

# MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

DAKOTA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR Veterinary Supplies and Services

**SPECIAL NOTE: This Request for Proposal (RFP) does not obligate the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (Minnesota State) system, its Board of Trustees or Dakota County Technical College to award a contract or complete the proposed project and each reserves the right to cancel this RFP if it is considered to be in its best interest. Proposals must be clear and concise. Proposals that are difficult to follow or that do not conform to the RFP format or binding specifications may be rejected. Responding vendors must include the required information called for in this RFP. Minnesota State reserves the right to reject a proposal if required information is not provided or is not organized as directed. Minnesota State also reserves the right to change the evaluation criteria or any other provision in this RFP by posting notice of the change(s) on <https://www.minnstate.edu/vendors/index.html>. For this RFP, posting on the captioned web site above constitutes written notification to each vendor. Vendors should check the site daily and are expected to review information on the site carefully before submitting a final proposal.**

October 2021

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)  
FOR  
Veterinary Supplies and Services**

Table of Contents

**Section I. General Information**

Background  
Nature of RFP  
General Selection Criteria  
Selection Process  
Selection and Implementation Timeline  
Contract(s) Awarded and Pricing Structure  
Contract Term  
Parties to the Contract  
Contract Termination  
Definitions  
Applicable Law  
Contract Assignment  
Entire Agreement  
Deviations and Exceptions  
Pre-award Vendors Conference  
Duration of Offer  
Authorized Signature  
Proposal Rejection and Waiver of Informalities

**Section II. Parties to the RFP**

**Section III. Vendor Requirements**

**Section IV. Response Evaluation**

**Section V. Additional RFP Response and General Contract Requirements**

Notice to Vendors and Contractors  
Problem Resolution Process  
Affidavit of Non-Collusion  
Human Rights Requirements  
Equal Pay Certificate Form  
Preference to Targeted Group and Economically Disadvantaged Business and Individuals  
Veteran-Owned Preference  
Insurance Requirements  
State Audit  
Minnesota Government Data Practices Act  
Conflict of Interest  
Organizational Conflicts of Interest  
Physical and Data Security

**Section VI. RFP Response Submission**

Submit the Following Forms:

Affidavit of Non-Collusion

Human Rights Certification Information and Affirmative Action Data Page

Equal Pay Certificate Form

Veteran-Owned Preference Form

Commissioner's Plan:

<https://www.minnstate.edu/system/templates/index.html>]

## **Section I. General Information**

### **Background**

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (Minnesota State) is the third-largest system of higher education in the United States. It is comprised of 37 state colleges and universities with 54 campuses located in 47 Minnesota communities. The System serves approximately 350,000 students each year. The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities is an independent state entity that is governed by a 15-member Board of Trustees. The law creating the system was passed by the Minnesota Legislature in 1991 and went into effect July 1, 1995. The law merged the state's community colleges, technical colleges and state universities into one system, other than the University of Minnesota campuses. For more information about Minnesota State, please view its website at <https://www.minnstate.edu/>.

Dakota County Technical College (DCTC) is a two-year technical college and a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. Its mission is to provide collegiate-level education for employment that will empower individuals to enhance their opportunities for career advancement and success in a global economy. Located in Dakota County inside the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area, DCTC endeavors to serve students within nearby communities, as well as those coming from countries around the world. Most students work toward degrees and diplomas in a variety of programs to prepare them for employment. As members of a student-centered organization, all employees, faculty members and administrators are focused on ways to continuously improve student learning within the college's mission. Along the way, DCTC has become a leader in delivering sustainable technologies, service-learning opportunities, and community engagement into the curricula of most programs.

### **Nature of RFP**

Dakota County Technical College is requesting proposals to assist in equipping and maintain a fully operational clinical setting for its Veterinary Technology program, which recently moved from its former location off-campus to a newly renovated, state-of-the art facility on the main campus. This RFP is undertaken by Dakota County Technical College pursuant to the authority contained in provisions of Minnesota Statutes § 136F.581 and other applicable laws.

Accordingly, Dakota County Technical College shall select the vendor(s) whose proposal(s), and oral presentation(s) if requested, demonstrate in Dakota County Technical College's sole opinion, the clear capability to best fulfill the purposes of this RFP in a cost-effective and efficient manner. Dakota County Technical College reserves the right to accept or reject proposals, in whole or in part, and to negotiate separately as necessary in order to serve the best interests of Dakota County Technical College. This RFP shall not obligate the Dakota County Technical College to award a contract or complete the proposed project and it reserves the right to cancel this RFP if it is in its best interest.

### **General Selection Criteria**

General criteria by which proposals will be evaluated include, but are not limited to, the following:

The selected vendor(s) will provide documentation and other assurances that they are:

- a. Fully authorized, registered or licensed to conduct business as a provider of veterinary supplies, equipment and/or pharmaceuticals in the State of Minnesota
- b. Able to waive all credit application requirements for a public state agency and member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system

- c. Capable of providing veterinary supplies, equipment, pharmaceuticals, and/or related maintenance or repair services from some or all the general categories described in Section III: Vendor Requirements. (Note: It is not required that vendors address all the listed categories in their proposals):

**Selection Process**

The selection process includes the Veterinary Technology Program Director, Resident Veterinarian, Dean of Business, Design, Health and Education. This group will evaluate the proposals and make the final decision.

**Selection and Implementation Timeline**

Thursday, October 14, 2021	Publish RFP notice on <i>web</i>
Monday, October 25	Deadline for Questions
Thursday, October 28	Questions and Answers posted
Monday, November 15, 5:00 p.m. CT	Deadline for RFP proposal submissions
Friday, December 3	Complete selection process
Tuesday, January 25, 2022	Deadline for executing contract

**Contract(s) Awarded and Pricing Structure**

Dakota County Technical College reserves the right to award one, none or more contract(s), in part or in whole.

**Contract Term**

Dakota County Technical College desires to enter into a contract with the successful vendor(s) effective January 3, 2022. The length of such contract(s) shall be up to five (5) years. If Dakota County Technical College and the vendor is unable to negotiate and sign a contract by Tuesday, January 25, 2022, then Dakota County Technical College reserves the right to seek an alternative vendor(s).

**Parties to the Contract**

Parties to this contract shall be the “State of Minnesota, acting through its Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities on behalf of Dakota County Technical College and the selected vendor(s).

**Contract Termination**

The State of Minnesota, acting through its Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, may cancel the contract(s) upon 30 days written notice, with or without cause.

**Definitions**

Wherever and whenever the following words or their pronouns occur in this proposal, they shall have the meaning given here:

Minnesota State: State of Minnesota, acting through its Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities on behalf of Dakota County Technical College.

School: Dakota County Technical College.

System Office: The central system office of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities located at Wells Fargo Place, 30 7th Street East, Suite 350, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

Vendor: The firm selected by Dakota County Technical College as a successful responder responsible to execute the terms of a contract.

### **Applicable Law**

A contract entered into as a result of this RFP shall be governed and interpreted under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

### **Contract Assignment**

A contract or any part hereof entered into as a result of this RFP shall not be assigned, sublet, or transferred directly or indirectly without prior written consent of the CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.

### **Entire Agreement**

A written contract and any modifications or addenda thereto, executed in writing by both parties constitutes the entire agreement of the parties to the contract. All previous communications between the parties, whether oral or written, with reference to the subject matter of this contract are void and superseded. The resulting contract may be amended at a future date in writing by mutual agreement of the parties.

### **Deviations and Exceptions**

Deviations from and exceptions to terms, conditions, specifications or the manner of this RFP shall be described fully on the vendor's letterhead stationery, signed and attached to the proposal submittal page(s) where relevant. In the absence of such statement the vendor shall be deemed to have accepted all such terms, conditions, specifications and the manner of the RFP. A vendor's failure to raise an issue related to the terms, conditions, specifications or manner of this RFP prior to the proposal submission deadline in the manner described shall constitute a full and final waiver of that vendor's right to raise the issue later in any action or proceeding relating to this RFP.

### **Duration of Offer**

All proposal responses must indicate they are valid for a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of the proposal opening unless extended by mutual written agreement between Dakota County Technical College and the vendor.

Prices and terms of the proposal as stated must be valid for the length of the resulting contract.

### **Authorized Signature**

The proposal must be completed and signed in the firm's name or corporate name of the vendor and must be fully and properly executed and signed in blue or black ink by an authorized representative of the vendor. Proof of authority of the person signing must accompany the response.

### **Proposal Rejection and Waiver of Informalities**

This RFP does not obligate the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (Minnesota State) system, its Board of Trustees or Dakota County Technical College to award a contract or complete the proposed project and each reserves the right to cancel this RFP if it in its best interest. Dakota County Technical

College also reserves the right to waive minor informalities and, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, reserves the right to:

1. reject any and all proposals received in response to this RFP;
2. select a proposal for contract negotiation other than the one with the lowest cost;
3. negotiate any aspect of the proposal with any vendor;
4. terminate negotiations and select the next most responsive vendor for contract negotiations;
5. terminate negotiations and prepare and release a new RFP;
6. terminate negotiations and take such action as deemed appropriate.

## **Section II. Parties to the RFP**

Dakota County Technical College

## **Section III. Vendor Requirements**

The selected vendor(s) will be expected to furnish the Veterinary Technology program at Dakota County Technical College with supplies, equipment, pharmaceuticals and/or maintenance and repair services in the following categories, accurately and expeditiously. **Note: Selected vendor(s) are not required to provide goods or services in all categories listed.**

Vendor(s) must be fully authorized, registered or licensed to conduct business as a provider of veterinary supplies, equipment and/or pharmaceuticals in the State of Minnesota. All other responders RFP's will be rejected.

Vendor(s) must be able to waive all credit application requirements for a public state agency and member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system and accept purchase orders.

- i. **Animal food and supplies**  
Examples: Cat food, dog food, rodent food, rodent bedding, kennel equipment and supplies.
- ii. **Lab supplies and equipment**  
Examples: CBC and blood chemistry rotors and packs, Centrifuge tubes, venipuncture supplies (e.g., syringes, needles, blood tubes, slides, cover slips)
- iii. **Surgical Supplies**  
Examples: Surgical instruments, anesthetic equipment, IV catheter supplies, intubation supplies, surgical scrub supplies, controlled substances, emergency supplies and emergency drugs
- iv. **Case Goods (High Volume Supplies)**  
Examples: Syringes, needles, bandaging materials, alcohol/hydrogen peroxide, gloves.
- v. **Pharmaceuticals**  
Examples: Antibiotics, de-wormers, flea/tick preventatives, pain medications, GI medications.
- vi. **Radiology Supplies**  
Examples: Dosimeter badges, lead, restraint/positioning supplies, contrast media, replacement bulbs for machines, replacement cassettes for CR unit

## **Information Contact**

Dakota County Technical College's agent for purposes of responding to inquiries about the RFP is:

Name: Nicole Nieman, CVT  
Title: Program Director, Veterinary Technology Program  
Address: 1300 145<sup>th</sup> Street, Rosemount, MN  
E-mail address: Nicole.nieman@dctc.edu

Other persons are not authorized to discuss RFP requirements before the proposal submission deadline and Dakota County Technical College shall not be bound by, and responders may not rely on, information regarding RFP requirements obtained from non-authorized persons. Questions must include the name of the questioner and his/her telephone number, fax number and/or e-mail address. Anonymous inquiries will not be answered.

#### **Section IV. Response Evaluation**

The following criteria and their identified scoring weights will be used by Dakota County Technical College to evaluate the responses:

- Criterion 1: Competitive pricing strategies (Maximum 40 points)
- Criterion 2: Competitive and expedient shipping policies and costs (Maximum 25 points)
- Criterion 3: Competitive administrative costs and account policies (e.g., account fees, warranty coverage, annual contracts) (Maximum 15 points)
- Criterion 4: Ability to provide a range of products and services from multiple categories (Maximum 10 points)
- Criterion 5: Experience in serving other veterinary technology educational programs (Maximum 5 points)
- Criterion 6: Overall organization of proposal in addressing specific needs of program (Maximum 5 points)

In some instances, an interview will also be part of the evaluation process.

Dakota County Technical College reserves the right to name a date at which all responding vendors will be invited to present demonstrations or participate in an interview. Dakota County Technical College does not agree to reach a decision by any certain date although it is hoped the evaluation and selection will be completed by the date identified in the **Selection and Implementation Timeline** above.

A proposal may be rejected if it is determined that a vendor's ability to work with the existing infrastructure will be too limited or difficult to manage.

#### **Section V. Additional RFP Response and General Contract Requirements**

##### **Notice to Vendors and Contractors**

As a condition of this contract, CONTRACTOR is required by Minn. Stat. §270C.65 to provide a social security number, a federal tax identification number or Minnesota tax identification number. This information may be used in the enforcement of federal and state tax laws. These numbers will be available to federal and state tax authorities and state personnel involved in approving the contract and the payment of state obligations. Supplying these numbers could result in action to require CONTRACTOR to file state tax returns and pay delinquent state tax liabilities. This contract will not be approved unless these numbers are provided.

If you are an independent contractor, Minn. Stat. §256.998 requires the state to report your name, address and social security number to the New Hire Reporting Center of the Minnesota Department of Human Services unless your contract is for less than two months in duration with gross earnings of less than



\$250.00 per month. This information may be used by state or local child support enforcement authorities in the enforcement of state and federal child support laws.

### **Problem Resolution Process**

A formal problem resolution process will be established in the contract to address issues raised by either Dakota County Technical College or the vendor.

### **Affidavit of Non-Collusion**

All responding vendors are required to complete the Affidavit of Non-Collusion form and submit it with the response.

### **Human Rights Requirements**

For all contracts estimated to be in excess of \$100,000 all responding vendors are required to complete the Human Rights Certification Information and Affirmative Action Data Page and submit it with the response. As required by Minnesota Rule 5000.3600, "It is hereby agreed between the parties that Minnesota Statutes §363A.36 and Minnesota Rule 5000.3600 are incorporated into any contract between these parties based upon this specification or any modification of it. Copies of Minnesota Statutes §363A.36 and Minnesota Rules 5000.3400 - 5000.3600 are available from the Minnesota Bookstore, 660 Olive Street, St. Paul, MN 55155." All responding vendors shall comply with the applicable provisions of the Minnesota Affirmative Action law, Minnesota Statutes §363.A36. Failure to comply shall be grounds for rejection.

### **Equal Pay Certificate**

If the Response to this solicitation could be in excess of \$500,000, including renewal and extension options, the Responder must obtain an Equal Pay Certificate from the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR) or claim an exemption prior to contract execution. A responder is exempt if it has not employed more than 40 full-time employees on any single working day in one state during the previous 12 months. Please contact MDHR with questions at: 651-539-1095 (metro), 1-800-657-3704 (toll free), 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (MN Relay) or at [compliance.MDHR@state.mn.us](mailto:compliance.MDHR@state.mn.us).

### **Preference to Targeted Group and Economically Disadvantaged Business and Individuals**

In accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 1230.1810, subpart B and Minnesota Rules, part 1230.1830, certified Targeted Group Businesses and individuals submitting proposals as prime contractors shall receive the equivalent of a six percent preference in the evaluation of their proposal, and certified Economically Disadvantaged Businesses and individuals submitting proposals as prime contractors shall receive the equivalent of a six percent preference in the evaluation of their proposal. For information regarding certification, contact the Materials Management Helpline at 651.296.2600, or you may reach the Helpline by e-mail at [mmd.help.line@state.mn.us](mailto:mmd.help.line@state.mn.us). For TTY/TDD communications, contact the Helpline through the Minnesota Relay Services at 1.800.627.3529.

### **Veteran-Owned Preference**

In accordance with Minn. Stat. § 16C.16, subd. 6a, (a) Except when mandated by the federal government as a condition of receiving federal funds, the commissioner shall award up to a six percent preference, but no less than the percentage awarded to any other group under this section on state procurement to **certified small businesses that are majority-owned and operated by veterans.**

In accordance with Minn. Stat. § 16C.19 (d), a veteran-owned small business, the principal place of business of which is in Minnesota, is certified if it has been verified by the United States Department of

Veterans Affairs as being either a veteran-owned small business or a service disabled veteran-owned small business, in accordance with Public Law 109-461 and Code of Federal Regulations, title 38, part 74.

To receive a preference the veteran-owned small business must meet the statutory requirements above by the solicitation due date and time.

If you are claiming the veteran-owned preference, attach documentation, sign and return the Veteran-Owned Preference Form with your response to the solicitation. Only eligible veteran-owned small businesses that meet the statutory requirements and provide adequate documentation will be given the preference.

### **Insurance Requirements**

A. The selected vendor will be required to submit an ACORD Certificate of Insurance to the Dakota County Technical College 's authorized representative prior to execution of the contract. The selected vendor shall not commence work under the contract until they have obtained all the insurance described below and Minnesota State has approved evidence of such insurance. Vendor shall maintain such insurance in force and effect throughout the term of the contract.

B. The selected vendor will be required to maintain and furnish satisfactory evidence of the following:

1. Workers' Compensation Insurance. The vendor must provide workers' compensation insurance for all its employees and, in case any work is subcontracted, the vendor will require the subcontractor to provide workers' compensation insurance in accordance with the statutory requirements of the State of Minnesota, including Coverage B, Employer's Liability, at limits not less than \$100,000.00 bodily injury by disease per employee; \$500,000.00 bodily injury by disease aggregate; and \$100,000.00 bodily injury by accident.
2. Commercial General Liability. The vendor will be required to maintain a comprehensive commercial general liability insurance (CGL) policy protecting it from bodily injury claims and property damage claims which may arise from operations under the contract whether the operations are by the vendor or by a subcontractor or by anyone directly or indirectly employed under the contract. The minimum insurance amounts will be:

\$2,000,000.00 per occurrence  
\$2,000,000.00 annual aggregate  
\$2,000,000.00 annual aggregate – Products/Completed Operations

In addition, the following coverages must be included:

Premises and Operations Bodily Injury and Property Damage  
Personal and Advertising Injury  
Products and Completed Operations Liability  
Blanket Contractual Liability  
Name the following as Additional Insureds:  
Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
Dakota County Technical College

3. Commercial Automobile Liability. The vendor will be required to maintain insurance protecting it from bodily injury claims and property damage claims which may arise

from operations of vehicles under the contract whether such operations were by the vendor, a subcontractor or by anyone directly or indirectly employed under the contract. The minimum insurance amounts will be:

\$2,000,000.00 per occurrence Combined Single Limit (CSL)

In addition, the following coverages should be included:

4. Errors and Omissions (E & O) Insurance. The vendor will be required to maintain insurance protecting it from claims the vendor may become legally obligated to pay resulting from any actual or alleged negligent act, error or omission related to the vendor's professional services required under this contract. The minimum insurance amounts will be:

\$2,000,000.00 per occurrence

\$2,000,000.00 annual aggregate

Any deductible will be the sole responsibility of the vendor and may not exceed \$50,000 without the written approval of Minnesota State. If the vendor desires authority from Minnesota State to have a deductible in a higher amount, the vendor shall so request in writing, specifying the amount of the desired deductible and providing financial documentation by submitting the most current audited financial statements so that Minnesota State can ascertain the ability of the vendor to cover the deductible from its own resources.

The retroactive or prior acts date of such coverage shall not be after the effective date of this contract and vendor shall maintain such insurance for a period of at least three (3) years, following completion of the work. If such insurance is discontinued, extended reporting period coverage must be obtained by vendor to fulfill this requirement.

Additional Insurance Conditions:

- Vendor's policy(ies) shall be primary insurance to any other valid and collectible insurance available to Minnesota State with respect to any claim arising out of vendor's performance under this contract;
- If vendor receives a cancellation notice from an insurance carrier affording coverage herein, vendor agrees to notify Minnesota State within five (5) business days with a copy of the cancellation notice, unless vendor's policy(ies) contain a provision that coverage afforded under the policy(ies) will not be cancelled without at least thirty (30) days advance written notice to Minnesota State;
- Vendor is responsible for payment of contract related insurance premiums and deductibles;
- If vendor is self-insured, a Certificate of Self-Insurance must be attached;
- Vendor's policy(ies) shall include legal defense fees in addition to its liability policy limits, with the exception of B.4 above;
- Vendor shall obtain insurance policy(ies) from insurance company(ies) having an "AM BEST" rating of A- (minus); Financial Size Category (FSC) VII or better, and authorized to do business in the State of Minnesota; and
- An Umbrella or Excess Liability insurance policy may be used to supplement the vendor's policy limits to satisfy the full policy limits required by the contract.

C. Dakota County Technical College reserves the right to immediately terminate the contract if the vendor is not in compliance with the insurance requirements and retains all rights to pursue any legal remedies against the vendor. All insurance policies must be available for inspection by Dakota County Technical College and copies of policies must be submitted to Dakota County Technical College 's authorized representative upon written request.

### **State Audit**

The books, records, documents and accounting practices and procedures of the vendor relevant to the contract(s) must be available for audit purposes to Minnesota State and the Legislative Auditor's Office for six (6) years after the termination/expiration of the contract.

### **Minnesota Government Data Practices Act**

The requirements of Minnesota Statutes § 13.05, subd. 11 apply to the contract. The vendor must comply with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, as it applies to all data provided by Minnesota State, its schools and the System Office in accordance with the contract and as it applies to all data created, gathered, generated or acquired in accordance with the contract. All materials submitted in response to this RFP will become property of the State of Minnesota and will become public record after the evaluation process is completed. Pursuant to the statute, completion of the evaluation process occurs when Minnesota State has completed negotiating the contract with the selected vendor. If the vendor submits information in response to this RFP that it believes to be trade secret materials as defined by the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, the vendor must:

- mark clearly all trade secret materials in its response at the time the response is submitted;
- include a statement with its response justifying the trade secret designation for each item;
- defend any action seeking release of the materials it believes to be trade secret, and indemnify and hold harmless the State of Minnesota, Minnesota State, its agents and employees, from any judgments or damages awarded against the State or Minnesota State in favor of the party requesting the materials, and any and all costs connected with that defense. This indemnification survives Minnesota State's award of a contract. In submitting a response to this RFP, the responder agrees this indemnification survives as long as the trade secret materials are in possession of Minnesota State.

Minnesota State will not consider the prices submitted by the Responder to be proprietary or trade secret materials.

### **Conflict of Interest**

The vendor must provide a list of all entities with which it has relationships that create, or appear to create, a conflict of interest with the work that it is contemplated in this Request for Proposal. The list should indicate the names of the entity, the relationship, and a discussion of the conflict.

### **Organizational Conflicts of Interest**

The responder warrants that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, and except as otherwise disclosed, there are no relevant facts or circumstances that could give rise to organizational conflicts of interest. An organizational conflict of interest exists when, because of existing or planned activities or because of relationships with other persons, a vendor is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice, or the vendor's objectivity in performing the contract work is or might be otherwise impaired, or the vendor has an unfair competitive advantage. The responder agrees that, if after award, an organizational conflict of interest is discovered, an immediate and full disclosure in writing must be made to the respective school's chief financial officer or the System Office's Business Manager that must

include a description of the action which the vendor has taken or proposes to take to avoid or mitigate such conflicts. If an organizational conflict of interest is determined to exist, the school or System Office may, at its discretion, cancel the contract. In the event the responder was aware of an organizational conflict of interest prior to the award of the contract and did not disclose the conflict to the contracting officer, the school or System Office may terminate the contract for default. The provisions of this clause must be included in all subcontracts for work to be performed similar to the service provided by the prime contractor, and the terms “contract,” “contractor,” and “contracting officer” modified appropriately to preserve Minnesota State’s rights.

### **Physical and Data Security**

The vendor is required to recognize that on the performance of the contract the vendor will become a holder of and have access to private data on individuals and nonpublic data as defined in the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13; and other applicable laws.

In performance of the contract, the vendor agrees it will comply with all applicable state, federal and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to the laws under Minnesota Statute Chapters 13 relating to confidentiality of information received as a result of the contract. The vendor agrees that it, its officers, employees and agents will be bound by the above confidentiality laws and that it will establish procedures for safeguarding the information.

The vendor agrees to notify its officers, employees and agents of the requirements of confidentiality and of the possible penalties imposed by violation of these laws. The vendor agrees that neither it, nor its officers, employees or agents will disclose or make public any information received by the vendor on behalf of Minnesota State and Dakota County Technical College.

The vendor shall recognize Minnesota State’s sole and exclusive right to control the use of this information. The vendor further agrees it shall make no use of any of the described information, for either internal or external purposes, other than that which is directly related to the performance of the contract.

The vendor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State of Minnesota, Minnesota State and Dakota County Technical College from any and all liabilities and claims resulting from the unauthorized disclosure by the vendor, its officers, employees or agents of any information required to be held confidential under the provisions of the contract. The vendor must return all source data to the “Authorized Representative” to be identified in the contract.

### **Reimbursements**

Reimbursement for travel and subsistence expenses actually and necessarily incurred by the contractor as a result of the contract will be in no greater amount than provided in the current "Commissioner’s Plan” promulgated by the commissioner of Employee Relations. Reimbursements will not be made for travel and subsistence expenses incurred outside Minnesota unless it has received the State’s prior written approval for out of state travel. Minnesota will be considered the home state for determining whether travel is out of state.

## **Section VI. RFP Responses**

### **Submission**

Sealed proposals (emailed response) must be received at the following address not later than Monday, November 15, 2021 @ 5 P.M. CST.

Institution: Dakota County Technical College, Attn: Vet Tech RFP  
Name: Nicole Nieman

Title: Program Director  
Please email to: Nicole.nieman@dctc.edu

The responder shall submit the RFP response in Microsoft Word and Excel format (not pdf).

## **Proposal Format**

All pages must be numbered. Font size will be no smaller than 10 point. Proposals that are difficult to follow or that do not conform to the RFP format may be rejected.

Information which the responder desires to present that does not fall within any of the requirements of the RFP should be inserted at the appropriate place or be attached at the end of the proposal and designated as additional material. Proposals that are not organized in this manner risk elimination from consideration if the evaluators are unable to find where the RFP requirements are specifically addressed. To be considered responsive, a proposal must reference or include the following sections and in the order listed below:

### **A: Cover Letter**

The cover letter shall contain a brief introduction of the vendor, corporate structure, major business lines and the proposal. The letter shall be concise and need not repeat any of the detailed information set forth in the proposal; however, any terms or conditions of this RFP to which the vendor objects and/or does not accept shall be clearly stated in the cover letter along with any alternatives or further explanation. At a minimum, the cover letter page shall be on company letterhead and shall include the name and working address of the firm submitting a proposal, the name, phone and e-mail address of the primary company representative to be contacted with reference to the proposal, and the date of submission.

### **B: Vendor Qualifications**

Each proposal must contain a complete proposal and description of the vendor's qualifications in accordance with this RFP's requirements as stated in Sections II and III and also product history information. Please provide information/documentation that you are authorized reseller/distributor/manufacture of the products/services as this is a requirement of the RFP.

### **C: Cost Proposal**

In this section, proposals should address how each of the following scoring criteria are being met for the following categories. Please clarify in your response the categories you are responding to and provide this information in your responses to the three criterion.

1. **Animal food and supplies**
  - a. Examples: Cat food, dog food, rodent food, rodent bedding, kennel equipment and supplies.
2. **Lab supplies and equipment**
  - a. Examples: CBC and blood chemistry rotors and packs, Centrifuge tubes, venipuncture supplies (e.g., syringes, needles, blood tubes, slides, cover slips)
3. **Surgical Supplies**
  - a. Examples: Surgical instruments, anesthetic equipment, IV catheter supplies, intubation supplies, surgical scrub supplies, controlled substances, emergency supplies and emergency drugs
4. **Case Goods (High Volume Supplies)**
  - a. Examples: Syringes, needles, bandaging materials, alcohol/hydrogen peroxide, gloves.

5. **Pharmaceuticals**

- a. Examples: Antibiotics, de-wormers, flea/tick preventatives, pain medications, GI medications.

6. **Radiology Supplies**

- a. Examples: Dosimeter badges, lead, restraint/positioning supplies, contrast media, replacement bulbs for machines, replacement cassettes for CR unit

- i. **Criterion One: Competitive pricing strategies.** Dakota County Technical College encourages proposals to use the categories of supplies and equipment featured in Section III to organize and illustrate their bidding prices and discount rates. It is not necessary to include a complete inventory of available products within each category; however, an illustrative example of supplies or equipment germane to the functioning of a modern veterinary technology program is encouraged. Cost data should clearly indicate listed prices or MSRPs for each item included, their unit size, their bid prices and the associated discount rates being applied. Product catalogues or inventory ledgers are discouraged.
- ii. **Criterion 2: Competitive and expedient shipping policies and costs.** Proposals should articulate the vendor's policies regarding all shipping options and their related costs. Complete information on refunds and returns should also be included.
- iii. **Criterion 3: Competitive administrative costs and account policies.** Submitted proposals must include a full description of all other administrative or auxiliary costs, including those related to establishing a new account, warranty coverages, or annual contracts.

**C: Required Documents (see Section V Additional RFP Response and General Requirement)**

- Affidavit of Non-Collusion
- Affirmative Action Certification of Compliance (Notice to Contractors)
- Affirmative Action Certification of Compliance (Notice to Vendors)
- Veteran-Owned Preference Form
- Conflict of Interest statement per section V. of this document, if necessary

The remainder of this page was intentionally left blank

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
AFFIDAVIT OF NON-COLLUSION**

I swear (or affirm) under the penalty of perjury:

1. That I am the Responder (if the Responder is an individual), a partner in the company (if the Responder is a partnership), or an officer or employee of the responding corporation having authority to sign on its behalf (if the Responder is a corporation);
2. That the attached proposal submitted in response to the \_\_\_\_\_ Request for Proposal has been arrived at by the Responder independently and has been submitted without collusion with and without any agreement, understanding or planned common course of action with, any other Responder of materials, supplies, equipment or services described in the Request for Proposal, designed to limit fair and open competition;
3. That the contents of the proposal have not been communicated by the Responder or its employees or agents to any person not an employee or agent of the Responder and will not be communicated to any such persons prior to the official opening of the proposals; and
4. That I am fully informed regarding the accuracy of the statements made in this affidavit.

Responder's Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public: \_\_\_\_\_

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_



**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS  
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION  
CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE**

It is hereby agreed between the parties that Minnesota State will require that affirmative action requirements be met by contractors in relation to Minnesota Statutes §363A.36 and Minnesota Rules, 5000.3400 to 5000.3600. Failure by a contractor to implement an affirmative action plan or make a good faith effort shall result in revocation of its certificate or revocation of the contract (Minnesota Statutes §363A.36, subdivisions 3 and 4).

Under the Minnesota Human Rights Act, §363A.36, businesses or firms entering into a contract over \$100,000 which have more than forty (40) full-time employees within the state of Minnesota on a single working day during the previous twelve (12) months, or businesses or firms employing more than forty (40) full-time employees on a single working day during the previous twelve (12) months in a state in which its primary place of business is domiciled and that primary place of business is outside of the State of Minnesota but within the United States, must have submitted an affirmative action plan that was received by the Commissioner of Human Rights for approval prior to the date and time the responses are due. A contract over \$100,000 will not be executed unless the firm or business having more than forty (40) full-time employees, either within or outside the State of Minnesota, has received a certificate of compliance signifying it has an affirmative action plan approved by the Commissioner of Human Rights. The Certificate is valid for four (4) years. For additional information, contact the Department of Human Rights, Freeman Building, 625 Robert Street North, Saint Paul, MN 55155.

Effective July 1, 2003. The Minnesota Department of Human Rights is authorized to charge a \$150.00 fee for each Certificate of Compliance issued. A business or firm must submit its affirmative action plan along with a cashier's check or money order in the amount of \$150.00 to the Minnesota Department of Human Rights or you may contact the Department for additional information at the Compliance Services Unit, Freeman Building, 625 Robert Street North, Saint Paul MN 55155.

**State Of Minnesota – Affirmative Action Certification**

If your response to this solicitation is or could be in excess of \$100,000, complete the information requested below to determine whether you are subject to the Minnesota Human Rights Act (Minnesota Statutes 363A.36) certification requirement, and to provide documentation of compliance if necessary. It is your sole responsibility to provide this information and—if required—to apply for Human Rights certification prior to the due date of the bid or proposal and to obtain Human Rights certification prior to the execution of the contract. The State of Minnesota is under no obligation to delay proceeding with a contract until a company receives Human Rights certification.

**BOX A – For companies which have employed more than 40 full-time employees within Minnesota on any single working day during the previous 12 months. All other companies proceed to BOX B.**

Your response will be rejected unless your business:

- has a current Certificate of Compliance issued by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR) –or–
- has submitted an affirmative action plan to the MDHR, which the Department received prior to the date the responses are due.

Check one of the following statements if you have employed more than 40 full-time employees in Minnesota on any single working day during the previous 12 months:

- We have a current Certificate of Compliance issued by the MDHR. **Proceed to BOX C. Include a copy of your certificate with your response.**
- We do not have a current Certificate of Compliance. However, we submitted an Affirmative Action Plan to the MDHR for approval, which the Department received on \_\_\_\_\_ (date). **Proceed to BOX C.**
- We do not have a Certificate of Compliance, nor has the MDHR received an Affirmative Action Plan from our company. **We acknowledge that our response will be rejected. Proceed to BOX C. Contact the Minnesota Department of Human Rights for assistance.** (See below for contact information.)

**Please note:** Certificates of Compliance must be issued by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. Affirmative Action Plans approved by the Federal government, a county, or a municipality must still be received, reviewed, and approved by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights before a certificate can be issued.

**BOX B – For those companies not described in BOX A**

Check below.

- We have not employed more than 40 full-time employees on any single working day in Minnesota within the previous 12 months. **Proceed to BOX C.**

**BOX C – For all companies**

By signing this statement, you certify that the information provided is accurate and that you are authorized to sign on behalf of the responder. You also certify that you are in compliance with federal affirmative action requirements that may apply to your company. (These requirements are generally triggered only by participating as a prime or subcontractor on federal projects or contracts. Contractors are alerted to these requirements by the federal government.)

Name of Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**For assistance with this form, contact:**

Minnesota Department of Human Rights, Compliance & Community Relations

Freeman Building, 625 Robert Street North, Saint Paul, MN 55155

Phone: 651-296-5663

Toll Free: 800-657-3704

Fax: 651-296-9042

TTY: 651-296-1283

Web: [mn.gov/mdhr](http://mn.gov/mdhr)

Email: [compliance.mndh@state.mn.us](mailto:compliance.mndh@state.mn.us)

Affirmative Action Certification Page, Revised 6/11 – MDHR

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
NOTICE TO VENDORS**

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE**

The amended Minnesota Human Rights Act (Minnesota Statutes §363A.36) divides the contract compliance program into two categories. Both categories apply to any contracts for goods or services in excess of \$100,000.

The first category applies to businesses that have had more than 40 full-time employees within Minnesota on a single working day during the previous 12 months. The businesses in this category must have submitted an affirmative action plan to the Commissioner of the Department of Human Rights prior to the due date and time of the response and must have received a Certificate of Compliance prior to execution of the contract or agreement.

The secondary category applies to businesses that have had more than 40 full-time employees on a single working day in the previous 12 months in the state in which its primary place of business is domiciled. The businesses in this category must certify to Minnesota State that it is in compliance with federal affirmative action requirements before execution of the contract. For further information, contact the Department of Human Rights, Compliance Services Unit, 625 Robert Street North, Saint Paul MN 55155; Voice: 651-296-5663; Toll Free: 800-657-3704; TTY: 651-296-1283.

**Minnesota State is under no obligation to delay the award or the execution of a contract until a vendor has completed the Human Rights certification process. It is the sole responsibility of the vendor to apply for and obtain a Human Rights certificate prior to contract execution.**

It is hereby agreed between the parties that Minnesota State will require affirmative action requirements be met by vendors in relation to Minnesota Statutes §363A.36 and Minnesota Rules, 5000.3400 to 5000.3600.

Under the Minnesota Human Rights Act, §363A.36, subdivision 1, no department or agency of the state shall execute an order in excess of \$100,000 with any business within the State of Minnesota having more than 40 full-time employees in a single working day during the previous 12 months unless the firm or business has an affirmative action plan for the employment of minority persons, women, and the disabled that has been approved the Commissioner of Human Rights. Receipt of a Certificate of Compliance issued by the Commissioner shall signify that a firm or business has an affirmative action plan approved by the Commissioner.

Failure by the vendor to implement an affirmative action plan or make a good faith effort shall result in revocation of its certificate or revocation of the order (Minnesota Statutes §363A.36, subdivisions 3 and 4). A certificate is valid for a period of four (4) years.

**DISABLED INDIVIDUAL CLAUSE**

- A. A vendor shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of physical or mental disability in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified. The vendor agrees to take disabled individuals without discrimination based on their physical or mental disability in all employment practices such as the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment, advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection of training, including apprenticeship.

- B. The vendor agrees to comply with the rules and relevant order of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights issued pursuant to the Minnesota Human Rights Act.
- C. In the event of a vendor's noncompliance with the requirements of this clause, actions for noncompliance may be taken by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights pursuant to the Minnesota Human Rights Act.
- D. The vendor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices in a form to be prescribed by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. Such notices shall state the vendor obligation under the law to take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified disabled employees and applicants for employment and the rights of applicants and employees.
- E. The vendor shall notify each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other order understanding, that the vendor is bound by the terms of Minnesota Statutes §363A.36 of the Minnesota Human Rights Act and is committed to take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment physically and mentally disabled individuals.

It is hereby agreed between the parties that Minnesota Statutes §363A.36 and Minnesota Rules 5000.3400 to 5000.3600 are incorporated into any order of Minnesota Statutes §363A.36 and Minnesota Rules, 5000.3400 to 5000.3600 are available from Minnesota Bookstore, 660 Olive Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155.

By signing this statement the vendor certifies that the information provided is accurate.

NAME OF COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised 1/22/09

Minnesota Department of Human Rights  
ATTN: Contract Compliance  
Freeman Building  
625 Robert Street North  
Saint Paul, MN 55155  
(Or Send to - [compliance.MDHR@state.mn.us](mailto:compliance.MDHR@state.mn.us).)

### Equal Pay Certificate Application

- We are in compliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the Minnesota Human Rights Act, and the Minnesota Equal Pay Act for Equal Work Law.
  - The average compensation for female employees is not consistently below the average compensation for male employees, taking into account mitigating factors, within each of the major job categories in your EEO-1 report. If you are not required to file an EEO-1 report, taking into account mitigating factors, the average compensation for female employees is not consistently below the average compensation for male employees within your organization.
  - We make hiring, retention and promotion decisions without regard to gender, nor do we limit employees based on gender to certain job classifications.
  - We promptly correct wage and benefit disparities.
  - We evaluate wages and benefits (annually) (two year period) (other, please specify) to ensure compliance with the above identified laws.
  - In determining our employee compensation we use: (check below)
    - \_\_\_ Market pricing approach
    - \_\_\_ State prevailing wage or union contract requirements
    - \_\_\_ Performance pay system
    - \_\_\_ An internal analysis
    - \_\_\_ Other method (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- 

Enclosed is our application fee of \$150, made payable to the “Minnesota Department of Human Rights.”

In signing below, I affirm that I am the Board Chairperson or Chief Executive Officer and that the above information to the best of my understanding is accurate and complete.

---

Signature	Print Name	Date
-----------	------------	------

---

Business Name	Business Address
---------------	------------------

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
VETERAN-OWNED PREFERENCE FORM**

In accordance with Minn. Stat. §16C.16, subd. 6a, the Minnesota State may award up to a 6% preference in the amount bid on state procurement to certified small businesses that are majority owned and operated by veterans.

Veteran-Owned Preference Requirements - See Minn. Stat. §16C.19(d):

1. Principal place of business is in Minnesota.

**and**

2. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs verifies the business as being a veteran-owned small business under Public Law 109-461 and Code of Federal Regulations, title 38, part 74.

---

Statutory requirements and appropriate documentation must be met **by the solicitation response due date and time** to be awarded the veteran-owned preference. The preference applies only to the first \$500,000 of a solicitation response.

---

**Claim the Preference**

**By signing below I confirm that:**

My company is claiming the veteran-owned preference afforded by Minn. Stat. § 16C.16, subd. 6a. by making this claim, I verify that:

- My company's principal place of business is in Minnesota; and
- The United States Department of Veteran's Affairs verifies my company as being a veteran-owned small business. (Supported By Attached Documentation)

Name of Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Attach documentation, sign, and return this form with your solicitation response to claim the veteran-owned preference.**