

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTENT OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The County of Merced, on behalf of the Department of Public Health and the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA), will be requesting responses to this Request for Proposal (RFP) from qualified vendors to provide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Medical Director services. The Bidder must meet all required qualifications, pursuant to Health and Safety Code 1797.202. The EMS Medical Director provides leadership and expert opinion in the medical oversight, direction, and coordination of Emergency Medical Services within the County of Merced. The Merced County LEMSAs EMS Medical Director will be required to work approximately ten (10) hours per month. The start date will be October 1, 2027, with a three (3) year contract and two (2) year extensions on mutual consent.

The awarded applicant or organization will report directly to the LEMSAs EMS Administrator and provide medical control and assure medical accountability throughout the planning, implementation and evaluation of the EMS System. They will be responsible for implementing tasks such as those outlined in the requirements below. Services will be performed in accordance with the terms, conditions and specifications contained herein.

1.2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Merced County Department of Public Health, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency is the designated Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA) for Merced County and is responsible for planning, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of the County's emergency medical services system. Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 1797.202, (a) Every local EMS agency shall have a full-or part-time licensed physician and surgeon as medical director, who has substantial experience in the practice of emergency medicine, as designated by the county or by the joint powers agreement, to provide medical control and to assure medical accountability throughout the planning, implementation and evaluation of the EMS system.

The EMS Medical Director provides physician-level medical direction and clinical oversight for the County's prehospital emergency medical services system. Responsibilities include review and approval of clinical policies and treatment protocols, medical oversight of EMS personnel and specialty-care programs, participation in EMS advisory and quality improvement activities, and providing medical direction related to the delivery and evaluation of emergency medical services throughout Merced County.

Continued access to qualified EMS Medical Director services is necessary to maintain the County's statutory LEMSA responsibilities, ensure appropriate medical oversight of the local EMS system, and support the continued delivery of safe, consistent, and clinically appropriate prehospital emergency medical care.

REQUIREMENTS

1.3 SCOPE

1.3.1 Minimum Requirements:

- a. Possess a valid license as a physician with the ability to practice in the State of California.
- b. At least two (2) or more years of experience in emergency medicine practice including trauma, stroke and ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) services.
- c. Active or recent (within the last five (5) years) work as an emergency department physician.
- d. At least one (1) year of experience in an administrative staff capacity with an advanced level of responsibility working in the administration and management of an emergency medical services program.
- e. Two (2) years of experience working with multi-disciplinary committees.
- f. Responses should be from a single individual or agency only. No collaborations, partnerships, multi-agency, or fiscal sponsorship responses will be accepted.

1.3.2 Required Qualifications:

- a. Board certified in Emergency Medicine.
- b. Member of the California Medical Association (CMA), American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and/or National Association of EMS Physicians.
- c. Familiar with and knowledgeable in prehospital protocols, system issues, quality improvement processes, case review and disciplinary issues.

1.3.3 Meetings and EMS Functions:

- a. Commit ten (10) hours per month to the EMS agency in the following areas:
 - i. Attend quarterly Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) meetings.
 - ii. Attend Merced County EMS Trauma Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings as scheduled.
 - iii. Attend Stanislaus County EMS Trauma Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings as scheduled.

- iv. Attend and participate in the EMS Continuous Quality improvement Program (EQIP) meetings as scheduled.
- v. Attend and participate in Quarterly Emergency Medical Director's Association of California (EMDAC) meetings and other related EMDAC functions and activities.
- b. At the discretion of the Bidder, based upon the individual purchase request, act as signatory physician for Merced County Basic Life Support (BLS) Providers that do not have Medical Directors when ancillary BLS medical supplies are purchased, excluding Controlled Substances/Medications.
- c. Attend other meetings as scheduled.

1.3.4 Medical Control:

- a. Provide for review and approval of EMS Agency policies, protocols and guidelines as necessary.
- b. Assist with medical expertise for EMS Agency task forces, and medical sub-committees as required for development of the above-referenced policies, protocols, and guidelines.
- c. Work closely with county personnel, Merced County Department of Public Health, Local EMS Agency (LEMSA) Director, LEMSAs Administrator and constituency groups to ensure highest clinical standards are achieved within the Local EMS System.
- d. Work closely with area hospitals to coordinate emergency prehospital patient care and to ensure a smooth interface of patient Transfer of Care from field EMS personnel to the hospital's receiving staff.
- e. Ensure that the Local EMS System provides state-of-the-art, safe care to the county's citizens and visitors.
- f. Ensure excellent clinical prehospital care through patient chart review, direct observation, quality assurance/Improvement processes and clinical data analysis.

1.3.5 Certification/Accreditation/Authorization:

- a. Provide for Certification, Accreditation and Authorization, as appropriate for EMS personnel meeting the requirements as set forth by state and local regulations and/or policies.
- b. Act as signatory authority for certain BLS provider purchases.

1.3.6 Disciplinary Action:

- a. Make recommendations on disposition of Incident Reports.
- b. Provide counseling and/or disciplinary action for Certified, Licensed and/or Authorized EMS personnel, as required.

1.4 SPECIFIC COMPLIANCE

The Bidder awarded the Agreement derived from this proposal will be required to abide by all applicable local, federal and state laws and regulations, including, but not limited to:

- HSC § 1797.202 – Medical Director Requirement
- HSC § 1797.220 – Local Medical Control
- HSC §§ 1797.204–1797.223
- HSC §§ 1798–1798.207
- HSC § 1797.221
- California Code of Regulations, Title 22