



**PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD
External Quality Review Organization (EQRO)
Invitation for Bids (IFB) #20200103**

The Division of Medicaid (DOM) is seeking to establish a contract with a responsible contractor to undertake external quality review (EQR) activities consistent with federal regulations for the Mississippi Coordinated Access Network (MississippiCAN) program and the Mississippi Children's Health Insurance Program (MississippiCHIP). The EQRO will provide analysis and evaluation of aggregated information on the Coordinated Care Organizations' (CCOs) quality, timeliness, and access to certain Medicaid covered health care services and MississippiCHIP covered services.

DOM will contract with a single contractor for a contract period beginning on June 1, 2020, and ending on May 31, 2023; and may have up to two (2) one-year renewals.

DOM released the EQRO Invitation for Bids (IFB) #20200103 on January 3, 2020. In response to the IFB, DOM received sealed bids on February 14, 2020 from the following contractors:

1. Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence (CCME);
2. Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG);
3. Keystone Peer Review Organization, Inc. (KEPRO);
4. Primaris Holdings, Inc. (Primaris EQRO); and,
5. Qlarant Quality Solutions (Qlarant).

DOM procurement staff opened bids on February 18, 2020. The initial bids were ranked as follows:

1. Primaris EQRO - \$1,450,040.00;
 2. CCME - \$1,867,000.00;
 3. HSAG - \$2,837,700.00;
 4. Qlarant - \$3,499,772.00; and,
 5. KEPRO - \$3,981,484.30.
1. DOM Procurement staff reviewed each submitted bid to ensure that all submitted bids met all the requirements to be deemed responsive as set forth in IFB #20200103. After review, DOM determined that Primaris EQRO's bid was nonresponsive. Primaris EQRO's bid failed to include the required ownership and financial disclosures set forth in Section 5.13. As such, Primaris EQRO was disqualified from IFB #20200103. The four (4) remaining bids were deemed responsive and advanced to the minimum qualification phase.
 2. DOM Procurement staff reviewed the remaining four (4) bids and determined that all four (4) met the minimum qualifications set forth in IFB #20200103.

3. Ranking of Bids: Following completion of the review process, bids were officially ranked based on the lowest, responsive and responsible bid. The ranking is as follows:

Bidders

1. CCME - \$1,867,000.00;
2. HSAG - \$2,837,700.00;
3. Qlarant - \$3,499,772.00; and,
4. KEPRO - \$3,981,484.30.

Disqualified Bidder:

Primaris EQRO

4. Recommendation: CCME submitted the lowest, responsive and responsible bid. Based on review, the Procurement Officer recommends the contract for External Quality Review Organization, IFB #20200103, be awarded as follows:

Recommended Contractor:

CCME

CCME has twenty four (24) years of multi-state EQR experience, serving eight (8) as DOM's EQRO. CCME has provided efficient and effective oversight of DOM's managed care organizations and is poised to provide DOM continuity of quality EQR services between contract terms and value.