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Tender

HCC Sept 2024 – Framework Agreement for the Provision of Adult and Tailored Learning Services (Step2Skills)

Hertfordshire County Council

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-030829

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-04a337

Published 26 September 2024, 3:04pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Hertfordshire County Council

Pegs Lane

HERTFORD

SG13 8DE

Contact

Strategic Procurement Group

Email

anita.shipman@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 01707292601

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKH23 - Hertfordshire

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

Buyer's address

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/supplyhertfordshire.aspx/Home>

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/supplyhertfordshire.aspx/Home>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/supplyhertfordshire.aspx/Home>

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

HCC Sept 2024 – Framework Agreement for the Provision of Adult and Tailored Learning Services (Step2Skills)

Reference number

HCC2415960

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80400000 - Adult and other education services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Hertfordshire County Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council), are out to procurement for a Framework Agreement for the Provision of Adult and Tailored Learning Services. Further information regarding this opportunity can be found in II.2.4 and VI.3 below. Organisations wishing to take part in this project are invited to "express interest" which will give access to the full procurement documents in the e-tendering system. Please see VI.3) Additional information for further information. Any questions relating to this procurement must be made via the correspondence area in the e-Tendering system, in accordance with the procurement documents and can be addressed to the main contact as shown in the details above.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £7,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description**II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 80000000 - Education and training services
- 80400000 - Adult and other education services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH23 - Hertfordshire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Hertfordshire County Council is out to procurement for a Framework Agreement for the Provision of Adult and Tailored Learning Services. As part of Hertfordshire County Council, Step2Skills is the Adult and Tailored Learning service and provides opportunities for adults in Hertfordshire to get involved in learning within the community. They aim to collaborate with people who face barriers to education and employment such as low skills, learning or physical disabilities, and mental health conditions. Step2Skills is looking to establish a Framework Agreement with a number of Subcontractors to provide a range of adult and tailored learning opportunities to target groups within the population of Hertfordshire. Subcontractors awarded onto the Framework Agreement will have the opportunity to bid for the year 1 Call-Off early in 2025. Tenderers must be included in the UK Register of Learning Providers (UKLRP) and have a valid UK Provider Reference Number (UKPRN). Step2Skills has been undertaking an annual Service Needs Analysis to understand priority locations and populations since the adult education service started. This analysis also informs the commissioning process and the evaluation of potential delivery partners in terms of links with target populations, experience of meeting national and local needs whilst also delivering value for money. All delivery must demonstrate value for money, with clear progression routes towards further learning, employment and/or better mental health. Step2Skills and its partners are subject to Ofsted inspections, ensuring compliance with the Further Education and Skills Education Inspection Framework. Full details are in the Specification, Schedule 1 of the Terms and Conditions document. The estimated total value of the Framework Agreement is stated in II.1.5) of this notice and is for the initial term inclusive of the approximate value for extensions. For the avoidance of doubt, the estimated annual spend is approximately £1,500,000. The total value advertised is to cover any additional funding that may be available during the period of the Framework Agreement. The Framework Agreement will be awarded for an initial term of two years, with the option to extend the Framework Agreement up to two further years on an annual basis. Please note that the contract requirements will be subject to available financial resources, supplier performance and flexibility to meet changing demands. Organisations should be aware that due to the nature of the Services provided, any Framework Agreement formed as a result of this procurement process shall be executed as a deed. Organisations should seek independent legal advice on the implications of this prior to submitting their bid, where appropriate.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £7,000,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

24

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

This Framework Agreement will be reviewed at the end of the Framework Agreement period.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Option to extend the initial Framework Agreement period for further period(s) of up to two (2) years on an annual basis, at the Council's sole discretion .

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

Tenderers should be aware that due to the nature of the Services provided, any Framework Agreement formed as a result of this procurement process shall be executed as a deed. Tenderers should seek independent legal advice on the implications of this prior to submitting their Tender, where appropriate.

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.2) Economic and financial standing

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.1.3) Technical and professional ability

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open procedure

IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

Framework agreement with several operators

In the case of framework agreements, provide justification for any duration exceeding 4 years:

N/A

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

28 October 2024

Local time

12:00pm

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

28 October 2024

Local time

12:00pm

Place

Hertfordshire

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: Yes

VI.3) Additional information

Please note Hertfordshire County Council has worked closely with its districts and partners to create a joint procurement portal called supply Hertfordshire. This portal provides an e-Tendering system which is run by In-Tend. To access this procurement opportunity please visit <https://in-tendhost.co.uk/supplyhertfordshire.aspx/Home> and follow the on-screen guidance. This is a one stage procurement process. Therefore, if you wish to be considered as a tenderer you must complete and submit a tender by the specified closing date and time. Tender submissions cannot be uploaded after this return deadline. If you are experiencing problems In-Tend offer a help section which includes a dedicated UK support desk which can be contacted via email: support@in-tend.co.uk or Telephone: +44 1144070065 for any website/technical questions, Monday to Friday, 8:30-17:00. The Council reserves the right at any time to cease the procurement process and not award the Framework Agreement or to award only part of the opportunity described in this notice. If the Council takes up this right, then they will not be responsible for or pay the expenses or losses, which may be incurred by any organisation or tenderer as a result. The Council undertakes to hold confidential any information provided in the

proposal submitted, subject to the Council's obligations under the law including the Freedom of Information Act 2000. If the organisation considers that any of the information submitted in the proposal should not be disclosed because of its sensitivity then this should be stated with the reason for considering it sensitive. The Council will then endeavour to consult with the applicant about such sensitive information when considering any request received under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 before replying to such a request. The Council reserves the right to carry out additional financial checks on all organisations bidding for this opportunity at any time during the procurement process. This is to ensure that they continue to meet the Council's requirements and remain financially viable to fulfil the requirements under the Agreement.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court, Royal Courts of Justice

The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

High Court, Royal Courts of Justice

The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

The Contracting Authority will incorporate a minimum 10 calendar day (when using electronic means) standstill period at the point information on the award of the Framework Agreement is communicated to tenderers. This period allows unsuccessful tenderers to challenge the decision to award the Framework Agreement before the Framework Agreement is executed/signed (as appropriate). The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ('Regulations') provide for aggrieved parties who have been harmed or at risk of harm by a breach of the rules to take action in the High Court (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). Any such action must be brought promptly and within the time limits as defined in the above regulations. Where the Framework Agreement has not been entered into the court may order the setting aside of the award decision or order the contracting authority to amend any document and may award damages. If the Framework Agreement has been entered into the court has the options to award damages and/or to shorten or order the Framework Agreement ineffective.

VI.4.4) Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained

Chief Legal Officer, Hertfordshire County Council

Pegs Lane

Hertford

SG13 8DE

Country

United Kingdom