

2024-2028 Core Rehabilitation Services Limited Rebid Opportunity
RFP GC25-005
Questions/Answers Document

ONLINE APPLICATION

1. Does the web application save and store information in a 'draft' status, or does everything need to be completed in one sitting?

ANSWER

The application does not save and store information in a draft status. Please complete the application in one sitting.

2. Is there a place to see all pages of the online application so we can prepare.

ANSWER

All pages of the application are accessible online. Applicants can take screenshots or print the pages themselves if they believe that would be helpful to prepare their application, but those pages should not be uploaded. All applications must be submitted online.

3. In the Bidders conference/Power point it stated "NYSED will send an automatic email confirmation upon receipt". Once you submitted application online and you don't get an email confirmation? What request should be made and to whom should that request be made? Should you resubmit application online a second time?

ANSWER

Email confirmation receipts may have gone to your spam or junk mail, so please check those folders. If you would like to confirm receipt of your application, please email vrsupport@nysed.gov. Please include the subject line "RFP#GC25-005: Requesting Email Confirmation. [Applicant Name]".

4. So if we have all of those services we still have to click on all of them if we are just interested in adding 3 more?

ANSWER

No, applicants only need to select the new services you wish to apply for.

APPLYING

5. I have already applied for the RFP #GC25-005 and received our award letter for RFP GC25-005. Do we have to re-apply or only complete if we want to add services.

ANSWER

No, you do not have to reapply if you already applied for and received an award for the original procurement RFP#24-003 Core Rehabilitation Services. Current CRS2024 contractors should only apply if they wish to offer additional services that were not awarded in the original procurement.

6. Can you please explain what this re-bid means? It is not clear in this email and I am not sure if this pertains to my agency who has had a contract with ACCESS VR for many years including this new RFP which started in 2024.

ANSWER

This procurement is a reissue of GC#24-003 Core Rehabilitation Services that awarded contracts that commenced on January 1, 2024. ACCES-VR identified specific service gaps at our District Offices and this RFP aims to address these gaps. Current contractors who already have a CRS 2024 contract with ACCES-VR should only apply to **add any additional services** that were not previously awarded.

7. We currently have a contract. We are able to provide many more services than outlined in our current contract. What is the process for us to expand our current contract? Should we submit a proposal for the re-bid or is there another channel we should pursue?

ANSWER

You should only apply if you are seeking to **add any additional services** listed in this RFP that are not part of your existing CRS contract.

8. We are a current PreETS vendor, however when we submitted our initial applicationwide under the original CRS RFP we did not submit for the codes 964x/1002x at that time. However, now we would like to submit for these codes under the rebid. Since we are an existing PreETS vendor are we able to submit a request under this rebid to potentially add these services to our existing PreETS contract?

ANSWER

Yes, as a current CRS2024 vendor you can apply for this procurement opportunity to add selected services outlined in this RFP#GC25-005 on pages 7-11 that were not previously awarded to you. Current CRS2024 contractors that are successful in receiving an award through this RFP will have the award processed as a contract amendment.

9. The email notice states that “Current CRS2024 contractors SHOULD NOT apply unless they wish to provide services not awarded in the original procurement.” I would not be applying for new services, just for additional funding.

ANSWER

This rebid is not a method for additional funding. Any funding increases would need to be addressed through a contract amendment process. ACCES-VR may increase or decrease estimated contract values during the contract term based on customer need. The amendment process to increase a contract value is described in Section 3 of the RFP#GC25-005, pages 75-76. This is a process initiated by the District Office.

10. We are a current CRS2024 Contractor and have the ability to provide a higher capacity than our current contract award with our approved services. Could we apply thru this RFP process for an amendment to our contract for the existing services in our current contract in addition to applying for other services to fill in the gaps?

ANSWER

This rebid is not a method for additional funding. Any funding increases would need to be addressed through a contract amendment process. ACCES-VR may increase or decrease estimated contract values during the contract term based on customer need. The amendment process to increase a contract value is described in Section 3 of the RFP#GC25-005, pages 75-76. This is a process initiated by the District Office.

11. I would like to clarify the sentence below; Current CRS2024 contractors SHOULD NOT apply unless they wish to provide services not awarded in the original procurement. If a CRS contractor was awarded the services but the annual contract award is less than their stated capacity, do we apply for more capacity? We are unable to apply for other CRS service lines.

ANSWER

No, current CRS2024 contractors should not apply solely to add more funding to their existing contract. This rebid is not a method for additional funding.

12. If there is a demonstrated need for a service in a district but that service was not included in the rebid, will there be an opportunity to add this particular service to the RFP?

ANSWER

No, if a service is not included in this RFP, it cannot be applied for. However, the RFP may be reissued again in the future to address additional service gaps.

13. Will the state consider adding additional services not currently listed on the RFP? In particular, our agency would like to rebid on 100X STANDARDIZED TESTING / SPECIALIZED EVALUATIONS for the Albany region. In speaking with the Albany DO, there is a need for this service so I was surprised to see it omitted.

ANSWER

This RFP may be reissued again in the future, if needed, to address additional service gaps.

14. Does this bid have anything related to deaf services?

ANSWER

All of the services within this RFP#GC25-005 are available to ACCES-VR customers who are deaf. Several services have established service rates for customers who are deaf/hard of hearing and/or blind/visually impaired. These deaf and blind service rates will not be combined with any other fees for interpreters. For the full description of services, please review the Description of Services section of the RFP on pages 7-63.

15. Am I eligible to bid on this?

ANSWER

Please refer to page 2 of this RFP under Eligible Applicants to determine if you are eligible to apply.

16. Can I apply to become a provider?

ANSWER

Please refer to page 2 of this RFP under Eligible Applicants to determine if you are eligible to apply.

17. Can you check if we are already on this contract? And we are a for profit organization, this limited rebid we cannot rebid as we are not a non-profit organization?

ANSWER

Questions regarding your status as a current vendor should be sent to VRServiceDelivery@nysed.gov. For profit organizations are eligible to apply for this RFP. Please refer to page 2 of this RFP under Eligible Applicants for a detailed description of who is eligible to apply.

18. NOI - do we need to submit another Notice of Intent for the Rebid Application?

ANSWER

The Notice of Intent (NOI) is not a requirement for submitting a complete application for the 2024-2028 CRS Limited Rebid opportunity, however, NYSED strongly encourages all prospective applicants to submit an NOI to ensure a timely and thorough review and rating process.

19. Do we need to re-submit the resumes for the staff who oversee and provide services or just for new staff that are added to the rebid application?

ANSWER

Applicants must include resumes of all staff that will be responsible for the delivery of services that they are applying to provide under this RFP#GC25-005.

20. The resume requirements state a service code indicated on each resume (contact information not required, only employment history, certifications, and education with documentation).
- a. *Do we list all the service codes or just indicate the staff tier level?*
 - b. *What additional documentation is required besides what is noted on the resume?*

ANSWER

ACCES-VR requires applicants for Core Rehabilitation Services to have staff that meet educational, experience, and supervision requirements, and where applicable certifications and/or licensures as identified in the RFP for each service they will be providing. The applicant must provide resumes of all qualified staff who will provide CRS services. Each resume submitted must include all the service codes that the staff member will be responsible for delivering. The resume serves as verification of the individual's qualifications to provide these services and should align with the qualification requirements specified for each service in the RFP. ACCES-VR does not require any other documentation of staff qualifications at the time of application, but all verifications of qualifications have to be available upon request.

21. Amendments - With this rebid opportunity, can a vendor request to also remove a service if they are not able to provide a service listed on the current contract?

ANSWER

No, this rebid is not a mechanism to remove a service already awarded. If you are not able to provide a service, please send an e-mail to CRS2024@nysed.gov and copy your liaison district office. A contract amendment might be initiated to remove the service from the contract already awarded.

22. For this RFP, is it possible to request a contract amendment to increase the awarded amount initially awarded or is this rebid just to add additional services? The concern is the dollars awarded were based on enrollment during COVID. It is not based on the current needs of the community.

ANSWER

This rebid is not a method for additional funding. Any funding increases would need to be addressed through a contract amendment process. ACCES-VR may increase or decrease estimated contract values during the contract term based on customer need. The amendment process to increase a contract value is described in Section 3 of the RFP#GC25-005, pages 75-76. This is a process initiated by the District Office.

23. If we wanted to add additional counties to serve under ACCES-VR should we go through with the rebid process?

ANSWER:

No. To add additional locations for services that have already been awarded, please contact us at VRServiceDelivery@nysed.gov and submit your request.

24. I would like to confirm whether a vendor who is not currently offering services to a specific district office can submit a proposal in response to this RFP to provide services to additional district offices. For instance, if a vendor initially applied to offer services only to District Office A, can they now submit a proposal to offer those services in one or more of the other districts specified in the RFP?

ANSWER

To add additional locations for services that have already been awarded, please contact us at VRServiceDelivery@nysed.gov and submit your request. You should not apply for this opportunity if you are not seeking to add services to your current contract.

25. Are vendors for this RFP NYS Vendors or is this open to vendors in other states? It is our understanding that vendors from other states can apply. It would be in our best interest to service the local community within person and in county services.

ANSWER

All eligible vendors are welcome to apply. Although, it is not required for vendors to be based in New York State at the time of application, all of the services included in the RFP must be available for an in-person provision if requested by the customer.

26. For the rebid of new service; does the agency have to resubmit all supported documents that was sent with the previous contract?

ANSWER

Applicants must include all required supporting documentation for each of the services that they are applying to provide under this RFP#GC25-005.

27. Can we submit a program idea to learn if it qualifies for funding?

ANSWER

This procurement is a reissue of GC#24-003 Core Rehabilitation Services that awarded contracts that commenced on January 1, 2024. If you can provide a service listed in this RFP as described, please apply.

28. To confirm, if we have a current contract, the contract will be extended without any further actions on our part. Correct?

ANSWER

Current CRS2024 vendors who do not wish to provide **any additional services** that were not awarded in the original procurement do not need to apply. Their current CRS2024 contract will not change. Current CRS2024 contractors that receive an award under this RFP will keep the same contract period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028.

29. Is the Hauppauge district office eligible to apply for the rebid, the Suffolk office was not listed as one of the 15 identified gap areas.

ANSWER

Yes, the Hauppauge District Office is one of the offices that identified service gaps. For the full description of service gaps in the Hauppauge District Office please refer to Section 1 of the RFP, page 8.

30. We would like to know if we are able to increase the capacity for services that we have already been awarded in our CRS? Or if this Rebid is ONLY for new services? For instance, pre-ETS we would like to add Potentially eligible (which we do not currently have in our contract). But also increase the capacity for the pre-ETS in which we were awarded in our CRS contract. (As we now have the staffing and ability to do more than we originally budgeted for, when we did our contract.)

ANSWER

This rebid is **only** to apply for new services not awarded in your current CRS contract. From the example you are giving, you should apply for this RFP if you are seeking to provide pre-ETS for Potentially Eligible and you do not have those services listed in your current contract. This rebid is not a mechanism to increase capacity for services already awarded or to add contract value. NYSED reserves the right to adjust the contract value over the life of the contract when it can establish that there is no longer sufficient capacity for a particular service within a region. The application of performance and quality measures will be considered when seeking any amendments. **This process is initiated by an ACCES-VR district office not by the vendor.** The amendment process to increase a contract value is described in Section 3 of the RFP#GC25-005, pages 75-76.

31. Springbrook has an ACCES VR contract with Southern Tier and referrals/services from the Syracuse office utilize funds this 1 contract. Should we submit an RFP to create another contract with Syracuse District office?

ANSWER

No, you should not apply for this rebid if your only goal is to be able to provide services already awarded under your current CRS contract to additional district offices. To add additional locations for services that have already been awarded, please contact us at VRServiceDelivery@nysed.gov and submit your request.

32. If we are a current vendor not looking to make any changes to our services do we need to do anything on the ACCES rebid page?

ANSWER

No. Your current CRS contract will stay the same without any action on your part.

33. If we have staffing changes do we need to go into the rebid page and enter in the new staff information there if all services are remaining the same?

ANSWER

No. Current CRS contractors are required to notify the ACCES-VR District Office of any changes in staffing that occur after contracts are awarded.

34. I have informed ACCES-VR on many occasions that individuals in our area are in desperate need for the Benefit Advisor service. Please considering adding this service to the rebid RFP.

ANSWER

This RFP may be reissued again in the future, if needed, to address additional service gaps.

35. Should a current CRS contractor apply if already awarded services in these regions, but would like to increase number of referred clients and annual budget?

ANSWER

No. To discuss an increase in the number of referrals and contract value you should contact the District Office.

36. If an agency is currently contracted to provide a particular service but would like to expand to an additional District Office, is it necessary to respond to this RFP?

ANSWER

No. To add additional locations for services that have already been awarded, please contact us at VRServiceDelivery@nysed.gov and submit your request.

37. I am just double checking this- we only need prequalification for services if we were making additions to our existing contract that was issued in 2024? If we are not seeking additional services, we do not need to do anything as our contract is good for 5 years.

ANSWER

That is correct. If you are not seeking any additional services, you should not respond to this RFP. Your contract will stay the same.

38. If an agency is currently contracted to provide a particular service but would like to expand, is it necessary to respond to this RFP or would that be handled through a contract amendment?

ANSWER

If you wish to expand the types of services you offer (e.g., by adding additional service codes to your contract), you should respond to this RFP and apply for those additional services. However, if your expansion involves increasing the number of district office locations, you should not submit a response to this RFP. Instead, please contact us directly at VRServiceDelivery@nysed.gov.

39. If I am currently receiving ACCES services and I already have an approved contract for 2024-2028 and I am looking to add new services, do I have to add all of the services I am currently receiving to my re-bid request or am I only requesting the new services?

ANSWER

Current contractors who already have a CRS2024 contract with ACCES-VR should only apply to **add any services** that were not previously awarded.

PRE-QUALIFICATION

40. I am curious to find out if an extension could be possible in order to submit the prequalification paperwork.

ANSWER

No. Pursuant to the New York State Division of the Budget bulletin H-1032 (revised January 9, 2024), not-for profit organizations must Prequalify to do business with New York State agencies before they can compete for State grants. Nonprofits must receive approved prequalification status prior to grant application and execution of contracts. Grant proposals received from nonprofits that are not Prequalified in SFS by 5:00 PM on the application due date of **January 31, 2025**, will not be evaluated. Such proposals will be disqualified from further consideration.

41. Our nonprofit organization is awaiting our IRS determination letter but I do not want to be automatically disqualified from the Core Rehab rebid because we haven't received the necessary paperwork from the IRS before the application deadline.

ANSWER

If your organization has filed with the IRS and the determination is pending, then in your application submit verification of your pending application with the IRS.

42. Prequalification Requirement - Do we need to register again in SFA and become prequalified for the rebid?

ANSWER

In New York State, a vendor typically needs to re-qualify annually to maintain their vendor status, meaning they should update their information and submit necessary documents every year to remain prequalified for state contracts. Detailed information on how to [register](#) with SFS and [become prequalified](#) is available on the [Grants Management website](#).

43. Do you have to pre-qualify again if we recently did in 2024?

ANSWER

In New York State, a vendor typically needs to re-prequalify annually to maintain their vendor status, meaning they should update their information and submit necessary documents every year to remain prequalified for state contracts. Detailed information on how to [register](#) with SFS and [become prequalified](#) is available on the [Grants Management website](#).

44. Did I hear you say that the new prequalification on page 2 needs to be done by December 20th? or is that incorrect?

ANSWER

Some previous communications had an incorrect date. All not-for-profit institutions must complete the prequalification requirement by the application deadline of **January 31, 2024**, to be eligible for an award under this RFP.

45. I own a for profit LLC, Camillus Vocational Services, do I have to prequalify before submitting CRS RFP ?

ANSWER

The prequalification requirement applies only to not-for-profits. All not-for-profit institutions must complete the prequalification requirement by the application deadline of **January 31, 2024**, to be eligible for an award under this RFP.

46. Does this apply to BEST Associates (pre-qualification)? We would like to do FCEs again which somehow became a contracted service and we were unaware.

ANSWER

All not-for-profit vendors are required to pre-qualify by the grant application deadline. This includes all currently funded not-for-profit institutions that have already received an award and are in the middle of the program cycle. The prequalification must be completed by all not-for-profit institutions by the application deadline of **January 31, 2024**, in order to be eligible for an award under this RFP.

47. What does the "new Prequalification" mean?

ANSWER

New York State has moved the Prequalification process for not-for-profits from Grants Gateway to the Statewide Financial System (SFS). Detailed information on how to [register](#) with SFS and [become prequalified](#) is available on the [Grants Management website](#).

48. Do we need to prequalify again if we are a current CRS 2024-2028 contract holder?

ANSWER

All not-for-profit vendors are required to pre-qualify by the grant application deadline. **This includes all currently funded not-for-profit institutions that have already received an award and are in the middle of the program cycle.** The prequalification must be completed by all not-for-profit institutions by the application deadline of **January 31, 2024**, in order to receive an award under this RFP. In New York State, a vendor typically needs to re-prequalify annually to maintain their vendor status, meaning they should update their information and submit necessary documents every year to remain prequalified for state contracts. Detailed information on how to [register](#) with SFS and [become prequalified](#) is available on the [Grants Management](#) website (<https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/>).

49. Who needs to pre-qualify?

ANSWER

All not-for-profit vendors are required to pre-qualify by the grant application deadline. This includes all currently funded not-for-profit institutions that have already received an award and are in the middle of the program cycle. The prequalification must be completed by all not-for-profit institutions by the application deadline of **January 31, 2024**, in order to receive an award under this RFP.

PRE-ETS

50. Do individual students receiving pre-ETS need to be authorized prior to services starting? If so, please describe the authorization process and expected timeline.

ANSWER

Yes, all CRS services require a prior authorization before the service starts. The authorization timeline will reflect the referred customer's availability to engage in services.

51. Can pre-ETS services be provided in a cohort model, with a group of students beginning and ending a pre-ETS course on a specific start and stop date?

ANSWER

Yes, pre-ETS can be provided in a group setting.

52. If pre-ETS is offered in a group setting, as a cohorted class, are reports and deliverables due at the conclusion of the course? For instance, if the course is 100 total hours for 10 students, does the vendor submit the required reports at the end of the 100 hours for each of the services offered?

ANSWER

Vendors are encouraged to bill in a timely manner. Billing is completed individually for each customer receiving the service. Vendors can bill monthly, after each service is completed, once all units of a specific service have been provided or when it is determined that the service will no longer continue.

53. Do all customers have to be referred by ACCES-VR?

ANSWER

All customers except potentially eligible students with disabilities (SWDs) must be referred by ACCES-VR to receive services. Vendors serving potentially eligible SWDs will make a referral to ACCES-VR for any student with a disability they wish to serve. Vendors serving potentially eligible SWDs will identify the students, collect documentation verifying they meet the definition of a Student with a Disability, and submit that information as a referral to ACCES-VR for review, approval, and authorization to deliver pre-ETS to potentially eligible SWDs. Vendors should not provide any services before receiving an authorization from ACCES-VR.

54. Can customers be referred by ACCES-VR?

ANSWER

All customers except potentially eligible students with disabilities (SWDs) must be referred by ACCES-VR to receive services from our contracted vendors.

55. Can a pre-ETS course be offered over a period of time, such as 10-18 weeks, to allow for adequate instruction and limited interruption of a student's other educational experiences?

ANSWER

All pre-ETS services have to be provided according to the approved syllabus or curriculum. The length of time for pre-ETS services will depend on the number of units that the ACCES-VR counselor authorizes.

56. If an 18-year-old graduates in June 2025 with a high school diploma but is referred for the post-secondary program- Career Launch, which starts in the fall of 2025. How does

that effect the authorization timeline? The RFP says services need to be implemented 10 days after authorization. Does the referral need to be submitted 10 days before the start of the program, not before?

ANSWER

Services should begin within 10 days of the authorization start date. ACCES-VR counselors are expected to issue authorizations based on the customer's availability to start a particular service **and** the planned service dates. All vendors providing CRS services must meet all the deliverables required and provide services as described within this RFP regardless of any other vendor agreement with ACCES-VR.

57. For a program like Career Launch, where the pre-ET services are embedded into the curriculum, how can reports be submitted? Can all reports for all implemented pre-ET services be completed at the end of the program for each student?

ANSWER

All vendors providing CRS services must meet all the deliverables required and provide services as described within this RFP regardless of any other vendor agreement with ACCES-VR. Each service has its own deliverable form which should be completed either at the end of the service or at the end of the month. Each report must be individualized and include enough details to demonstrate how the specific pre-ETS services were provided to each student.

58. With the RFP grant, instead of individual/ group pre-ET services being implemented, a program (Career Launch) is created that includes introductory skill trade training (manufacturing and construction) with pre-ET services integrated into the program. This program will train students in career areas and provide career readiness skills to help achieve competitive employment in targeted career areas (manufacturing and construction). The Career Launch program is a "post-secondary" program. Can an 18-year-old high school graduate, enroll in this program even though they are not currently enrolled in an educational program?

ANSWER

No. An 18-year-old who is currently not enrolled in an educational program is not eligible to receive Pre-Employment Transition Services (pre-ETS). Pre-ETS are only available for students who meet the definition of a student with a disability (SWD). SWDs are defined as individuals who: have a documented disability; are enrolled in a secondary, post-secondary, or other recognized educational or training program (e.g., home school, high school equivalency programs, college or a vocational technical program); are not younger than 14 years of age AND are not older than 22 years of age or

reached their 23rd birthday. All vendors providing CRS services must meet all the deliverables required and provide services as described within this RFP regardless of any other vendor agreement with ACCES-VR.

59. If several pre-ET services are embedded into the curriculum of the program, can the curriculum of the program be submitted or does there need to be a curriculum for each pre-ET service?

ANSWER

There needs to be a separate curriculum for each pre-ETS. We will not accept a program curriculum that includes multiple services. All vendors providing CRS services must provide services as described within this RFP regardless of any other vendor agreement with ACCES-VR

60. If the program accepts potentially eligible students and VR eligible students, after we collect necessary documentation and releases required for ACCES-VR approval, how many business days does it take to hear back from ACCES-VR regarding approval?

ANSWER

ACCES-VR approval and authorization for pre-ETS for potentially eligible students will be processed promptly if all required information is provided. However, it is difficult to specify the exact number of days it may take.

61. Can a graduating senior with a disability, who is not yet ready for competitive employment due to a gap in self-advocacy and employment-related soft skills, be referred to a Pre-ETS program if they won't start Pre-ETS until after their graduation date?

ANSWER

No, unless they are enrolled in an educational program or provide documentation they are taking a gap year. Please refer to the CRS 2024 Program Guide, Section 2 Pre-Employment Transition Services for Students with Disabilities. Pre-ETS can only be provided to individuals who meet the definition of a Student with a Disability (SWD). A SWD is defined as an individual who: has a documented disability, is enrolled in a secondary, post-secondary, or other recognized educational program (e.g., home school, high school equivalency programs, college or a vocational technical program), is not younger than 14 years of age, is not older than 22 years of age or reached their 23rd birthday.

Once an individual reaches age 23 or is no longer enrolled in a recognized educational program, pre-ETS are no longer available. However, similar adult services can be authorized and provided if needed.

62. Can a pre-ETS course integrate 2 or more services into one course? When submitting curriculum documentation for pre-ETS, do you want to see an individual curriculum document for each pre-ETS Service? Or can the curriculum be integrated into one document, with each service and time spent on each service identified?

ANSWER

Vendors applying to provide pre-ETS, excluding Work-Based Learning Experience Wage Reimbursement (Case Service Codes 963X and PE 1001X), must submit a detailed syllabus or curriculum outlining the content of the proposed service as part of their application. All syllabi and curricula will be reviewed and approved by the District Office before any pre-ETS are provided. Vendors are required to submit a separate syllabus or curriculum for each service that requires one.

63. Under the Service Work Based Learning Experience (Service Codes 557x and PE 1009x) - What is the minimum amount of hours/sessions to satisfy completion for the flat rate of \$836?

ANSWER

WBLE is not an hourly service or session-based. Unit of service is a flat rate upon completion of service. Payment will be processed once the vendor develops an activity and submits a corresponding report.

64. Is WBLE a group service or an individual service? If it is a group service is there a minimum/maximum number of people for the group?

ANSWER

While WBLE can be provided in a group setting, it should be tailored to meet the individual needs and interests of each student, as outlined in the ACCES-VR referral. ACCES-VR does not define group size, but vendors should use their professional judgment and limit the group size based on the customers' needs, subject, and staffing.

65. Regarding Work-Based Learning Experiences Development (557X), could you please clarify if WBLEs must include an internship, or if they can consist of a variety of activities and still have the student get paid for their participation? For example, can a student participate in WBLEs and receive payment under 963X if those activities include

volunteering, job shadowing, etc., as an incentive to participate and to help build their resumes?

ANSWER

An internship is one of many activities that are considered work experiences and can be provided under 557X. For the full description of this service please refer to page 22 of this RFP.

Wage refers to the compensation paid to an individual for their work, particularly within competitive integrated employment and therefore the wage reimbursement mechanism – Work-Based Learning Experience (WBLE) Wage Reimbursement (963X and PE1001X) - can be used to reimburse customers for their work in the community which they would typically get paid for but cannot be due to the employer’s inability or unwillingness to put our customer on their payroll.

66. Regarding WBLE wage reimbursement – Can you clarify whether a customer must be paid an hourly wage for all WBLE activities? The first section on page 22 states that experiences can be paid or unpaid, but the language on page 23 states that wage reimbursement is provided when the “employer is unable or unwilling to put the SWD on their payroll.” This seems to imply that SWD must be paid, either by an employer or the vendor.

ANSWER

Work-Based Learning Experience (WBLE) Development provided under service code 557X for eligible and 1009X for potentially eligible (PE) students can be paid or unpaid. The referral form from ACCES-VR should indicate which type of experience the student is seeking. If not included on the referral form, the vendor should discuss it with the referring counselor and the customer prior to developing the Work-Based Learning Experience site. If the employer is not able to pay for the student’s work during the experience, and the vendor is willing and approved to provide wage reimbursement, ACCES-VR can authorize wage reimbursement codes – 963X for eligible students, and 1001X for potentially eligible students.

67. Are we required to offer paid WBLE activities as part of Pre-ETS?

ANSWER

Payment for site-based experiences can be provided by the employer or reimbursed by ACCES-VR via Work-Based Learning. Vendors are not required to provide paid WBLE activities. However, if you choose not to offer them, please inform the district office so they are aware and do not send you referrals that you are unable to accommodate.

68. Would an example of “simulated workplace experience” include a welding or machining project-based learning unit in a classroom/lab? Is there a maximum number of hours that can be included in the curriculum for simulated work experiences?

ANSWER

It would depend on the specifics of the program you are describing in your question. Simulated workplace experiences are work-based learning activities that simulate work environments in any field. Examples include automotive or construction programs in which sustained industry involvement allows students to develop and apply their skills in the context of industry standards and expectations. No, there is no maximum number of hours that can be included for simulated work experience. However, the number of hours included in the curriculum for simulated work experiences should be individualized based on the needs of the ACCES-VR customer.

69. Does the vendor have to complete all 10 activities listed on the VR 557/PE-1009 to bill for the Flat Rate?

ANSWER

Each activity is a billable service. ACCES-VR can authorize multiple units of work-based learning experiences (WBLE) when required for the student.

70. Can you clarify what is meant by “amount of time from authorization start date to commencement of services is ten business days”? Is the authorization start date the start date of the pre-ETS class?

ANSWER

No, the authorization start date is the earliest date that the service can start. The expectation is that the pre-ETS class would begin within 10 business days of that date.

71. Can you clarify what is meant by “amount of time from authorization start date to commencement of services is ten business days”? Does this mean that any service offered must be take no more than 10 days?

ANSWER

No, it does not mean that. The vendor is expected to begin services within 10 business days of the authorization start date. The service will continue until all units authorized are provided or the customer is no longer interested or able to participate in the service authorized.

72. Is there a weekly, monthly, or total maximum of hours for pre-ETS services per student?

ANSWER

No.

73. What documentation is needed for a SWD to prove they are “enrolled in a secondary, post-secondary, or other recognized educational program”?

ANSWER

To prove enrollment in an educational program, it is typically required to provide documentation such as an official enrollment letter from the institution, class schedules, or tuition payment receipts. This documentation should clearly indicate the individual's status as a student in the program.

74. Does enrollment in a BOCES adult education literacy, work readiness or career training program count as an approved enrollment for an SWD?

ANSWER

To meet the definition of a SWD, an individual has to be enrolled in a recognized educational program that is officially acknowledged for providing training and education **leading to a postsecondary credential, certificate, or degree**. Work readiness programs are not typically considered recognized educational programs, but adult education programs are.

75. I am writing with regards to a question regarding the WORK-BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCE (WBLE) WAGE REIMBURSEMENT (PE 1001X).

Can we pay the SWD with a stipend which would be equal to or greater than the NYC minimum wage requirement rather than putting them on NYC Public School's payroll?

ANSWER

No, you cannot pay the SWD with a stipend. The Student with a Disability needs to be put on the payroll for compensation for work tasks they are performing. Work-Based Learning Experience Wage Reimbursement is intended for vendors to pay ACCES-VR customers for work they are engaging in when employers are unable or unwilling to do so. The rate for this service is inclusive of the wages being paid to the ACCES-VR customer and the vendor's administrative costs for putting our customers on their payroll.

76. What are the qualifications for staff for 121x and 124x?

ANSWER

Please refer to page 64 of the RFP under Vendor Staffing Requirements: Qualifications for a detailed description for each Service Category.

77. Could you clarify whether pre-ETS services require a referral from a VR counselor to begin? Who initiates the referral, the vendor or the VR counselor?

ANSWER

Vendors serving potentially eligible students with disabilities will initiate a referral to ACCES-VR for the students they wish to serve. To provide pre-ETS to potentially eligible students the vendor will identify the students, collect documentation verifying they meet the definition of a Student with a Disability, and submit information via referral to ACCES-VR for review, approval, and authorization to deliver pre-ETS to potentially eligible SWDs. Referrals of students that have been determined eligible by ACCES-VR for pre-ETS services will be initiated by ACCES-VR and sent to the vendor.

78. Can you describe the expectations for how VR counselors refer clients to CRS contractors for pre-ETS in these region offices? Can a vendor expect a minimum number of authorizations per region office?

ANSWER

No, a vendor cannot expect a minimum number of authorizations from each District Office. ACCES-VR staff refer customers to vendors for pre-ETS (and all CRS services) based on customer need and informed choice. When awarded, estimated contract values do not guarantee a minimum funding amount and are not a guarantee of a specific number of referrals by ACCES-VR. ACCES-VR counselors use their professional judgment, consider the customer's employment factors, and respect the customer's informed choice when selecting the most appropriate service provider to meet the customer's needs.

79. Is the service gap related to eligible or potentially eligible clients for pre-ETS?

ANSWER

Both. ACCES-VR is seeking additional vendors to provide pre-ETS for both potentially eligible and eligible students with disabilities. Please refer to pages 7-11 of the RFP in the Background Section for a breakdown of the specific services within each District Office included in this procurement.

80. Is the service gap meant to address eligible (requiring referrals from VR counselors) or potentially eligible clients (requiring outreach and partnership directly with LEAs)?

ANSWER

Both. ACCES-VR is seeking additional vendors to provide pre-ETS for both potentially eligible and eligible students with disabilities. Please refer to pages 7-11 of the RFP in the Background Section for a breakdown of the specific services within each District Office included in this procurement.

81. How will providers and counselors work collaboratively to assign and authorize scope of services in timely fashion?

ANSWER

As required by federal regulation, ACCES-VR, not the vendor, has the responsibility of authorizing services and determining the scope of services required for customers to reach their employment outcome. Communication between ACCES-VR, customers and vendors is critical for ACCES-VR to complete authorizations to vendors that meet the customer's needs and reflect accurate service dates.

82. Is there a minimum number of units expected to be delivered per authorization?

ANSWER

All authorizations include the number of units the vendor is expected to provide.

83. Will there be a maximum number of students in each pre-ETS group and if so, what will it be?

ANSWER

ACCES-VR does not define group size, but vendors should use their professional judgment and limit the group size based on the customers' needs, subject, and staffing.

84. Will there be an annual maximum payment for services provided per student and if so, what is it?

ANSWER

No, ACCES-VR did not establish an annual maximum payment amount for services provided per student. Services are authorized based on the student's needs.

85. The current Vendor Guide indicates that all vendors must provide pre-ETS to a minimum of 250 students a year. Will there be a minimum number of students for this RFP, and if so, what is it?

ANSWER

There is no such requirement regarding minimum number of students served in the current 2024 Core Rehabilitation Services Guide. This procurement is a reissue of GC#24-003 Core Rehabilitation Services that awarded contracts that commenced on January 1, 2024. The requirements for each service are defined in the Description of Services section of the RFP#GC25-005 pages 7-63.

86. What happens if ACCES-VR refers a SWD to a vendor and the vendor is unable to provide service as expected?

ANSWER

The vendor should contact the referring counselor as soon as it becomes clear that they are unable to provide the authorized service as expected.

87. On pages 17-18, the RFP notes that some SWD may require ancillary services to access Pre-ETS and that in some cases the counselor may authorize the services. Can you clarify whether the vendor is responsible for funding the ancillary services and/or providing them? For instance, if a SWD is in need of transportation to access services, would the vendor be responsible for facilitating and/or funding that transportation? If so, does that necessitate the vendor to include transportation I or II as a case service in their application?

ANSWER

The vendor is not responsible for funding of the ancillary services. ACCES-VR will refer and pay for any necessary ancillary services if they are required for an eligible student with a disability to participate in pre-ETS. Vendors who have the ability to provide transportation services should consider applying for it in this RFP.

88. What is the process for ACCES-VR to approve qualified staff (to deliver pre-ETS)?

ANSWER

Bidders for this RFP#GC25-005 must include resumes (or job descriptions if staff is not yet hired) for all staff members providing the services outlined in their application. These resumes will be reviewed and approved as part of the application evaluation process. If there are any changes to the vendor's staff after the initial approval, the vendor must inform the ACCES-VR District Office about their staffing changes. Vendors must also submit resumes of any new staff hired to the ACCES-VR District Office for review and approval.

89. Would a Certified School Counselor/Transition Specialist be qualified to deliver pre-ETS curriculum?

ANSWER

Please refer to page 64 of the RFP#GC25-005 under Vendor Staffing Requirements Qualifications for a detailed description for each Service Category.

ASSESSMENT SERVICES (FCE)

90. “Diagnosed disabilities, physician and current medication (For assessment and training providers)”. I do not understand this question. If I understand it correctly, this would be included in the medical history and intake. Please advise.

ANSWER

Yes, this information would typically be provided by an ACCES-VR counselor as part of the referral.

91. Question regarding stamping documents and marked confidential. I never was required to do this with FCE reports and would find it difficult to stamp reports. Please provide more clarity.

ANSWER

Documents that include any confidential information including an individual's name, address, social security number, medical records, and any information related to their disability or employment history, details obtained during assessments for eligibility and services, as well as information provided by the individual or their family should be protected and the customer's file marked confidential.

92. What is a service outcome survey? Do you mean the outcome of the report findings?

ANSWER

An outcome survey refers to the effectiveness and customer satisfaction with services provided. The survey would typically evaluate the experiences of individuals with the vendor staff, and overall satisfaction with services. Additionally, it may include data on employment outcomes achieved by individuals receiving these services, however this would not apply to FCEs.

93. What do you mean by a "mechanism" in place to assess employer satisfaction on a yearly basis? I am the only provider and have ancillary staff.

ANSWER

As an FCE provider, we would not expect you to conduct employer satisfaction surveys. However, vendors offering job placement services are expected to survey the employers they work with to gather feedback on their experiences with hiring and supporting individuals with disabilities. These surveys typically include questions about job performance, retention rates, and the effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation services. The results can help identify areas for improvement in employer partnerships and guide strategies for better job placements and support.

EMPLOYMENT PREPARATION

94. I notice Benefit Advisement is not one of the options. I have strongly expressed concern that Syracuse and Southern Tier does not have this service available. There is only one agency that provides the service and there is a long waitlist. I am hoping that this can be an option for the sake of the individuals served.

ANSWER

Services selected for this RFP were identified by ACCES-VR District Offices based on the needs of our customers in each District Office.

95. Employment Prep Services are not listed under any of the fifteen district office. Was this accidently left out of the RFA. We know in our specific area there is a deficit in one of the services listed under this category.

ANSWER

Employment Preparation Services are included in this RFP for select District Offices. Please refer to pages 7-11 of the RFP for a detailed list of all services being requested for each District Office.

96. I was delivering services for the last grant that ended in 2004 for 75X benefits advisement. Is this service one of the services that we can apply for in the 2025 RFP.

ANSWER

Yes. Benefits Advisement (175X) is one of the CRS services included in this RFP#GC25-005 for select District Offices. A complete list of the services available for application at specific district offices can be found in the RFP on pages 7-11.

97. Is there a timeline to provide work readiness training? Does it have to be before employment, or can it be during employment?

ANSWER

Work readiness training requires prior authorization and referral from the ACCES-VR counselor. Services should start within 10 business days from authorization start date and be provided according to an approved curriculum. The sequence of all services is based on the customer's needs and determined by the referring ACCES-VR counselor.

98. What is the difference between the self-advocacy and work-readiness training services outlined in pre-ETS services and those outlined in the Employment Preparation Services section, starting on page 33.

ANSWER

The requirements for each service are defined in the Description of Services section of the RFP#GC25-005, on pages 7-63. Instruction in Self Advocacy and Workplace Readiness Training to Develop Social Skills and Independent Living are services under pre-ETS that are designed to be provided exclusively to students with disabilities.

JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES

99. Are we able to bill for Job Retention and Quality Wage Incentive without the Direct Placement Intake and Job Placement in cases where someone is already employed? In our agency, we are able to place individuals with jobs very quickly and unfortunately this leads us to miss out on the Direct Placement Intake and Job Placement milestones due to the 60 day eligibility period to get our individuals connected with an ACCES-VR counselor to then develop a plan.

ANSWER

Vendors providing services under CRS are not permitted to provide services without an authorization from ACCES-VR. ACCES-VR staff will determine which authorizations are needed for our customers to obtain and maintain employment and refer to vendors accordingly.

100. Can a janitorial job position be used as a steppingstone to other goals for employment? Is the 900 series part of the rebid?

ANSWER

This would be determined by the ACCES-VR counselor and based on each customer's employment factors and their informed choice. The 900 series are a part of Job Placement Services and are included in this RFP#GC25-005 for certain District Offices. For the full description of the services each District Office is seeking please refer to pages 7-11 of the RFP.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

101. We currently cannot service “youth” which is under 25. The training I attended today was informative, but I need some clarification. In order to provide to youth under 25 we need to have 1573X, 1574X, 1575X. Is the 571X & 572X good for adults and youth? Also, the 576X is that also good for adult and youth?

ANSWER

Yes, 571X and 572X, as well as 576X and 577X, are used with both adults and youth. In order to serve youth, you should apply for all youth service codes 1573X, 1574X, 1575X and for extended service codes for both adults and youth - 578X, 582X.

DRIVER REHABILITATION

102. Why would Driver Rehab services be sent out for a rebid in the Syracuse, Utica and Rochester areas when there are already 2 companies that service the areas and referrals are very low?

ANSWER

Services selected for this RFP were identified by ACCES-VR District Offices based on the needs of our customers in each District Office. Additional contractors for Driver Rehabilitation services, particularly those who have the ability to provide High Tech evaluations and training, are needed to effectively meet customers' needs.

GENERAL QUESTIONS ON SERVICE DELIVERY

103. Does Digital Skills Training fall within any of the service categories? Often, it aligns with Work Readiness Training, but I do not see it explicitly listed as a service in this RFP. If it is a sought-after service, could you please clarify which category it fits within?

ANSWER

Vendors interested in providing any of the CRS services must review the requirements for each service defined in the Description of Services section of the RFP#GC25-005 on pages 7-63 and determine what services they are able to provide. Services such as Work Readiness Training require a curriculum to be included for review and approval.

104. Please clarify employment verification...if paystubs are not available the individual's signature on the 931 or 573 (and services forward) is enough?

ANSWER

A customer's signature on deliverable reports that require wage verification can be accepted as an alternative to a paystub. However, this option should only be used as a last resort.

METHOD OF AWARD

105. Approximately how much can contracts be expanded by?

ANSWER

There is not a specific limit on how much an existing contract value can be increased when adding a service. It depends on the overall funding available, the number of vendors who pass for the service and whether the vendor has prior contract utilization providing that service. As a reminder, current CRS2024 vendors only need to apply for this rebid if they are seeking to add new services. As described in the RFP, ACCES-VR may increase CRS 2024 contract values during the contract term based on vendor performance and customer need. For detailed information on the method of award, please refer to Section 3 of the RFP.

106. How is the contract value determined? Previously, the amount was decided by the ACCES, not the amount bidders proposed.

ANSWER

For a detailed description of the method of award, please refer to Section 3 of the RFP, pages 71-76.

107. PE was not part of the previous contract so where do you get the annual usage calculation?

ANSWER

Potentially Eligible services were not included in CRS contracts prior to 2024. However, it was a contracted service between 2019 and 2023, so those contracted vendors would have prior utilization. The method of award for each service group, including services for Potentially Eligible students, is described in Section 3 of the RFP, Evaluation Criteria and Method of Award; see pages 73-74 specifically for Potentially Eligible Services.

108. Will there be a funding maximum per year? If so, what will it be?

ANSWER

For a detailed description of the method of award, please refer to Section 3 of the RFP#GC25-005, pages 71-76. There is no overall maximum for contract values, but the new vendor allocation has a maximum of \$100,000 annually within specific service

categories, such as Potentially Eligible, Core Rehabilitation Services, and Supported Employment Intensive, and cannot exceed the vendor's stated capacity. When awarded, estimated contract values do not guarantee a minimum funding amount and are not a guarantee of a specific number of referrals by ACCES-VR. As described in the RFP, ACCES-VR may increase CRS 2024 contract values during the contract term based on vendor performance and customer need.

MISCELLANEOUS

109. What are the options for setting parameters for the ideal population that our organization can best serve? (e.g. immigration status, degree, English level, job experience, level, etc.)

ANSWER

Core Rehabilitation Services are foundational vocational rehabilitation services that are meant to be available for all ACCES-VR customers who require them. CRS vendors have the option to focus on working with special populations, such as individuals with particular disabilities or underserved populations, particularly to tailor their services to meet the unique needs of these groups. However, this may result in a limited number of referrals from ACCES-VR if vendors choose to work exclusively with selected groups.

110. Can we narrow the population we want to serve? (for example, refugees and immigrant).

ANSWER

Yes, however this may result in a limited number of referrals from ACCES-VR if vendors choose to work exclusively with selected groups. Information about the populations you are comfortable and willing to work with should be clearly communicated to all district offices you collaborate with.

111. How to ensure the candidate pool matches our organization's job placement reserves?

ANSWER

To ensure that the customers referred by ACCES-VR align with your expertise in job placement services, maintaining close communication with the district offices you work with is essential. This collaboration will help ensure that referrals are well-matched to your services.

112. When will we hear back regarding what is being rewarded?

ANSWER

ACCES-VR anticipates sending out award letters in spring 2025.

113. Where do we register for the (CASE) trainings? Are the OPWDD Innovations trainings sufficient?

ANSWER

Vendor trainings provided under the CRS2024 contract are only open to approved vendors. Once a vendor is awarded a contract from this RFP#GC25-005 they can register for the required CASE trainings, by visiting <https://www.nyscase.org/>. For questions regarding training reciprocity, please contact the NYS CASE Team at nyscase@cornell.edu.

114. What mechanisms are there for staff attending approved “continuing education”

ANSWER

ACCES-VR requires vendors to complete continuing education opportunities, made available by ACCES-VR at no cost, and to comply with the requirements in the Training section of the RFP, pages 67-68. The required vendor training provided under the CRS2024 contract is only open to approved vendors. Once a vendor is awarded a contract from this RFP#GC25-005 they can register for the required CASE training, by visiting <https://www.nyscase.org/>. For questions regarding training reciprocity, please contact the NYS CASE Team at nyscase@cornell.edu.

115. Can you please advise on how to get access to the Aware Vendor Portal.

ANSWER

Each vendor staff responsible for using the Aware Vendor portal should request their own user account. User accounts should be requested by submitting the user account requests form <https://forms.office.com/r/NKZaxV4K9M>.

116. How do we add new users to the Aware Vendor Portal?

ANSWER

Each vendor staff responsible for using this portal should request their own user account. User accounts should be requested by submitting the user account requests form <https://forms.office.com/r/NKZaxV4K9M>.

117. What are the steps to obtaining an extended funding agreement for supported employment services with OPWDD or OMH?

ANSWER

To be able to provide OPWDD extended services, the agency/vendor needs to be a current OPWDD Medicaid Waiver provider in other services, so OPWDD Supported Employment services can be added to their approved services. The vendor can email employment.vocational.services@opwdd.ny.gov to get assistance with adding the service.

OMH has two extended options:

PROS Ongoing Rehabilitation Services: pros@omh.ny.gov

SAFEP Ongoing Integrated Supported Employment (OISE):
employmentservices@omh.ny.gov

For OMH extended services, the answer depends on whether it's a PROS or OISE, given that PROS is licensed. For PROS, the vendor would need to either win a procurement (RFP) or have a convertible program large enough to transition (i.e., Psychosocial Club, CDT, or employment programs). In the case of either one, it's typically 9-12 months from the time a vendor is awarded or initiates a transition to the open date. For OISE, this funding is managed by the counties. Typically, when a provider reaches out inquiring about OISE funding, OMH redirects them to have a conversation with their county/LGU. The county would need to look at all of their state aid and determine if there is any underspend that could be reallocated for OISE. Given that this all occurs at the county level, it's hard to say how long it takes.

118. My first ACCES individual stated that he does not want to apply for OPWDD services. ACCES will pay indefinitely if the individual does not want OPWDD? Is that a choice of theirs?

ANSWER

To ensure sufficient funding for Adult Supported Employment (ASE) services for all customers across NYS, ACCES-VR requires that customers with disabilities that would typically be eligible for OPWDD or OMH services apply for these services. If such customers refuse to apply for these funding sources, the District Office should be notified and involved in evaluating the situation and providing assistance with the case.

119. Is there any way we can get a copy of the recording as well?

ANSWER

The Bidder's Conference PowerPoint with voice over recording for each slide is posted on our website at <https://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/request-proposal-rfp-gc25-005-limited-rebid>. Click on the play button at the top to begin the voice over recording.

120. I would like to bid for the addition of Supported Employment in this rebid. What documentation would I need to obtain for OPWDD or OMH to be able to add this service for the rebid?

ANSWER

See pages 45-46 of the RFP. Applicants interested in providing Supported Employment Services and who are serving customers with intellectual &/or mental health disabilities must:

- Have in place **a current Supported Employment extended services funding agreement or equivalent** (i.e., OMH Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS) or HCBS Medicaid Waiver) with one or more of the following agencies:
 - New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), or
 - New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH). ***PROS Programs should provide a copy of their operating certificate. OISE providers should provide a copy of their award letter or contract with OMH or the County.***
 - ACCES-VR **AND**
- Have one (1) year of experience providing Supported Employment services to individuals with the most significant disabilities.

Note: Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit with their application documentation of current agreement(s) with OPWDD and/or OMH to provide Supported Employment Extended Services and must submit such documentation prior to start of services. Due to the complex nature of Supported Employment services, ACCES-VR will not contract for this service with individual placement vendors.

121. Would clarify what you do mean by " based on the 2019 -2023 contract?"

ANSWER

The 2019 to 2023 CRS contract, also known as CRS2.

122. The 120x and the 125x are not on the list for the Albany district office, so a provider is unable to rebid for them, correct?

ANSWER

That is correct. You cannot apply for 120X and 125X for the Albany district office.

CONTRACTS AND AMENDMENTS

123. What was the email address to request contract amendments?

ANSWER

NYSED reserves the right to adjust the contract value over the life of the contract when it can be established that there is no longer sufficient capacity for a particular service within a region. The application of performance and quality measures will be considered when seeking any amendments. **This process is initiated by an ACCES-VR district office and not by the vendor.** The amendment process to increase a contract value is described in Section 3 of the RFP#GC25-005, pages 75-76.

124. We are willing to provide services in person, but need an amended contract to increase our awarded amount of the initial contract?

ANSWER

This rebid is not a mechanism to increase the contract value for services already awarded. NYSED reserves the right to adjust the contract value over the life of the contract when it can establish that there is no longer sufficient capacity for a particular service within a region. The application of performance and quality measures will be considered when seeking any amendments. **This process is initiated by an ACCES-VR district office and not by the vendor.** The amendment process to increase a contract value is described in Section 3 of the RFP#GC25-005, pages 75-76.

125. If accepted, why does the contract start in July 2025? Why so far out?

ANSWER

The July 2025 start date is based on our best estimate of the length of time it will take to complete all steps for contract approval and execution.

126. Is there an anticipated timeline for rebids to be considered and awarded?

ANSWER

ACCES-VR anticipates sending out award letters in spring 2025.

127. Is there a way for a contract to begin prior to July 2025 for FCE (052X) services?

ANSWER

No.

128. How do we submit for an amendment if we need to increase our contract?

ANSWER

NYSED reserves the right to adjust the contract value over the life of the contract when it can establish that there is no longer sufficient capacity for a particular service within a region. The application of performance and quality measures will be considered when seeking any amendments. **This process is initiated by an ACCES-VR district office and not by the vendor.**

129. If we already have a contract and want to add an amendment to increase the services volume, should we submit a re-bid or is there another process for this?

ANSWER

This rebid is not a mechanism to increase the contract value for services already awarded. NYSED reserves the right to adjust the contract value over the life of the contract when it can establish that there is no longer sufficient capacity for a particular service within a region. The application of performance and quality measures will be considered when seeking any amendments. **This process is initiated by an ACCES-VR district office and not by the vendor.**