



Health Department
MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

Office of the Director

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TO: Brian R. Smith, Purchasing Manager

FROM: Lillian Shirley, Director
Jonathan Jui, EMS Medical Director
Dr. Justin Denny, Health Officer

DATE: August 23, 2013

SUBJECT: Request for a Contract-Specific Special Procurement IAW PCRB 47-0285

Request for Special Procurement: The Department of County Health, Emergency Medical Services Division, is requesting a one-time, three year extension of the Multnomah County exclusive Ambulance Services Contract beyond the August 30, 2015 current expiration date.

Basis for Special Procurement: The County would use the *Contract-Specific Special Procurement* procedure defined in Public Contracting Review Board Manual rule 47-0285(1)(c) to extend this contract. If approved by the Board, the current contract would extend from September 1, 2015 to August 30, 2018.

Background:

The existing business model for emergency ambulance services in Multnomah County is an established fee-for-transport-service. Emergency ambulance providers are paid a set amount of money for each patient transported to a hospital. Regulatory practices currently focus on transport fee regulation, ambulance response times to 911 calls, quality improvement programs, training and equipment requirements.

Health care reforms at the federal and local level may change the fundamental assumptions that have guided service delivery and reimbursement for ambulance services. For example, outcome-based payment models have been adopted in hospital settings where good patient outcomes are financially rewarded and poorer outcomes are financially penalized. In addition, Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) are using a capitated (amount per member, regardless of service provided) payment process.

These two changes and others may drive emergency medical services including emergency ambulance service to a yet unknown and undeveloped model. The changes will almost certainly redesign the entire EMS system, including the 9-1-1 dispatch center, EMS first response provided by fire agencies, ambulance transportation and care provided at the receiving hospital.



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As a result, the EMS Program is engaged in a strategy of working with partners and stakeholders to strengthen relationships and to explore EMS innovations that will be responsive to the new health care models and the citizens who are served by the EMS system. Over the next 3-5 years, the Program anticipates it will be able to develop a strategy that will lead to better alignment of the EMS delivery system, health care services and payers of health care services.

To engage in a Request for Proposal process at this juncture will be difficult from a strategic planning and stakeholder engagement process perspective, and will place the County at risk for having an obsolete ambulance plan by the time that the contract is awarded. Therefore, the Program believes that a continuation of the current contract during this time of strategic planning, development, and transition is in the best interest of Multnomah County as it will position the Program to make an informed decision regarding the future direction of Emergency Medical Services within the County.

If additional information is required, please contact Jonathan Jui at (503) 988.3220, extension 28215.