

March 8, 2010

Sources Sought Notice:

Sources Sought Notice No.: HHS-NIH-NCI-SBSS-PCPSB-5012-55

Title: "Evaluation of Expanded NCI Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCP)"

This is a Small Business Sources Sought notice. This is **NOT** a solicitation for proposals, proposal abstracts, or quotations. The purpose of this notice is to obtain information regarding: (1) the availability and capability of qualified small business sources; (2) whether they are small businesses; HUBZone small businesses; service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses; 8(a) small businesses; veteran-owned small businesses; woman-owned small businesses; or small disadvantaged businesses; and (3) their size classification relative to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code for the proposed acquisition. Your responses to the information requested will assist the Government in determining the appropriate acquisition method, including whether a set-aside is possible. An organization that is not considered a small business under the applicable NAICS code should not submit a response to this notice.

ONLY SMALL BUSINESSES SHOULD RESPOND TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT.

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Outcome Research Branch, Applied Research Program, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS) is seeking capability statements from all eligible small business concerns under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code 541990, with a size standard of \$7,000,000 per annum. Based on the responses received from this SMALL BUSINESS SOURCES SOUGHT announcement, the proposed acquisition may be solicited as a Total Small Business Set-Aside.

The purpose of the proposed project is to 1) evaluate how ongoing and/or developing inter-organizational relationships of the expanded NCI Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCP) with other relevant NCI-sponsored research programs and funded organizations can differentially influence site performance across core program components; and 2) selectively analyze how other relevant environmental and organizational covariates (including relationships with community physicians in private practice) may directly influence program performance, or interact with research connections of various types to influence performance. Thereby, the Contractor will examine the relationships that individual NCCCP sites have with other NCI-sponsored programs. Based on these inter-organizational relationships, the evaluation will examine how these relationships contribute to the site's performance, as well as assessing how program performance differs across the NCCCP given the various types and intensities of linkages NCCCP sites have with other NCI programs. The anticipated contract will cover assessments at four levels of the NCCCP: environmental, organizational, physician, and patient care components. The Contractor will design the evaluation to include the

assessment of the type, scope, and intensity linkages between NCCCP sites and other NCI-sponsored programs. The Contractor will develop the metrics, study protocols, and analytical approaches and conduct a variety of assessments to examine the inter-organizational linkages, how they are established, how they function, and their influences on NCCCP performance at the individual sites.

All eligible small business concerns responding to this SSBS shall demonstrate an understanding that inter-organizational relationships of health care delivery organizations (such as the NCCCP sites have with other relevant research programs) and funded organizations [such as the NCI-designated comprehensive cancer centers and NCI's Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOPs)] can have differential influences on program performance. The small business concern shall demonstrate both practical and conceptual knowledge of ways to address how the specific type and forms of NCCCP sites' inter-organizational relationships drive program performance in the following areas: 1) building research capacity through: a. improved bio-specimen collection and reporting, b. early phase clinical trial accrual and physician participation, c. electronic data exchange, and d. use of ca-BIG tools and applications to facilitate personalized medicine and developing new research initiatives; 2) improving adherence to evidence-based practice across the cancer continuum through the use and measurement of clinical guidelines and their applications in NCCCP network quality improvement collaboratives; and 3) developing effective strategies that reduce cancer health disparities. Eligible small business concerns shall demonstrate the knowledge and expertise required to analyze how other relevant environmental and organizational covariates (including relationships with community physicians in private practice) may directly influence program performance or interact with research connections of various types to influence performance. It is important to demonstrate knowledge of and experience with relevant approaches to examine these influences at all four levels of assessments: environmental, organizational, physician, and patient.

Capability statements will be evaluated based on the following information: All eligible small business concerns responding to this SBSS notice shall demonstrate an understanding of the problems and challenges involved in executing complex, multi-phased and multi-method program evaluations, including: 1. Project Management of multiple parallel projects involving multiple community cancer centers and physician office-based practices. Management skills that encompass widespread areas of complex qualitative and quantitative projects (e.g., focus groups, case studies, survey research, and economic studies); 2. Analytical Support, including programming new statistical procedures that involve complicated functions and simulation studies to evaluate newly developed statistical procedures - capability should be shown in a variety of standard software packages such as SAS, SUDAAN, Stata and S+; 3. Statistical Methodology and Programming Support, including simulation and re-sampling techniques; 4. Qualitative methods, including key informant interviews, content analysis, and focus groups; 5. Data Management and Maintenance, including forms management, data entry, editing, file management, documentation, and program/systems development and maintenance to support large sets of data that are collected in accordance with complex protocols, e.g., cancer surveillance data bases - capability should be shown in the use of Oracle or

PostgreSQL in the management of complex file structures used to manage large, complex databases, conducting data linkages, and creating new linked datasets; 6. Report writing and publication support, including editing, editorial, and desktop publication;

In addition to the above, all eligible small business concerns must document the ability of their staff (at all levels) to interact regularly with the NCI program staff (weekly or monthly) and as needed to present status of tasks and resolve contract-related issues with NCI personnel (by phone or in person).

More information regarding the division's scientific projects can be found on the DCCPS website at URL: <http://dccps.nci.nih.gov/>.

Interested, qualified small business organizations should submit a tailored capability statement for this requirement, not to exceed 15 single-sided pages (including all attachments, resumes, charts, etc.), presented in single-space, and using a 12-point font size minimum that clearly details their capability to perform the aspects of the notice described above. All proprietary information should be marked as such. Capability statements must specify the small business type and size under the eligible small business concern's name and address on the first page of the document. Responses will be reviewed only by NIH personnel and will be held in a confidential manner.

All capability statements sent in response to this SOURCES SOUGHT notice must be submitted electronically (via email) in MS Word or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) to Sheronda Jones, Contracting Officer at Sheronda.Jones@nih.gov by March 23, 2010, 3:30PM, EST. All responses must be received by the specified due date and time in order to be considered.