

# **Vermont Department of Corrections**

## **Request for Proposals**

**Project Title: Clinical Lead Interventionist for Correctional Facility Risk Reduction Program**

**Primary Site: Northern State Correctional Facility, Newport, VT**

**Anticipated Contract Period: July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021**

**Date RFP Issued: December 19, 2018**

**Date of Bid Closing: February 15, 2019**

**Date of Bid Opening: N/A – no sealed bids required**

**Location of Bid Opening: DOC, NOB 2 South, 280 State Drive, Waterbury**

**Single Point of Contact: Kristy Hetzel**

**Contact Mailing Address:** Vermont Department of Corrections  
NOB 2 South  
280 State Drive  
Waterbury, VT 05671-2000

**Phone: (802) 241-0028 Email: [Kristy.Hetzel@vermont.gov](mailto:Kristy.Hetzel@vermont.gov)**

# 1. Requests for Proposals

**Both individuals and agencies may apply.**

The Vermont Department of Corrections has an obligation to the public and the offender population to provide services targeting the risks and offenses of the offender population. VT DOC employs Evidenced Based Principles for working effectively with risk offenders; specifically, the Risk-Needs-Responsivity model. VT DOC assesses offender risk areas, targets criminogenic need areas, and utilizes a multidisciplinary approach for targeted intervention. Services provided are in a group model aligning with the evidence-based interventions. Cognitive behavioral and motivational interventions are used in conjunction with the consideration of responsivity factors to improve engagement and a structure of supervision to support fidelity and consistency in program delivery.

The Northern State Correctional Facility (NSCF) in Newport, VT provides these services to moderate to high risk for recidivism offenders. VT DOC is seeking proposals for contracted staff to provide interventions and clinical guidance to reduce risk of recidivism. Targeted interventions include coping skills, substance abuse intervention, offense specific interventions, anger and aggression interventions and pro social and healthy relationship skill development. VT DOC is one (1) full time Clinical Lead Interventionist. VT DOC is seeking a masters-level Lead Interventionist, to provide oversight and clinical guidance to contracted facilitators, internally referenced as Risk Reduction Interventionists. The Lead Interventionist is also expected to facilitate some manualized curricula groups.

Risk Reduction Programming is a cognitive-behavioral intervention program. The overall goal of the program is for offenders to learn new prosocial skills and apply those skills to their lives. Focus areas include enhancing self-regulation, respect for others, and coping skills to avoid re-offense and create a prosocial, meaningful, future-oriented life plan.

VT DOC Risk Intervention Services (RIS) is an integrated model of risk reducing services provided to moderate and high-risk offenders. RIS includes direct intervention services, Corrections Education, and Vermont Correctional Industries (VCI). Corrections Education provides offenders ongoing education and literacy support, specialized cognitive assessment and services, workforce readiness training, and more standard high school curricula and diplomas. In facilities, VCI provides offenders a real-world setting in which to practice their professional and prosocial skills, including collaboration, cooperation, and supervision.

These three aspects of RIS are coordinated by the Risk Intervention Services Coordinator (RISC). The RISC assists offenders in navigating through RIS, confirms risk-need areas are being addressed by the set of services provided to the offender, and maintains records on all program referrals and participants.

The current intervention structure includes facilitation of several manualized curricula. Groups may involve targeted intervention to specific offender populations. These populations may include violent offenders, youthful/young adult offenders, those with cognitive and/or mental health accommodations, and others. VT DOC is seeking proposals that address ways to reach the goals and target population.

After contracts are awarded, the DOC will provide training and consultation to the Lead Interventionist the areas of clinical supervision, offender characteristics, assessment, treatment, management, and facilitation of manualized curriculum.

Anticipated contract period will be two years with option to renew for two additional years. The option to renew will be based upon performance of contractor and continued funding.

## **2. Contractor Requirements**

Qualifications for the Lead Interventionist include:

- Ability to articulate what current correctional literature defines as evidenced based practices; Risk, Need and Responsivity
- Experience in a related field (counseling, group facilitation, public speaking, teaching, etc.)
- Bachelors degree required
- Master's degree or current enrollment in a graduate program preferred
- Registration with the Vermont Office of Professional Regulation if applicable

## **3. Scope of Work**

Some of the specific tasks of the Lead Interventionist include:

- Attend weekly RIS Team meeting at the designated facility;
- Draft and/or approval final treatment summaries as needed
- Assist in reviewing referral packets for program placement;
- Identify interventions specific to risk-need areas
- Group facilitation of manualized curricula
- Provide training and guidance to interventionists on provision of services and best practices
- Observe groups and complete the observation/feedback forms and Professional Development Plans for Risk Reduction Interventionists
- Audit documentation related to the program;
- Work in collaboration with Risk Intervention Services Coordinator (RISC)
- Seek clinical guidance from Chief Clinical Specialist or Program Services Director as needed, and meet with these State contacts as determined by State
- Entity or applicant should identify professional Code of Ethics to be adhered to

## **4. General Provisions**

### **Contract Terms**

The selected contractor will sign a contract with the DOC to carry out the specifications and provide the activities detailed in the proposal. Terms and conditions from this RFP and contractor's response will become part of the contract. This contract will be subject to review throughout its entire term. The DOC will consider cancellation upon discovery

that a contractor is in violation of any portion of the agreement, including an inability by the contractor to provide the products, support and/or service offered in their response.

### **Contract Award**

The DOC may award one or more contracts and reserves the right to make additional awards to the same vendor or other vendors who submitted proposals at any time during the first year of the contract if such award is deemed to be in the best interest of the DOC.

### **Ownership of Work Product and Intellectual Capital**

Except for proprietary or commercial software, the DOC will have all ownership rights to the documentation designed, developed, and/or utilized for this contract. All data, technical information, materials gathered, originated, developed, prepared, used or obtained in the performance of the contract, including, but not limited to, all reports, surveys, plans, charts, literature, brochures, mailings, recordings (video and/or audio), pictures, drawings, analyses, graphic representations, notes and memoranda, and, written procedures and documents, regardless of the state of completion, which are custom developed and/or are the result of the services required under this contract, shall be and remain the property of the DOC and shall be delivered to the DOC upon 30 days notice by the DOC. A vendor shall not sell or utilize a work product or deliverable produced under a contract awarded as a result of bids without explicit permission from the DOC.

### **Subcontractors**

Any subcontractors hired by the primary contractor must adhere to the same standards and contract provisions applicable to the primary contractor. The primary contractor retains overall responsibility for contract performance. The primary contractor must advise the DOC of intent to hire a subcontractor and provide the name of company, name of president/owner and location of company. The DOC reserves the right to reject the hiring of subcontractor during the term of contract.

### **Invoicing**

All invoices are to be submitted by the Contractor on the Contractor's standard invoice. The invoice must include the following: a signed signature, name and address for remittance of payment by the state, the contract number, date of performance and a brief description of the service or product provided.

### **Contractor Performance Guidance**

All bidders will be held to specific performance review criteria over the life of the contract to ensure that project deliverables as outlined in the RFP and attested to in the Scope of Work are being met. Review of project deliverables will occur at intervals agreed upon by both the State and the Contractor and designated in the contract.

All proposals from individuals and/or organizations will be expected to ensure program deliverables which will include:

- Identify interventions specific to risk-need areas
- Review referral packets for program placement and planning
- Documented training and guidance to interventionists on provision of services and best practices
- Group observation and audit documentation

- Identify and complete Professional Development Plans for Risk Reduction Interventionists
- Strengths-based, ethical, documented delivery of individual sessions
- Adherence to the risk need responsivity model
- Demonstration of core correctional risk reduction competencies through the direct observation and feedback model
- Consistent delivery of the identified curricula to the offender population
- Adherence to the identified program schedule and assigning Interventionists to identified curricula schedule
- Respectful participation in risk reduction program team meetings not less than weekly
- Clinical consultation with VT DOC
- Compliance with program fidelity measures

### **Contractors Staffing**

Key staff member(s) must be assigned to this contract for the full duration proposed. None of the key staff member(s) may be reassigned or otherwise removed early from this project without explicit written permission of the DOC.

The Contractor must identify staff member(s) who will remain on this project until completion, unless indicated otherwise in the Contractor's proposal. The Contractor may propose other staff members as "key" if desired. The Contractor will make every reasonable effort to ensure that the early removal of a key staff member has no adverse impact on the successful completion of this project.

### **Key Contractor Responsibilities**

The selected Contractor must assume primary responsibility for the implementation of the contract specifications and activities.

The Contractor will successfully implement the plan to accomplish the tasks described and defined in the Scope of Work.

The Contractor must abide by all State policies, standards and protocols as provided and defined in this contract. Before commencing work on this Agreement, the Party must provide certificates of insurance to show that the following minimum coverage is in effect. It is the responsibility of the Party to maintain current certificates of insurance on file with the state through the term of the Agreement. **No warranty is made that the coverage and limits listed herein are adequate to cover and protect the interests of the Party for the Party's operations. These are solely minimums that have been established to protect the interests of the State.**

**Workers Compensation:** With respect to all operations performed, the Party shall carry workers' compensation insurance in accordance with the laws of the State of Vermont.

**General Liability and Property Damage:** With respect to all operations performed under the Agreement, the Party shall carry general liability insurance having all major divisions of coverage including, but not limited to:

Premises - Operations

Products and Completed Operations

Personal Injury Liability  
Contractual Liability

The policy shall be on an occurrence form and limits shall not be less than:

\$1,000,000 per Occurrence  
\$1,000,000 General Aggregate  
\$1,000,000 Products/Completed Operations Aggregate  
\$ 50,000 Fire/Legal/Liability

Party shall name the State of Vermont and its officers and employees as additional insureds for liability arising out of this Agreement.

**Automotive Liability:** The Party shall carry automotive liability insurance covering all motor vehicles, including hired and non-owned coverage, used in connection with the Agreement. Limits of coverage shall not be less than: \$500,000 combined single limit. Party shall name the State of Vermont and its officers and employees as additional insureds for liability arising out of this Agreement.

**Professional Liability:** Before commencing work on this Agreement and throughout the term of this Agreement, the Party shall procure and maintain professional liability insurance for any and all services performed under this Agreement, with minimum coverage of **\$1,000,000.00** per occurrence, and **\$3,000,000.00** aggregate for clinical service providers.

The Contractor must abide by all Federal Regulations if applicable to this contract.

## **5. Management Structure and General Information**

### **Project Management**

The Contractor will be accountable to the DOC Chief Clinical Specialist and/or designee(s) assigned by the DOC Program Services Director, and holds responsibility for the project deliverables, schedule and adherence to contract provisions. The Contractor must abide by all VT DOC standards and protocols as defined by the DOC Chief Clinical Specialist and/or the DOC Program Services Director and his/her designee(s).

### **Status Reports**

The Vermont Department of Corrections reserves the right to call meetings with the contractor either in person or by conference call to ensure that unresolved issues are resolved during this contract period. The contractor will be accountable in advising the Program Manager of this contract or designee when/if performance measures agreed upon will not be met. The following status reports will become part of the contract. They include the following:

## **6. Proposal Requirements**

### **Proposal Guidelines**

This RFP defines the scope of work required and work/management structure within which the chosen Contractor must operate. In order to be considered for selection,

bidders must complete all responses to this RFP in the format described in this document. Proposals not meeting the requirements described in this RFP will not be considered.

**Single Point of Contact**

Kristy Hetzel is the sole contact for this proposal. All communications concerning this RFP are to be addressed in writing to the attention of Kristy Hetzel listed on cover sheet of this proposal. Attempts by bidders to contact any other party could result in the rejection of their proposal as determined by the VT DOC.

**Question and Answer Period**

Any bidder requiring clarification of any section of this proposal or wishing to submit questions may do so according to the **Timetable** schedule listed in this section. Questions may be e-mailed to the Kristy.Hetzel@vermont.gov listed on page 1 of this proposal. Any clarification or questions submitted following the last day of the question period to the RFP will not be responded to.

At the close of the question period a copy of all questions or comments and the State's responses will be posted on the State's web site:

<http://www.vermontbusinessregistry.com>.

Every effort will be made to have these available soon after the question period ends, contingent on the number and complexity of the questions.

**Timetable**

The table below presents the DOC schedule for this RFP and contracting process. Please note that the DOC may change this schedule at any point.

RFP published	December 19, 2018
Bidders Conference	N/A
Written questions due	January 16, 2019 by 3:00 p.m.
Response to questions	January 23, 2019
Proposal due (see Section 5.6 for detailed instructions on proposal format and submission instructions)	January 30, 2019
Anticipated "Start Work Date"	July 1, 2019

The State reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. Selected State staff will evaluate proposals. If a proposal is selected, the chosen Contractor will be invited to negotiate a contract for all or part of the activities outlined in this RFP. Work under this contract is anticipated to begin July 1, 2019.

**Proposal Submission**

Bidders must submit original paper copy and one electronic copy of the proposal with a signed cover letter.

The State reserves the right to eliminate from further consideration any proposal deemed to be substantially or materially unresponsive to the requests for information contained herein.

Please note that any and all pages of the bidder's proposal containing confidential and proprietary information must be clearly marked "Proprietary and Confidential." After completion of this bid process, all proposal materials are in the public domain. Proposals may not be marked "Proprietary and Confidential" in their entirety.

The proposal must be organized in the order described below. Use the numbering designations outlined.

Bidders will submit their proposal to:

Kristy Hetzel, Risk Intervention Admin Coordinator  
Vermont Department of Corrections  
NOB 2 South, 280 State Drive  
Waterbury, VT 05671-2000

The closing date for the receipt of proposals is January 30, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

Bid must be delivered to the VT DOC at the address listed above prior to that time. Proposals or unsolicited amendments submitted after that time will not be accepted and will be returned to the bidder. There are no exceptions to the closing date conditions.

Delivery Methods:

**U.S. MAIL:** Bidders are cautioned that it is their responsibility to originate the mailing of bids in sufficient time to insure receipt by the State prior to the time of the bid opening.

**EXPRESS DELIVERY:** If bids are being sent via an express delivery service, be certain that the RFP designation is clearly shown on the outside of the delivery envelope or box.

**HAND DELIVERY:** Hand carried bids must be delivered to Kristy Hetzel at Vermont Department of Corrections, NOB 2 South, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671-2000

**ELECTRONIC/EMAIL:** Electronic bids will / will not  be accepted.

**FAXED BIDS:** Faxed bids will not be accepted.

### **Proposal Format**

The format of the vendor's proposal must include, at a minimum the following chapters, numbered as follows:

#### **Response Section I: Cover Letter, Vermont Tax Certificate and Insurance Certificate**

The cover letter must be signed and dated by a person authorized to legally bind the vendor to a contractual relationship, e.g., the President or Executive Director if a



corporation, the managing partner if a partnership, or the proprietor if a sole proprietorship. This must be completed and submitted as part of the response for the proposal to be considered valid. See Attachment C.

Along with introductory remarks, the cover letter must include by attachment the following information about the vendor and any proposed subcontractors:

- Name, address, principal place of business, telephone number, and fax number/email address of legal entity or individual with whom contract would be written.
- Legal status of the vendor (sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, etc.) and the year the entity was organized to do business, as the entity now substantially exists.
- Disclose if you, your Chief Financial Officer (or equivalent), or any persons who may be directly involved in this funded agreement over the past five years has been convicted, imprisoned, placed on probation or under supervision, or fined for any violation of any law including motor vehicle violations.
- Disclose if you, Chief Financial Officer (or equivalent), or any persons who may be directly involved in this funded agreement has been convicted of a felony.
- Number of years' experience carrying out the activities of this contract.
- Demonstrate adequate financial resources and be financially sound as proven by furnishing balance sheet/financial statements, showing that the vendor has been in business continually for the last three (3) years.
- Provision of a single point managerial level contact to coordinate all State requirements and to be the point of contact for any problems/questions that may arise.
- Statement showing agreement that vendor's procedures shall be in compliance with all applicable Federal and State laws.
- Insurance Certificate must be included in Response Section I.
- Vermont Tax Certificate must be included in Response Section I.
- Statement outlining your acceptance of conditions outlined in the RFP and with the State's contract provisions.

## **Response Section II: General Background and Qualifications**

Bidder must provide the following information about their company so that the VT DOC can evaluate the bidder's stability and ability to support the commitments set forth in response to the RFP. The VT DOC may require additional documentation to support and/or clarify requested information.

- A brief description of the company, including history, present status, and if fitting future plans, etc.
- Company size and organization.
- Disclose any history of defaults, contract terminations, and bankruptcies.

**Response Section III: Ability and Approach to Implement the Activities and Specifications of this Contract**

The section of the proposal will contain the ability and approach that the vendor will take in implementing the activities and specifications described in this RFP (Section 2, Scope of Work). This section should include activities/tasks the contractor will accomplish along with measurable outcomes.

**Response Section IV: References**

In order to validate the highest-ranking proposal, references will be contacted for further input. These clients may be contacted to determine the quality of the work performed and the personnel assigned to the project. The results of the reference calls will be used by the evaluation team in developing its recommendation for awarding the contract.

Bidder must provide at least three (3) references along with the name, title, phone number, and email address of the person who can speak to the bidder’s work and experience.

**Response Section V: Staffing**

**Organizations** responding to this RFP must present proposed staff, credentials and training needs and plans.

**Response Section VI: Proposed Work Plan (Response to Requirements)**

This section should contain the following information about how the bidder will implement the approach described in Responses Section III, to accomplish the goals of the project.

**Response Section VII: Cost Proposal**

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Total projected</b>
<b>Salary, including per hour rate</b>			
<b>Fringe Benefits (provide details)</b>			
<b>Travel</b>			
<b>Administrative (provide details on this rate and the Projected benefit to State for scope of Services)</b>			
<b>Training needs and costs</b>			
<b>Other (provide details)</b>			

## **Response Section IX: Exceptions**

If the vendor should choose not to address a certain Activity, Deliverable or Condition, the vendor's proposal must clearly explain why and what the vendor proposes as an alternative.

## **Response Section X: Bidder's Review of RFP, State Contract Template, and Insurance Requirements.**

Vendor has reviewed the terms and all provisions of the Request for Proposal, the State of Vermont contract template and insurance requirements and accepts conditions set forth.

## **7. Proposal Evaluation**

The evaluation team will determine if each proposal is sufficiently responsive to the RFP to permit a complete evaluation of the individual/organization and experience. Proposals must comply with the instructions to bidders contained in **Section 6: Proposal Requirements**. Failure to comply with the instructions shall deem the proposal non-responsive and subject to rejection without further consideration. The State reserves the right to waive irregularities.

### **Minimum Requirements**

Minimum requirements for a proposal to be given consideration are:

- The proposal must have been received by specified date, hour (Eastern Standard Time) and in the number and form of copies specified.
- The proposal must contain the following items in the following order:
  - Response Section I: Cover Letter and Insurance Certificate
  - Response Section II: General Background and Qualifications
  - Response Section III: Ability to Implement the Activities and Specifications of this Contract
  - Response Section IV: References
  - Response Section V: Staffing (if other than individual)
  - Response Section VI: Proposed Work Plan (if other than individual)
  - Response Section VIII: Cost Proposal
  - Response Section X: Acceptance of RFP and State Contract Conditions

**Method of Award**

The State reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. Upon completion of the evaluation process, the VT DOC will select one bidder based on the evaluation findings and other criteria deemed relevant for ensuring that the decision made is in the best interest of VT DOC. The selected vendor will be requested to enter into negotiation with the State of Vermont on contract specifications, including detailed work plans, deliverables and timetables.

In the event the VT DOC is not successful in negotiating a contract with a selected bidder, the VT DOC reserves the option of negotiating with another bidder.

Any contract negotiated must undergo review and signature according to statute and policy.

The Contractor will be paid based rates commensurate with education, training and cultural competency of the proposed staff for completed deliverables set forth in the contract.

The contract for the NSCF Lead is for two years: July 2019 through June 2021. The contract may be renewed without rebidding for up to two years with approval from the Administration.