

**New York State Corrections and Community Supervision  
IFB # 2014-02 Drug Testing Services**

**Questions and Answers**

1. Q: Is the department interested in any value added services such as randomization, a web-based substance abuse management/compliance platform, Interactive Voice Response (IVR) call-in system for donors to call to determine when it is their testing day?

A: The Department is not interested in these services at this time. The Department establishes reporting and testing requirements in connection with releasee office visits and field visits by contact standards and officer discretion.

2. Q: Please confirm that the Department is seeking urine testing only and does not want the winning vendor to perform any testing on oral fluid (saliva) samples.

A: Urine only.

3. Q: In multiple places in the IFB (for example, page 7 section 1.1, and page 33 section IV) the IFB indicates that all positive basic screens must be confirmed by Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GCMS). Will the Department accept Liquid Chromatography/Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) as the method of confirmation as an alternative? *LC/MS/MS confirmation method is more sensitive and specific than GC/MS, and increases compound identification specificity through the use of two mass spectrometers, versus a single one for GC/MS methods. In Volume 73, No. 228, page 71868 of the Federal Register, the Department of Health & Human Services indicates that LC/MS/MS methodologies have proven to be reliable to test specimens, and produce forensically and scientifically supportable results. Moreover, LC/MS/MS results have proven to be defensible in courts of law across the country.*

A: GCMS is appropriate for confirmation testing and to meet our burden of proof for purposes of establishing delinquency.

4. Q: Does the department utilize Field Test Kits (aka "Point of Care" testing devices, onsite testing devices, or instant test cups/dips)?

A: Yes.

a. If so, will the department require the winning vendor to perform confirmation testing on any samples screening positive via these instant devices?

Yes, field personnel are required to submit positive onsite specimens for laboratory analysis for the purpose of confirmation testing. In the absence of an admission to use by the releasee, staff is required to submit for confirmation testing.

b. Is the department interested in having the awarded vendor provide any instant testing devices?

No, not for this juncture.

i. If so, can you provide specifications?

N/A

And, should we include pricing for these devices in our response to this IFB?

N/A

5. Q: Section 4.16: will the Department accept bids from vendors whose insurance is written on a “claims made” basis rather than on an “occurrence” basis?

A: Insurance Policy is to be written on an occurrence basis.

6. Q: Attachment B, page 1: can the Department provide an estimate and/or historical average of the number of specimens that will be picked up on a monthly basis from each of the 24 locations listed?

A: No specimens will be picked up. All specimens are to be mailed in as opposed to any Contractor collection requirement.

7. Q: Attachment B, page 2, IV: does the Department anticipate requesting tests for any additional drugs not listed in this section?

A: The Department may request vendor to test samples for additional synthetic drugs/substances and any new/emerging substances or prohibited chemically produced drugs in response to reasonable suspicion or releasee admission. If so, additional tests not covered under this contract will be billed and paid separate from the resulting contract.

8. Q: Attachment B, page 2, VI: Under what circumstances would the department require confirmed positive specimens be stored for longer than 180 days? How will the department communicate a request to store a particular specimen for longer than 180 days? Does the department have any storage duration requirements for positive screen samples (“presumptive positives”) and negative screen samples?

A: Maximum time period of 180 days is acceptable.

9. Q: Depending on how quickly the Department is able to provide responses to vendor question and issue the official Q&A addendum, would you consider extending the deadline for IFB responses to allow at least five business days between the date the addendum is issued and the deadline for IFB responses?

A: The new Bid Opening date will be on November 28, 2014 at 2pm (EST).

Please complete and submit with your proposal

Bidder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_