RFQ # 078/16/1100/2

FORENSIC ACCOUNTANT

QUESTION:

I would like to know the date of the Pre-Proposal meeting (if scheduled yet) for RFQ ID #078/16/1100/2 for service providers for forensic accounting for the Department of Human Services/Area Agency on Aging.

ANSWER:

The County is not requiring a pre-submittal meeting for this RFQ at this time.

QUESTION:

Will you be looking at a rate per hour for this work? If so, do you have an estimate of hours annually that will be required?

ANSWER:

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) will require biweekly engagements and court testimony. The discussion of a flat rate, hourly rate or hybrid will be discussed with the successful bidder. This will be addressed once the RFQ process has been completed.

QUESTION:

We'd like to attend pre-submittal meeting(s). Please let us know the date and time.

ANSWER:

At this time, the County does not require a pre-submittal meeting for this RFQ.

QUESTION:

Which type of insurance is mandatory for the RFQ submittal?

ANSWER:

Required insurance(s) references any of the normal liability insurances agencies and/or individuals should have in place according to the type of business you represent.

QUESTION:

What is the expected time period for the services to be provided?

ANSWER:

This is a three-year contract.

QUESTION:

Is there an expectation that staff will perform services in Lackawanna County office space or in remote locations with periodic reporting of findings?

ANSWER:

It is expected that the forensic accountant will be available bi-weekly for consultation on active cases.

QUESTION:

What is the population of senior adults that need to be analyzed to determine if financial abuse, fraud, or neglect has been perpetrated?

ANSWER:

Approximately 20% of the over 400 abuse/neglect/exploitation reports received annually are related to financial exploitation. The number of abuse/neglect/exploitation reports has steadily increased from 2013 to 2016 at a rate of nearly 24% per year. Given the short duration we unable to determine if this a trend and if the increase has plateaued.

QUESTION:

How many accounts related to the population of senior adults that need to be analyzed to determine if financial abuse, fraud, or neglect has been perpetrated?

ANSWER:

The number of accounts varies based upon the consumer, allegations, time period of alleged exploitation, etc.

QUESTION:

Are there known allegations of financial abuse, fraud, or neglect identified?

ANSWER:

The allegations are referred to the AAA by a third party (family, financial institution, residential facility, etc.). Some allegations are based more factually while others are more speculative in nature.

QUESTION:

Has a specific issue arisen to create this need for forensic accounting services?

ANSWER:

There has been a significant increase in the number of reports being received by the agency as well as the complexity of the cases. In addition, our Protective Service Workers do not possess the expertise to investigate complex financial issues. We are seeking a financial professional to accurately and efficiently review and compare financial records for the purpose of identifying if exploitation has occurred.

QUESTION:

Are forensic accounts being engaged for ad hoc engagements as issues arise or is there a specific number of cases that have been identified and need forensic accounting review at the present time?

ANSWER:

Forensic accountants are being engaged for routine and ongoing cases with a minimum of bi-weekly case conferences with the care managers and supervisor and/or administration.

QUESTION:

Are records hard copy or electronic? If electronic, are records in Excel, PDF, or another format?

ANSWER:

Records are provided to us as hard copies or PDF and rarely Excel depending on the referral source, institution, etc.

QUESTION:

What is the expectation for reporting of determination (i.e. formal written reports, PowerPoint presentation, oral communication)?

ANSWER:

Formal written reports are required.

QUESTION:

Is there an expectation for professionals to testify in federal court, state court, or arbitration setting on their findings?

ANSWER:

Yes