

2024

Invitation to Bid CSEA Legal Services



Lawrence Co. Dept. of Job & Family Services
Child Support Enforcement Agency
1100 S 7th Street
Ironton OH 45638

Invitation to Bid

Issue Date:	December 15, 2023
Title:	LCDJFS Legal Services ITB
Description:	Provision of legal services to the Lawrence County Child Support Enforcement Agency
Submittal Deadline:	9:00 a.m. EST January 3, 2024
Submittal Address:	Lawrence County Board of Commissioners Re:LCDJFS Legal Services Bid 111 S 4 th Street, 3 rd Floor Ironton OH 45638
Additional Assistance:	Tiffany Porter Email: Tiffany.Porter@jfs.ohio.gov

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Lawrence County Department of Job and Family Services (LCDJFS) wishes to engage the services of qualified contractors to provide legal services for the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA). Prospective contractors should possess some history of successful service to other clients, preferably with experience in providing this same type of service to other government entities. The purpose of this document is to provide interested parties information, on a fair and competitive basis, but in a manner that will ensure the highest possible quality of services and to enable them to prepare and submit a written bid for services described herein.

2.0 BACKGROUND

LCDJFS is initiating this Invitation to Bid (ITB) in order to obtain the services of a contractor to provide legal services for its Child Support program. LCDJFS intent is to enter into a contract with the selected contractor for a term of one year. The contract awarded by the LCDJFS to the successful contractor must be approved by the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners.

In addition, this ITB specifies the need for each prospective contractor to provide background information such as experience and qualifications. Prospective contractors shall submit a written bid in accordance with the requirements set forth in this document. If a bid does not meet the specifications outlined in this ITB, the bid may be deemed non-responsive and removed from further consideration.

Furthermore, each prospective contractor must provide an email address to Tiffany.Porter@jfs.ohio.gov as soon as possible, so that LCDJFS may contact the prospective contractor if necessary to amend this ITB or for other reasons relating to this ITB. Failure to provide such an email address will preclude LCDJFS ability to contact you, but you will still be required to comply with any changes made to this ITB. LCDJFS will not be responsible for prospective contractors' failure to receive such notice.

2.1 INQUIRIES

Written questions concerning this ITB must be submitted and received by LCDJFS no later than 4:30 p.m. EST on December 29, 2023. Written questions may be mailed to LCDJFS Attn: Tiffany Porter, 1100 S 7th Street, Ironton, Ohio 45638 or emailed to Tiffany.Porter@jfs.ohio.gov. LCDJFS will endeavor, but shall not be required to answer any such request for information. Any forthcoming answers shall be provided via email communication to all persons/firms who have received copies of this ITB.

2.2 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Listed below is a schedule of dates and actions related to this ITB. The actions with specific dates must be completed as indicated unless otherwise changed by LCDJFS. A supplement will be issued in the event of a change in the schedule listed below needs to occur.

Date	Action
December 15, 2023	Invitation for Bid issued
December 20, 2023 December 27, 2023	Ironton Tribune newspaper publication
December 29, 2023	Last day for ITB questions
January 3, 2024	ITB due by 9:00 am EST
January 9, 2024	Anticipated award date

3.0 SERVICES REQUIRED

Upon award of the contract, the contractor will be required to provide, but not limited to, the following services on an as-needed basis:

3.0.1 Advise, assist and represent the Child Support Enforcement Agency in all Title IV-D cases;

3.0.2 Provide paternity establishment, support order establishment, support order modification, support order enforcement, health insurance order establishment, health insurance order modification, health insurance order enforcement, and actions under the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA);

3.0.2 Have at all times the equipment, licenses, applicable liability insurance, and instruments required performing the services herein;

3.0.3 Submit a monthly invoice in the form of the JFS 07035 no later than thirty calendar days following the end of a service month;

3.0.4 Contractor will pick up documents on a consistent basis from the appropriate court and/or the LCDJFS;

3.0.5 Complete all required forms as set forth in the contract;

3.0.6 Meet with LCDJFS representatives as required;

3.0.7 Provide for his/her own parking, clerical, telephone, and reproduction services.

4.0 CONTENT OF BID

Each contractor must demonstrate past and present ability to fulfill the requirements established by the ITB. Each contractor is required to provide detailed information demonstrating an ability to perform the necessary services with specific reference to the activities noted above in Section 3.0 "Services Required."

The narrative part of the bid must present the following information and be organized with the following headings listed under Section 4.0 "Content of Bid." Each heading should be separated by tabs or otherwise clearly marked. Failure to do so may result in a reduced rating during bid evaluation.

The contractor may propose to offer the requested services directly or to subcontract a portion to other providers. Contractors intending to subcontract services must indicate that intent in the bid; as well as identifying the specific subcontractor(s). Any subcontracts not identified in the bid will require the prior written approval of LCDJFS. Furthermore LCDJFS reserves the exclusive right to approve or reject any subcontracts requested by the contractor subsequent to the submission of a bid.

4.1 COVER LETTER

Each bid must be accompanied by a cover letter that contains a general statement of the purpose for submission and include the following information:

4.1.1 Name, title, address, and telephone number of the person or persons authorized to represent the contractor in order to enter into negotiations with LCDJFS with respect to the ITB and any subsequent awarded contract. The cover letter shall also indicate any limitation of authority for any person named;

4.1.2 The cover letter must be signed by a representative or officer of the contractor who is authorized to bind the firm to all provisions of the ITB, any subsequent changes, and to the contract if an award is made; and

4.1.3 Transmittal letter shall also contain a statement that the bid is a firm offer for a one hundred twenty (120) day period.

4.2 PROFILE OF CONTRACTOR

The contractor must complete Appendix A of this ITB "Profile of Contractor."

4.3 QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CONTRACTOR

4.3.1 A detailed description of previous work experience in providing similar services during the past five (5) years; particularly for public agencies;

4.3.2 Completed Appendix B or a minimum of three (3) references in the same format as Appendix B;

4.3.3 Disclose whether the firm, or individuals within the firm, have received a suspension, revocation, or disciplinary action from any government entity, which would affect a license to perform these services.

4.4 SIGNATURE AFFIDAVIT

The contractor must complete Appendix C of this ITB "Certification Affidavit."

4.5 BID COST

The contractor must provide a bid that includes a unit rate of service.

4.6 ADDITIONAL DATA

Any other relevant information the contractor believes to be essential to assist in the evaluation of the bid shall be clearly stated in this section. If there is no additional data the contractor wishes to present, this section will consist of the statement "There is no other data to be presented."

5.0 ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTAL

LCDJFS requires that all contractual bids adhere to the following guidelines:

5.1 ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The submission of a bid pursuant to this ITB shall constitute acknowledgement and acceptance of all terms and conditions set forth herein. Bids must contain the required information outlined in Section 4.0 to be deemed responsive. LCDJFS may, however, waive minor informalities and omissions in the bid if it so decides, in its sole discretion, that such informality or omission is not prejudicial to interests of LCDJFS or to fair competition. Bids shall also be unconditional; any bid that purports to impose conditions not included in this ITB may be deemed non-responsive.

5.1.1 Bids must be type-written and in English;

5.1.2 Bids should be on 8.5" x 11.5" white paper with no less than 1" margins, use standard black 12 point type font, be stapled or bound securely, and include one (1) original and two (2) copies;

5.1.3 Bids must be enclosed in a single, sealed envelope plainly marked with the words "LCDJFS Legal Service Bid".

Bids must contain firm offers for all services to be performed for the duration of the proposed contract. The ITB and the resulting bids, or any part thereof, may be incorporated into and made a part of the contract. LCDJFS reserves the right to further negotiate the terms and conditions of the contract with the selected contractor(s). If contract negotiations cannot be concluded successfully with the highest scoring contractor, LCDJFS may negotiate a contract with the next highest scoring contractor. This ITB does not commit LCDJFS to award a contract. LCDJFS also reserves the right to withdraw this ITB at any time, to reject all bids, to reject any bid for noncompliance with ITB provisions, to choose not to award a contract if such action is determined to be in the best interest of LCDJFS, and/or to waive any informality in the process when to do so is in the interest of LCDJFS.

5.2 WITHDRAWAL OF BID

A contractor may withdraw a submitted bid in writing at any time prior to the specified due date and time. Faxed withdrawals shall be accepted. A written request to withdraw, signed by an authorized representative of the contractor, must be submitted to LCDJFS Attn: Tiffany Porter, 1100 S 7th Street, Ironton, Ohio 45638. After withdrawing a previously submitted bid, the contractor may submit another bid at any time up to the specified submission deadline. All bids submitted and not withdrawn prior to the end of the submission deadline shall be firm and may not be withdrawn after the submission deadline for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days following the deadline for submission of bids specified in this ITB.

5.3 COST OF ITB

The contractor understands and agrees that LCDJFS is not responsible for any costs incurred by the contractor in responding to this ITB. Contractors whom respond to this ITB, including possible attendance at a post-submission interview of contractor, are solely responsible for their own incurred expenses.

5.4 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

All bids shall be deemed public records within the parameters of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 149. However, the contents of submitted bids to this ITB will not be deemed public records until completion of the evaluation process and thus will be treated as confidential information. If a contractor believes that the ITB requires the disclosure of technical proprietary, or trade secret information that the contractor is not willing to make public, such information should not be submitted. No part of the bid may be designated as confidential.

5.5 ORAL PRESENTATIONS

If requested by LCDJFS, selected contractors may be required to make oral presentations to supplement their bids. LCDJFS will make every reasonable attempt to schedule each presentation at a time and location that is agreeable to the contractor. Failure of a contractor to conduct a presentation to LCDJFS on the date scheduled may result in rejection of the contractor's bid.

6.0 SUBMISSION OF BID

6.1 SUBMISSION DEADLINE

6.1.1 One (1) original bid and two (2) copies must be received by Lawrence County Board of Commissioners no later than January 3, 2024, 9:00 a.m. EST.

Bid shall be submitted to the following address:

Lawrence County Board of Commissioners
RE: LCDJFS Legal Services Bid
111 S 4th Street, 3rd Floor
Ironton OH 45638

6.1.2 The outside of the sealed envelope containing the bid must contain the following designation:

“LCDJFS Legal Service Bid”

6.2 RESPONSIBILITY OF TIMELY SUBMISSION OF BID

All bids submitted will be marked with a time and date stamp. Timely submission of bid is the sole responsibility of the contractor. Late bids will not be considered for contract award. All bids hand delivered after 9:00 a.m. on the due date will be returned to the applicant. LCDJFS reserves the right to determine the timeliness of all bid submissions.

7.0 PROHIBITION OF COMMUNICATION

After the submittal of bids and continuing until a contract has been awarded, all LCDJFS personnel involved in the ITB process will be specifically directed against holding any meetings, conferences, or technical discussions with any contractor except as provided in the ITB.

Contractors shall not inquire at any time as to the bid submission status of any and all competing contractors. Failure to comply with this requirement will automatically terminate further consideration of that contractor's bid. Furthermore the total number of submitted bids shall not be disclosed to any party by either LCDJFS or by the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners until after the bid submittal deadline has expired.

8.0 EVALUATION CRITERIA

8.1 PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

All submitted bids shall be first reviewed to determine if all requirements are met and if the bid format and content meet specified requirements. Failure to meet mandatory requirements will result in the bid being rejected as non-responsive. In the event that all contractors do not meet one or more of the mandatory requirements, LCDJFS reserves the right to continue the evaluation of the bids and to select the bid which most closely meets the requirements specified in the ITB.

8.2 EVALUATION PROCESS

The overall bid will be scored using quantitative calculations where the most points will be awarded to the bid that provides the most value to LCDJFS. Various costing methodologies and models are available to analyze the cost information submitted and potential value to be derived to LCDJFS. LCDJFS will select one method and use it consistently throughout its evaluation.

LCDJFS reserves the right to interview or to seek additional information relating to criteria already in the ITB from any candidate after opening the bids, but before entering into a contract, to reject any bid if it deems it to be in the best interests of LCDJFS, and to award a contract to the next qualified contractor. LCDJFS reserves the right to check references identified by any contractor or associated with any previous employer of any employee of the contractor identified in the bid. In addition, LCDJFS reserves the right to award the contract based on considerations other than price.

At minimum three representatives from LCDJFS shall review all bids submitted in response to this ITB in accordance with the following criteria:

8.3 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS (50% of evaluation)

8.3.1 Record of past performance of the contractor in providing similar services;

8.3.2 Relevant public agency experience of the contractor in providing similar services;

8.3.3 If the contractor is an organization whose staff will collectively fulfill therequirements, the organization should submit the qualifications of individuals thatwill be providing the services; and

8.3.4 Direct or related experience the contractor has that indicates success inperforming the required services in an economical manner.

8.4 PRICING OF SERVICES (50% of evaluation)

Unit rate of service to provide the services as detailed in this bid.

8.5 GENERAL SCORING INFORMATION

Bids will receive scores based on a one hundred (100) point scale. A maximum of fifty (50) points will be awarded in the "General Qualifications" section and a maximum of fifty (50) points will be awarded for the "Pricing of Services" section.

9.0 AWARD OF CONTRACT

The contractor to whom a contract is awarded shall be required to enter into a written contract with LCDJFS in the contract form provided by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and approved by the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners and LCDJFS. This ITB and the bid, or any part thereof, may be incorporated into and made a part of the final contract. However, LCDJFS reserves the right to further negotiate the terms and conditions of the contract with the selected contractor. The contract will, in any event, include fixed prices to be paid by LCDJFS for the contractor to perform the services as provided herein under "Services Required."

APPENDIX A: PROFILE OF CONTRACTOR

Lawrence County Department of Job & Family Services

SECTION I. CONTRACTOR CONTACT INFORMATION			
Contractor Name			
Address			
Contact Name		Email	
Contact Name		Fax	

SECTION II. TYPE OF ORGANIZATION			
<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Type (County, School District, College)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	Type (Not-for-Profit, For Profit)		
Date Incorporated <small>(if applicable)</small>		Tax Exempt Status	

SECTION III. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE (Select One)
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization is independently operated (Legally unaffiliated, Do not complete Section IV)
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization is affiliated with a parent organization (Complete Section IV)

SECTION IV. PARENT ORGANIZATION INFORMATION			
Type of Affiliation	<input type="checkbox"/> Subsidiary <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter	<input type="checkbox"/> Branch Office <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Describe)	
Parent Organization			
Address			
Contact Name		Email	
Contact Name		Fax	

APPENDIX B: REFERENCE SHEET FORMAT

Lawrence County Department of Job & Family Services

FOR CONTRACTOR: Provide organization's name, address, contact person, telephone number, and appropriate information on the services provided within the past 5 years with requirements similar to those included in this ITB.

1.) Organization Reference			
Business Name			
Address			
Contact Person		Phone	
Services Performed			

2.) Organization Reference			
Business Name			
Address			
Contact Person		Phone	
Services Performed			

3.) Organization Reference			
Business Name			
Address			
Contact Person		Phone	
Services Performed			

APPENDIX C: CERTIFICATION AFFIDAVIT

Lawrence County Department of Job & Family Services

SIGNATURE AFFIDAVIT

In signing this bid I certify that I have not either directly or indirectly entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition, that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit a bid, that this bid has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other contractor, competitor, or potential competitor, that this bid has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of the bids to any other contractor or competitor, and that the above statement is accurate under the penalty of perjury.

The undersigned, submitting this bid, hereby agrees with all the terms, conditions, and specifications required by LCDJFS in this Invitation for Bid, and declare that the attached bid and pricing are in conformity therein.

Signature

Date

Name (Type or Print)

Firm

Title

Address

Email Address

Phone Number

BID EVALUATION SHEET

Lawrence County Department of Job & Family Services

Company/Individual Name Reviewed: _____

Reviewer Name: _____ Date: _____

The following questions should be addressed as a guide to assist in scoring. Answers marked "NO" will not disqualify a bid; however may be taken in consideration when scoring.

POINTS	SCORE	BID	COMMENTS
Yes/No		Provided the name, title, address, telephone, e-mail address, and fax number of the individuals to be contacted by LCDJFS	
Yes/No		Provided 3 references that can comment on the contractor's reliability and quality of service	
Yes/No		The company/individual completed required appendixes	
Maximum = 20		Record of past performance of the contractor in providing similar services	
Maximum = 15		Relevant public agency experience of the contractor in providing similar services	
Maximum = 10		If the contractor is an organization whose staff will collectively fulfill therequirements, the organization submitted qualifications of individuals thatwill be providing the services	
Maximum = 5		Direct or related experience the contractor has that indicates success inperforming the required services in an economical manner	
Maximum = 50		Clearly defined unit rate of service	
Maximum = 100		TOTAL POINTS	

