



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

February 11, 2022

Example

Tara Smith
Director
Department of Enterprise Services
P.O. Box 41401
Olympia, WA 98504-1401

Dear Ms. Smith:

SUBJECT: Request for Convenience Contract Authorization

The Health Care Authority (HCA) is requesting authorization to continue with a currently posted solicitation to create a pool of prequalified vendors to provide as needed health care consultation services.

HCA administers programs that provide health care coverage for nearly 1 in 3 Washington residents as well as community behavioral health services, supports, recovery and prevention efforts for the entire state. HCA is the state's largest health care purchaser and oversees the Medicaid program (Apple Health), Public Employees Benefits (PEB), and School Employees Benefits (SEB). Through these programs, HCA covers nearly 2.7 million lives.

HCA's policy and purchasing approaches are focused on transforming the health care delivery system in Washington state. These value-based purchasing strategies are designed to transform care through better health, better care, and lower cost; provide whole-person care through integrating physical and behavioral health services; and utilize data-informed evidence to make purchasing decisions that improve health outcomes.

HCA is experiencing a significant amount of organizational, system, and process changes as the agency responds to legislative directives, federal mandates, and market shifts. As health care continues to evolve, more programmatic and organizational changes will be required to align with federal, state, and industry expectations. HCA desires health care specific subject matter expertise to develop and drive health care initiatives as we evolve in our role as the largest health care purchaser and leader in the State of Washington.

Therefore, HCA is requesting approval from DES to establish convenience contracts to support this effort. See RCW 39.26.070 (a convenience contract "is a contract for goods and services, or both, that is solicited and established in accordance with the procurement law and rules for use by a specific agency...as needed from time to time"). These contracts will be for HCA use only.

Tara Smith
Director
February 11, 2022
Page 2

Approval of this request will allow HCA to continue the solicitation and subsequently enter convenience contracts with contractor(s) with expertise as health care consultants to provide support services to Washington state.

Thank you in advance for consideration of our request. Should you need additional information, please contact the RFP Coordinator, Danielle Mortenson, by email at Danielle.mortenson@hca.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN
Director

cc: Annette Schuffenhauer, Chief Legal Officer, DLS, HCA
Rachelle Amerine, Contract Administrator, DLS, HCA