

## Request for Proposal KD-0130-24 Proposal Due Date – 12-19-2023

Scrub and Uniform Purchase

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

	ATTENTION: This is not an order. Read all instructions, terms and conditions carefully.			
PROPOSAL NO.:		KD-0130-24	RETURN ORIGINAL COPY OF PROPOSAL TO:	
			UK KING'S DAUGHTERS MEDICAL CENTER	
lss	ue Date:	11/17/2023	SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT	
Tit	le:	Scrub and Uniform Purchase	2301 LEXINGTON AVENUE	
Pu	rchasing Officer:	Anna Akers-Grubb	SUITE 310	
	nail/Phone:	Anna.akers@kdmc.kdhs.us 606-408-966	7 ASHLAND, KY 41101	
	IMPORTANT	: PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY:	12/19/2023 by 3 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME	
		NOTICE OF RE	QUIREMENTS	
1.		edical Center terms and conditions can be found in Atta	chment A of this RFP.	
2.		this RFP must be governed by and in accordance with		
3.			ains, tends to restrain, or is reasonably calculated to restrain competition by	
		xed price or to refrain from offering, or otherwise, is proh		
4.			ny and shall be punished by a fine of not less than five thousand dollars nor re than five years, or both such fine and imprisonment. Any firm, corporation,	
			nviction, be fined not less than ten thousand dollars or more than twenty	
	thousand dollars.			
		AUTHENTICATION OF BID AND STATEMENT OF NO	N-COLLUSION AND NON-CONFLICT OF INTEREST	
		n) under the penalty for false swearing as provided by K		
1.	That I am the Offeror (if the Offeror is an individual), a partner, (if the Offeror is a partnership), or an officer or employee of the bidding corporation having			
~	authority to sign on its behalf (if the Offeror is a corporation);			
2.	That the attached proposal has been arrived at by the Offeror independently and has been submitted without collusion with, and without any agreement, understanding or planned common course of action with, any other Contractor of materials, supplies, equipment or services described in the RFP, designed			
	to limit independent bid		in materials, supplies, equipment of services described in the RFP, designed	
3.			r its employees or agents to any person not an employee or agent of the	
0.			imunicated to any such person prior to the official closing of the RFP:	
4.			rs Medical Center and is not in violation of any prohibited conflict of interest,	
	including, but not limited	to, those prohibited by the provisions of KRS 45A.330	o .340, and164.390;	
5. That the Offeror, and its affiliates, are duly registered with the Kentucky Department of Revenue to collect and remit the sal				
<ul> <li>Chapter 139 to the extent required by Kentucky law and will remain registered for the duration of any contract award;</li> <li>That I have fully informed myself regarding the accuracy of the statement made above.</li> </ul>				
6.	That Thave fully month	SWORN STATEMENT OF COMPLIANC		
	In accordance with KRS	645A.110 (2), the undersigned hereby swears under pen	alty of perjury that he/she has not knowingly violated any provision of the	
			a contract to a bidder will not violate any provision of the campaign finance	
	laws of the Commonwe			
		CONTRACTOR REPORT OF PRIOR VIOLATIONS OF		
			485 to submit final determinations of any violations of the provisions of KRS	
	Chapters 136, 139, 141	, 337, 338, 341 and 342 that have occurred in the previo	us five (5) years prior to the award of a contract and agrees to remain in any contract that may be established. Final determinations of violations of	
these statutes must be provided to UK King's Daughters Medical Center by the successful contractor prior to the award of a contract. CERTIFICATION OF NON-SEGREGATED FACILITIES				
	The contractor, by subn		<i>v</i> ith the Code of Federal Regulations, No. 41 CFR 60-1.8(b) that prohibits the	
	maintaining of segregat			
SIGN	ATURE REQUIRED: This	s proposal cannot be considered valid unless signed and	dated by an authorized agent of the Offeror. Type or print the signatory's	
	name, title, address, phone number and fax number in the spaces provided. Offers signed by an agent are to be accompanied by evidence of his/her authority			
	unless such evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office.			

DELIVERY TIME:	NAME OF COMPANY:	DUNS #
PROPOSAL FIRM THROUGH:	ADDRESS:	Phone/Fax:
PAYMENT TERMS:	CITY, STATE & ZIP CODE:	E-MAIL:
SHIPPING TERMS: F. O. B. DESTINATION PREPAID AND ALLOWED	TYPED OR PRINTED NAME:	WEB ADDRESS:
FEDERAL EMPLOYER ID NO.:	SIGNATURE:	DATE:

### Table of Contents

1.0	) DE	FINITIONS	. 6
2.0	) Ge	ENERAL OVERVIEW	7
	2.1	Intent and Scope	. 7
3.(	) PF	ROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	. 7
	3.1	Key Event Dates	. 7
	3.2	Offeror Communication	. 7
	3.3	Offeror Presentations	. 8
	3.4	Preparation of Offers	. 8
	3.5	Proposed Deviations from the RFP	. 8
	3.6	Proposal Submission and Deadline	. 8
	3.7	Modification or Withdrawal of Offer	. 9
	3.8	Acceptance or Rejection and Award of Proposal	. 9
	3.9	Rejection	10
	3.10	Addenda	11
	3.11	Disclosure of Offeror's Response	11
	3.12	Restrictions on Communications with Medical Center Staff	11
	3.13	Cost of Preparing Proposal	11
	3.14	Disposition of Proposals	11
	3.15	Alternate Proposals	12
	3.16	Questions	12
	3.17	Section Titles in the RFP	12
	3.18	No Contingent Fees	12
	3.19	Proposal Addenda and Rules for Withdrawal	12
4.(	) PF	ROPOSAL FORMAT AND CONTENT	12
4	4.1	Proposal Information and Criteria	12
	4.2	Signed Authentication of Proposal and Statements of Non-Collusion and Non-Conflict of	
		est Form	
4	4.3	Transmittal Letter	-
4	4.4	Executive Summary and Proposal Overview	
4	4.5	Criteria 1 - Offeror Qualifications	14
	4.6	Criteria 2 – Services Defined	15

	4.7	Criteria 3 – Financial Proposal	16
	4.8	Criteria 4 – Evidence of Successful Performance and Implementation Schedule	16
	4.9	Criteria 5 – Other Additional Information	16
5.	0 EV	ALUATION CRITERIA PROCESS	17
6.	0 SF	PECIAL CONDITIONS	18
	6.1	Contract Term	18
	6.2	Effective Date	18
	6.3	Competitive Negotiation	18
	6.4	Appearance Before Committee	18
	6.5	Additions, Deletions or Contract Changes	18
	6.6	Contractor Cooperation in Related Efforts	19
	6.7	Entire Agreement	19
	6.8	Governing Law	19
		Kentucky's Personal Information Security and Breach Investigation Procedures and	
		tices Act	
		Termination for Convenience	
		Termination for Non-Performance	
		Funding Out	
		Prime Contractor Responsibility	
		Assignment and Subcontracting	
		Permits, Licenses, Taxes	
		Attorneys' Fees	
		Royalties, Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks	
		Indemnification	
	6.19	Insurance	22
	6.20	Method of Award	23
	6.21	Reciprocal Preference	23
	6.22	Reports and Auditing	23
	6.23	Confidentiality	24
	6.24	Conflict of Interest	24
	6.25	Personal Service Contract Policies	25
	6.26	Copyright Ownership and Title to Designs and Copy	25
	6.27	Medical Center Brand Standards	26

6.28 Printing Statutes	
6.29 Payment Terms	
7.0 SCOPE OF SERVICES	27
7.1 Detailed Services Defined	27
8.0 FINANCIAL OFFER SUMMARY	

#### 1.0 **DEFINITIONS**

The term "addenda" means written or graphic instructions issued by UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) prior to the receipt of proposals that modify or interpret the RFP documents by additions, deletions, clarifications and/or corrections.

The term "competitive negotiations" means the method authorized in the Kentucky Revised Statutes, Chapter 45A.085.

The terms "offer" or "proposal" mean the Offeror's/Offerors' response to this RFP.

The term "Offeror" means the entity or contractor group submitting the proposal.

The term "contractor" means the entity receiving a contract award.

The term "purchasing agency" means UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC), 2301 Lexington Avenue, Suite 310, Ashland KY 41101.

The term "purchasing official" means UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) appointed contracting representative.

The term "responsible Offeror" means a person, company or corporation that has the capability in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance. In determining whether an Offeror is responsible, UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) may evaluate various factors including (but not limited to): financial resources; experience; organization; technical qualifications; available resources; record of performance; integrity; judgment; ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the contract; adversarial relationship between the Offeror and UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) that is so serious and compelling that it may negatively impact the work performed under this RFP; or any other cause determined to be so serious and compelling as to affect the responsibility of the Offeror.

The term "solicitation" means RFP.

The term "Medical Center" means UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC)

The term "IST" means Information Systems Technology.

#### 2.0 GENERAL OVERVIEW

#### 2.1 Intent and Scope

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued to solicit proposals from qualified, experienced, financially sound and responsible manufacturers and or wholesale distributors of scrubs and uniforms for UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC).

The successful Offeror should be able to offer scrubs and uniforms in the colors and styles required by our team members according to the KDMC dress code and uniform policy.

It is UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC)'s expectation of the successful Offeror to be resourceful, transparent and able to achieve the greatest quality, value and service for UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) related to these services, and to work as a strategic business partner.

The successful Offeror will agree to provide the maximum degree of support to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) in providing services and will respond to requests from UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) promptly and responsively.

The Scope is further detailed in Section 7.1.

#### 3.0 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

#### 3.1 Key Event Dates

Release of RFP	11/17/2023
Deadline for Written Questions	3 p.m. Eastern Time on 12/01/2023
RFP Proposals Due	3 p.m. Eastern Time on 12/19/2023

#### 3.2 Offeror Communication

To ensure that RFP documentation and subsequent information (modifications, clarifications, addenda, Written Questions and Answers, etc.) are directed to the appropriate persons within the Offeror's firm, each Offeror who intends to participate in this RFP is to provide the following information to the purchasing officer. Prompt, thorough compliance is in the best interest of the Offeror. Failure to comply may result in incomplete or delayed communication of addenda or other vital information. Contact information is the responsibility of the Offeror. Without the prompt information, any communication shortfall shall reside with the Offeror.

This information shall be sent via email to:

Anna Akers-Grubb Purchasing Division UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) 2301 Lexington Avenue, Suite 310 Ashland, KY 41101 Phone: (606) 408-9667 E-mail: anna.akers@kdmc.kdhs.us

All communication with UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) regarding this RFP shall only be directed to the purchasing officer listed above.

#### 3.3 Offeror Presentations

All Offerors whose proposals are judged acceptable for award may be required to make a presentation to the evaluation committee.

#### 3.4 Preparation of Offers

The Offeror is expected to follow all specifications, terms, conditions and instructions in this RFP.

The Offeror will furnish all information required by this solicitation.

Proposals should be prepared simply and economically, providing a description of the Offeror's capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the solicitation. Emphasis should be on completeness and clarity of content. All documentation submitted with the proposal should be bound in the single volume except as otherwise specified.

An electronic version of the RFP, in .PDF format only, is available through UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC), Purchasing Division web site: <u>www.uky.edu/purchasing/bidlist.htm</u>

#### 3.5 Proposed Deviations from the RFP

The stated requirements appearing elsewhere in this RFP shall become a part of the terms and conditions of any resulting contract. Any deviations therefrom must be specifically defined in accordance with the transmittal letter, Section 4.3 (d). If accepted by UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC), the deviations shall become part of the contract, but such deviations must not be in conflict with the basic nature of this RFP.

Note: Offerors shall not submit their standard terms and conditions as exceptions to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC)'s General Terms and Conditions. Each exception to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC)'s General Terms and Conditions shall be individually addressed.

#### 3.6 Proposal Submission and Deadline

Offeror must provide the following materials prior to 3 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on the date specified in Section 3.1 and addressed to the purchasing officer listed in Section 3.2:

- **Technical Proposal:** One (1) copy on electronic storage devices (CD or USB) (1 copy per storage device) each <u>clearly marked</u> with the proposal number and name, firm name and what is included (Technical Proposal) and seven (7) printed original copies.
- **Financial Proposal:** One (1) copy on electronic storage devices (CD or USB) (1 copy per storage device) each <u>clearly marked</u> with the proposal number and name, firm name and what is included (Financial Proposal) and seven (7) printed original copies.

### Note: Proposals received after the closing date and time will not be considered. In addition, proposals received via fax or e-mail are not acceptable.

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) accepts deliveries of RFPs Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. However, RFPs must be received by 3 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on the date specified on the RFP in order to be considered. Proposals shall be enclosed in sealed envelopes to the above referenced address and shall show on the face of the envelope: the closing time and date specified, the solicitation number and the name and address of the Offeror. The technical proposal shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and the financial proposal shall be submitted in a sealed envelope under separate cover. Both sealed envelopes shall have identical information on the cover, with the addition that one will state "Technical Information," and the other, "Financial Proposal."

Note: In accordance with the Kentucky Revised Statute 45A.085, there will be no public opening.

#### 3.7 Modification or Withdrawal of Offer

An offer and/or modification of offer received at the office designated in the solicitation after the exact hour and date specified for receipt will not be considered.

An offer may be modified or withdrawn by written notice before the exact hour and date specified for receipt of offers. An offer also may be withdrawn in person by an Offeror or an authorized representative, provided the identity of the person is made known and the person signs a receipt for the offer, but only if the withdrawal is made prior to the exact hour and date set for receipt of offers.

#### 3.8 Acceptance or Rejection and Award of Proposal

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals (or parts of proposals), to waive any informalities or technicalities, to clarify any ambiguities in proposals and (unless otherwise specified) to accept any item in the proposal. In case of error in extension or prices or other errors in calculation, the unit price shall govern. Further, UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) reserves the right to make a single award, split awards, multiple awards or no award, whichever is in the best interest of UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC).

#### 3.9 Rejection

Grounds for the rejection of proposals include (but shall not be limited to):

- Failure of a proposal to conform to the essential requirements of the RFP.
- Imposition of conditions that would significantly modify the terms and conditions of the solicitation or limit the Offeror's liability to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) on the contract awarded on the basis of such solicitation.
- Failure of the Offeror to sign UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) RFP. This includes the Authentication of Proposal and Statement of Non-Collusion and Non-Conflict of Interest statements.
- Receipt of proposal after the closing date and time specified in the RFP.

#### 3.10 Addenda

Any addenda or instructions issued by the purchasing agency prior to the time for receiving proposals shall become a part of this RFP. Such addenda shall be acknowledged in the proposal. No instructions or changes shall be binding unless documented by a proper and duly issued addendum.

#### 3.11 Disclosure of Offeror's Response

The RFP specifies the format, required information and general content of proposals submitted in response to this RFP. The purchasing agency will not disclose any portions of the proposals prior to contract award to anyone outside the Purchasing Division, UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC)'s administrative staff, representatives of the state or federal government (if required) and the members of the committee evaluating the proposals. After a contract is awarded in whole or in part, UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) shall have the right to duplicate, use or disclose all proposal data submitted by Offerors in response to this RFP as a matter of public record.

Any submitted proposal shall remain valid six (6) months after the proposal due date.

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) shall have the right to use all system ideas, or adaptations of those ideas, contained in any proposal received in response to this RFP. Selection or rejection of the proposal will not affect this right.

#### 3.12 Restrictions on Communications with Medical Center Staff

From the issue date of this RFP until a contractor is selected and a contract award is made, Offerors are not allowed to communicate about the subject of the RFP with any Medical Center administrator, faculty, staff or members of the board of trustees except: the purchasing office representative, any Medical Center purchasing official representing UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) administration, others authorized in writing by the purchasing office and Medical Center representatives during Offeror presentations. If violation of this provision occurs, UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) reserves the right to reject the Offeror's proposal.

#### 3.13 Cost of Preparing Proposal

Costs for developing the proposals and any subsequent activities prior to contract award are solely the responsibility of the Offerors. UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) will provide no reimbursement for such costs.

#### 3.14 Disposition of Proposals

All proposals become the property of UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC). The successful proposal will be incorporated into the resulting contract by reference.

#### 3.15 <u>Alternate Proposals</u>

Offerors may submit alternate proposals. If more than one proposal is submitted, all must be complete (separate) and comply with the instructions set forth within this document. Each proposal will be evaluated on its own merits.

#### 3.16 Questions

All questions should be submitted by either e-mail to the purchasing officer listed in Section 3.2 no later than the date listed in Section 3.1.

#### 3.17 Section Titles in the RFP

Section titles used herein are for the purpose of facilitating ease of reference only and shall not be construed to infer the construction of contractual language.

#### 3.18 No Contingent Fees

No person or selling agency shall be employed or retained or given anything of monetary value to solicit or secure this contract, except bona fide employees of the Offeror or bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the Offeror for the purpose of securing business. For breach or violation of this provision, UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) shall have the right to reject the proposal, annul the contract without liability, or, at its discretion, deduct from the contract price or otherwise recover the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee or other benefit.

#### 3.19 Proposal Addenda and Rules for Withdrawal

Prior to the date specified for receipt of offers, a submitted proposal may be withdrawn by submitting a written request for its withdrawal to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) purchasing office, signed by the Offeror. Unless requested by UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC), UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) will not accept revisions or alterations to proposals after the proposal due date.

#### 4.0 PROPOSAL FORMAT AND CONTENT

#### 4.1 Proposal Information and Criteria

The following list specifies the items to be addressed in the proposal. Offerors should read it carefully and address it completely and in the order listed to facilitate UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC)'s review of the proposal.

Proposals shall be organized into the sections identified below. The content of each section is detailed in the following pages. It is strongly suggested that Offerors use the same numbers for the following content that are used in the RFP.

- Signed Authentication of Proposal and Statement of Non-Collusion and Non-Conflict of Interest Form
- Transmittal Letter
- Executive Summary and Proposal Overview
- Criteria 1 Offeror Qualifications
- Criteria 2 Services Defined
- Criteria 3 Financial Proposal
- Criteria 4 Evidence of Successful Performance and Implementation Schedule
- Criteria 5 Other Additional Information

#### 4.2 <u>Signed Authentication of Proposal and Statements of Non-Collusion and Non-Conflict of</u> Interest Form

The Offeror will sign and return the proposal cover sheet and print or type their name, firm, address, telephone number and date. The person signing the offer must initial erasures or other changes. An offer signed by an agent is to be accompanied by evidence of their authority unless such evidence has been previously furnished to the purchasing agency. The signer shall further certify that the proposal is made without collusion with any other person, persons, company or parties submitting a proposal; that it is in all respects fair and in good faith without collusion or fraud; and that the signer is authorized to bind the principal Offeror.

#### 4.3 <u>Transmittal Letter</u>

The Transmittal Letter accompanying the RFP shall be in the form of a standard business letter and shall be signed by an individual authorized to legally bind the Offeror. It shall include:

- A statement referencing all addenda and written questions, the answers and any clarifications to this RFP issued by UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) and received by the Offeror (If no addenda have been received, a statement to that effect should be included.).
- A statement that the Offeror's proposal shall remain valid for six (6) months after the closing date of the receipt of the proposals.
- A statement that the Offeror will accept financial responsibility for all travel expenses incurred for oral presentations (if required) and candidate interviews.
- A statement that summarizes any deviations or exceptions to the RFP requirements and includes a detailed justification for the deviation or exception.
- A statement that identifies the confidential information as described in Section 6.23.

#### 4.4 Executive Summary and Proposal Overview

The Executive Summary and Proposal Overview shall condense and highlight the contents of the technical proposal in such a way as to provide the evaluation committee with a broad understanding of the entire proposal.

As part of the Executive Summary and Proposal Overview, Offeror shall submit with their response a summarized profile describing the demographic nature of their company or organization:

- When was your organization established and/or incorporated?
- Indicate whether your organization is classified as local, regional, national, or international.
- Describe the size of your company in terms of number of employees, gross sales, etc.
- Is your company certified as small business, minority-owned, women-owned, veteranowned, disabled-owned, or similar classification?
- Include other demographic information that you feel may be applicable to the Request for Proposal submission.

#### 4.5 <u>Criteria 1 - Offeror Qualifications</u>

The purpose of the Offeror Qualifications section is to determine the ability of the Offeror to respond to this RFP. Offerors must describe and offer evidence of their ability to meet each of the qualifications listed below.

- 1. Provide a brief narrative describing the history of the company, identify the number of Employees in the company, and the Ownership.
- 2. Provide an organizational chart of the company indicating lines of authority for personnel involved in performance of this potential contract and relationships of this staff to other programs or functions of the company. This chart must also show lines of authority to the next senior level of management.
- 3. Provide information demonstrating that the Offeror is licensed to do business in the State of Kentucky and Ohio and list all states in which Offeror is licensed to do business.
- 4. Provide the national and/or standard rating of the company if one exists. Provide the company's rating for each of the last five (5) years.
- 5. Provide certified audited financial statements including a full set of footnotes as follows:
  - a. For the past three (3) fiscal years, include at a minimum, income statements, balance sheets, and statements of changes in financial position of cash flows. If three (3) years of financial statements are not available, information shall be provided to the fullest extent possible or the reasons why, if they are not available.
  - b. For a privately held company when certified audited financial statements are not prepared, provide a written statement from the company's certified public accountant stating the financial condition, debt-to-asset ratio for the past three (3) years and any pending actions that may affect the company's financial condition.

- 6. Provide information regarding bankruptcy filings, loan defaults, pending liens, claims or lawsuits against the Offeror. If the Offeror has not experienced any of these situations, so indicate.
- 7. Provide information regarding any contracts that were terminated for default in the last five years including the other parties' name, address, and phone number. Termination for default is defined as notice to stop performance due to the Offeror's non-performance or poor performance. UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) will evaluate the facts and may, at its sole discretion, reject the proposal on the grounds of the past experience. If the Offeror has experienced no such termination for default in the past five years, so indicate.
- 8. Provide information regarding the security measures in place designed to protect the integrity and privacy of the data stored in the Offeror's computing systems.
- 9. Provide information regarding any security breaches of Offeror's computer systems/network in the past five years.

#### 4.6 <u>Criteria 2 – Services Defined</u>

- 1. Provide an overall description of how the scrubs and uniforms will be offered to KDMC team members according to our dress code and uniform policy. Provide a narrative detailing your approach to this project. Discuss how your company will provide the proposed services described in this RFP and the anticipated level of effort for the work.
- 2. Provide an explanation regarding how the KDMC stakeholders and the successful Offeror will coordinate all activities. Describe what level of support will be required from the stakeholders throughout the term of the contract.
- 3. Describe creative methods Offeror has developed/implemented to assist KDMC with the ease of purchasing of scrub and uniform's using the Offerors website and or in person event.
- 4. Describe any coalitions or special arrangements you may have or participate in that can benefit UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC).
- 5. Provide the process the Offeror uses to provide optimal performance for the term of the contract.
- Provide a description of what the Offeror views as the greatest threat to the successful completion of the work as described in this RFP and the Offeror's approach to minimizing this threat.
- 7. Provide a description of your ability to offer and maintain a user friendly web based online shopping platform.

#### 4.7 <u>Criteria 3 – Financial Proposal</u>

The Financial Summary shall contain the complete financial offer made to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC). All financial information must be submitted in a sealed envelope under separate cover.

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) will not be responsible for any travel costs of the Offeror should the need arise for onsite services.

#### 4.8 <u>Criteria 4 – Evidence of Successful Performance and Implementation Schedule</u>

- 1. Provide a list of institutions similar in size and scope of UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC), and large healthcare providers, also include a list of companies, for whom the Offeror has conducted or is currently conducting business. Please provide the following for each entity:
  - a. Institution/Company name
  - b. Services and products provided
  - c. Group size
  - d. Contact names
  - e. Addresses
  - f. Telephone numbers

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) specifically requests references where the Contractor has provided the service in order to verify the level of service provided. UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) reserves the right to use this information in the evaluation for this criteria.

2. Provide a statement that the Offeror has the resources available to assure implementation of KDMC team member scrub and uniform purchases.

#### 4.9 <u>Criteria 5 – Other Additional Information</u>

Please provide any additional information that the Offeror feels should be considered when evaluating their proposal.

The Offeror may present any creative approaches that might be appropriate. The Offeror may also provide supporting documentation that would be pertinent to this RFP.

#### 5.0 EVALUATION CRITERIA PROCESS

A committee of Medical Center officials appointed by the Executive Director of Supply Chain will evaluate proposals and make a recommendation to the Executive Director of Supply Chain. The evaluation will be based upon the information provided in the proposal, additional information requested by UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) for clarification, information obtained from references and independent sources and oral presentations (if requested).

The evaluation of responsive proposals shall then be completed by an evaluation team, which will determine the ranking of proposals. Proposals will be evaluated strictly in accordance with the requirements set forth in this solicitation, including any addenda that are issued. UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) will award the contract to the responsible Offeror whose proposal is determined to be the most advantageous to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC), taking into consideration the evaluation factors set forth in this RFP.

The evaluation of proposals will include consideration of responses to the list of criteria in Section 4.0. Offerors must specifically address all criteria in their response. Any deviations or exceptions to the specifications or requirements must be described and justified in a transmittal letter. Failure to list such exceptions or deviations in the transmittal letter may be considered sufficient reason to reject the proposal.

The relative importance of the criteria is defined below:

#### Primary Criteria

- Offeror Qualifications
- Services Defined
- Financial Proposal
- Evidence of Successful Performance and Implementation

#### Secondary Criteria

• Other Additional Services

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) will evaluate proposals as submitted and may not notify Offerors of deficiencies in their responses.

Proposals must contain responses to each of the criteria, listed in Section 4 even if the Offeror's response cannot satisfy those criteria. A proposal may be rejected if it is conditional or incomplete in the judgment of UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC).

#### 6.0 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

#### 6.1 Contract Term

The contract resulting from this RFP shall be effective for three (3) years and is renewable for up to two (2) additional one (1) year renewal periods. Annual renewal shall be contingent upon medical center's satisfaction with the services performed.

#### 6.2 Effective Date

The effective date of the contract shall be the date upon which the parties execute it and all appropriate approvals, including that of the Commonwealth of Kentucky Government Contracts Review Committee, have been received.

#### 6.3 <u>Competitive Negotiation</u>

It is the intent of the RFP to enter into competitive negotiation as authorized by KRS 45A.085.

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) will review all proposals properly submitted. However, UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) reserves the right to request necessary modifications, reject all proposals, reject any proposal that does not meet mandatory requirement(s) or cancel this RFP, according to the best interests of UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC).

Offeror(s) selected to participate in negotiations may be given an opportunity to submit a Best and Final Offer to the purchasing agency. All information-received prior to the cut-off time will be considered part of the Offeror's Best and Final Offer.

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) also reserves the right to waive minor technicalities or irregularities in proposals providing such action is in the best interest of UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC). Such waiver shall in no way modify the RFP requirements or excuse the Offeror from full compliance with the RFP specifications and other contract requirements if the Offeror is awarded the contract.

#### 6.4 Appearance Before Committee

Any, all or no Offerors may be requested to appear before the evaluation committee to explain their proposal and/or to respond to questions from the committee concerning the proposal. Offerors are prohibited from electronically recording these meetings. The committee reserves the right to request additional information.

#### 6.5 Additions, Deletions or Contract Changes

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) reserves the right to add, delete, or change related items or services to the contract established from this RFP. No modification or change of any provision in the resulting contract shall be made unless such modification is mutually agreed to in

writing by the contractor and the Chief Procurement Officer and incorporated as a written modification to the contract. Memoranda of understanding and correspondence shall not be interpreted as a modification to the contract.

#### 6.6 Contractor Cooperation in Related Efforts

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) reserves the right to undertake or award other contracts for additional or related work to other entities. The contractor shall fully cooperate with such other contractors and Medical Center employees and carefully fit its work to such additional work. The contractor shall not commit or permit any act which will interfere with the performance of work by any other contractor or by Medical Center employees. This clause shall be included in the contracts of all contractors with whom this contractor will be required to cooperate. UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) shall equitably enforce this clause to all contractors to prevent the imposition of unreasonable burdens on any contractor.

#### 6.7 Entire Agreement

The RFP shall be incorporated into any resulting contract. The resulting contract, including the RFP and those portions of the Offeror's response accepted by UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC), shall be the entire agreement between the parties.

#### 6.8 <u>Governing Law</u>

The contractor shall conform to and observe all laws, ordinances, rules and regulations of the United States of America, Commonwealth of Kentucky and all other local governments, public authorities, boards or offices relating to the property or the improvements upon same (or the use thereof) and will not permit the same to be used for any illegal or immoral purposes, business or occupation. The resulting contract shall be governed by Kentucky law and any claim relating to this contract shall only be brought in the Boyd County Circuit Court in accordance with KRS 45A.245.

#### 6.9 <u>Kentucky's Personal Information Security and Breach Investigation Procedures and</u> <u>Practices Act</u>

To the extent Company receives Personal Information as defined by and in accordance with Kentucky's Personal Information Security and Breach Investigation Procedures and Practices Act, KRS 61.931, 61.932 and 61.933 (the "Act"), Company shall secure and protect the Personal Information by, without limitation: (i) complying with all requirements applicable to non-affiliated third parties set forth in the Act; (ii) utilizing security and breach investigation procedures that are appropriate to the nature of the Personal Information disclosed, at least as stringent as UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC)'s and reasonably designed to protect the Personal Information from unauthorized access, use, modification, disclosure, manipulation, or destruction; (iii) notifying UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) of a security breach relating to Personal Information in the possession of Company or its agents or subcontractors within seventy-two (72) hours of discovery of an actual or suspected breach unless the exception set forth in KRS 61.932(2)(b)2 applies and Company abides by the requirements set forth in that exception; (iv) cooperating with UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) in complying with the response, mitigation, correction, investigation, and notification requirements of the Act , (v) paying all costs of

notification, investigation and mitigation in the event of a security breach of Personal Information suffered by Company; and (vi) at UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC)'s discretion and direction, handling all administrative functions associated with notification, investigation and mitigation.

#### 6.10 <u>Termination for Convenience</u>

The UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC), Purchasing Division, reserves the right to terminate the resulting contract without cause with a thirty (30) day written notice. Upon receipt by the contractor of a "notice of termination," the contractor shall discontinue all services with respect to the applicable contract. The cost of any agreed upon services provided by the contractor will be calculated at the agreed upon rate prior to a "notice of termination" and a fixed fee contract will be pro-rated (as appropriate).

#### 6.11 <u>Termination for Non-Performance</u>

#### <u>Default</u>

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) may terminate the resulting contract for nonperformance, as determined by UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC), for such causes as:

- Failing to provide satisfactory quality of service, including, failure to maintain adequate personnel, whether arising from labor disputes, or otherwise any substantial change in ownership or proprietorship of the Contractor, which in the opinion of UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) is not in its best interest, or failure to comply with the terms of this contract;
- Failing to keep or perform, within the time period set forth herein, or violation of, any of the covenants, conditions, provisions or agreements herein contained;
- Adjudicating as a voluntarily bankrupt, making a transfer in fraud of its creditors, filing a petition
  under any section from time to time, or under any similar law or statute of the United States or
  any state thereof, or if an order for relief shall be entered against the Contractor in any
  proceeding filed by or against contractor thereunder. In the event of any such involuntary
  bankruptcy proceeding being instituted against the Contractor, the fact of such an involuntary
  petition being filed shall not be considered an event of default until sixty (60) days after filing of
  said petition in order that Contractor might during that sixty (60) day period have the opportunity
  to seek dismissal of the involuntary petition or otherwise cure said potential default; or
- Making a general assignment for the benefit of its creditors, or taking the benefit of any insolvency act, or if a permanent receiver or trustee in bankruptcy shall be appointed for the Contractor.

#### **Demand for Assurances**

In the event UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) has reason to believe Contractor will be unable to perform under the Contract, it may make a demand for reasonable assurances that

Contractor will be able to timely perform all obligations under the Contract. If Contractor is unable to provide such adequate assurances, then such failure shall be an event of default and grounds for termination of the Contract.

#### **Notification**

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) will provide ten (10) calendar days written notice of default. Unless arrangements are made to correct the non-performance issues to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC)'s satisfaction within ten (10) calendar days, UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) may terminate the contract by giving forty-five (45) days' notice, by registered or certified mail, of its intent to cancel this contract.

#### 6.12 Funding Out

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) may terminate this contract if funds are not appropriated or are not otherwise available for the purpose of making payments without incurring any obligation for payment after the date of termination, regardless of the terms of the contract. UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) shall provide the contractor thirty (30) calendar days' written notice of termination under this provision.

#### 6.13 Prime Contractor Responsibility

Any contracts that may result from the RFP shall specify that the contractor(s) is/are solely responsible for fulfillment of the contract with UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC).

#### 6.14 Assignment and Subcontracting

The Contractor(s) may not assign or delegate its rights and obligations under any contract in whole or in part without the prior written consent of UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC). Any attempted assignment or subcontracting shall be void.

#### 6.15 Permits, Licenses, Taxes

The contractor shall procure all necessary permits and licenses and abide by all applicable laws, regulations and ordinances of all federal, state and local governments in which work under this contract is performed.

The contractor must furnish certification of authority to conduct business in the Commonwealth of Kentucky as a condition of contract award. Such registration is obtained from the Secretary of State, who will also provide the certification thereof. However, the contractor need not be registered as a prerequisite for responding to the RFP.

The contractor shall pay any sales, use, personal property and other tax arising out of this contract and the transaction contemplated hereby. Any other taxes levied upon this contract, the transaction or the equipment or services delivered pursuant hereto shall be the responsibility of the contractor. The contractor will be required to accept liability for payment of all payroll taxes or deductions required by local and federal law including (but not limited to) old age pension, social security or annuities.

#### 6.16 Attorneys' Fees

In the event that either party deems it necessary to take legal action to enforce any provision of the contract and in the event that UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) prevails, the contractor agrees to pay all expenses of such action including attorneys' fees and costs at all stages of litigation.

#### 6.17 Royalties, Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks

The Contractor shall pay all applicable royalties and license fees. If a particular process, products or device is specified in the contract documents and it is known to be subject to patent rights or copyrights, the existence of such rights shall be disclosed in the contract documents and the Contractor is responsible for payment of all associated royalties. To the fullest extent permitted by law the Contractor shall indemnify, hold UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) harmless, and defend all suits, claims, losses, damages or liability resulting from any infringement of patent, copyright, and trademark rights resulting from the incorporation in the Work or device specified in the Contract Documents.

Unless provided otherwise in the contract, the Contractor shall not use UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC)'s name nor any of its trademarks or copyrights, although it may state that it has a Contract with UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC).

#### 6.18 Indemnification

The contractor shall indemnify, hold and save harmless UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC), its affiliates and subsidiaries and their officers, agents and employees from losses, claims, suits, actions, expenses, damages, costs (including court costs and attorneys' fees of UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC)'s attorneys), all liability of any nature or kind arising out of or relating to the Contractor's response to this RFP or its performance or failure to perform under the contract awarded from this RFP. This clause shall survive termination for as long as necessary to protect UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC).

#### 6.19 Insurance

The successful Contractor shall procure and maintain, at its expense, the following minimum insurance coverages insuring all services, work activities and contractual obligations undertaken in this contract. These insurance policies must be with insurers acceptable to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC).

COVERAGES	LIMITS
Workers' Compensation	Statutory Requirements (Kentucky)

Commercial General Liability including operations/completed operations, products and contractual liability (including defense and investigation costs), and this contract Business Automobile Liability covering owned, leased, or non-owned autos	<ul> <li>\$1,000,000 each occurrence (BI &amp; PD combined) \$2,000,000 Products and Completed Operations Aggregate</li> <li>\$1,000,000 each occurrence (BI &amp; PD combined)</li> </ul>
Professional Liability	\$2,000,000 each occurrence/aggregate

The successful contractor agrees to furnish Certificates of Insurance for the above described coverages and limits to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC), Purchasing Division. UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC), its trustees and employees must be added as additional insured on the Commercial General Liability policy with regard to the scope of this solicitation. Any deductibles or self-insured retention in the above-described policies must be paid and are the sole responsibility of the contractor. Coverage is to be primary and non-contributory with other coverage (if any) purchased by UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC). All of these required policies must include a Waiver of Subrogation (except Workers' Compensation) in favor of UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC).

#### 6.20 Method of Award

It is the intent of UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) to award a contract to the qualified Offeror whose offer, conforming to the conditions and requirements of the RFP, is determined to be the most advantageous to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC), cost and other factors considered.

Notwithstanding the above, this RFP does not commit UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) to award a contract from this solicitation. UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) reserves the right to reject any or all offers and to waive formalities and minor irregularities in the proposal received.

#### 6.21 <u>Reciprocal Preference</u>

In accordance with KRS 45A.494, a resident Offeror of the Commonwealth of Kentucky shall be given a preference against a nonresident Offeror. In evaluating proposals, UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) will apply a reciprocal preference against an Offeror submitting a proposal from a state that grants residency preference equal to the preference given by the state of the nonresident Offeror. Residency and non-residency shall be defined in accordance with KRS 45A.494 (2) and 45A.494(3), respectively. Any Offeror claiming Kentucky residency status shall submit with its proposal a notarized affidavit affirming that it meets the criteria as set forth in the above reference statute.

#### 6.22 Reports and Auditing

Contractor shall provide a monthly report to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) of all product(s) based on an Excel template. The template will require basic information to include, but not limited to employee name, employee number and payroll deduction amount.

Reports can be submitted via email to the designated KDMC team member responsible for the resultant contract based by the deadline(s) listed herein.

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC), or its duly authorized representatives, shall also have access to any books, documents, papers, records or other evidence which are directly pertinent to this contract for the purpose of financial audit or program review.

In the event that successful Contractor(s) does not meet the reporting requirements based on the terms and conditions herein, the contract is subject to cancellation or termination.

#### 6.23 Confidentiality

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) recognizes an Offeror's possible interest in preserving selected information and data included in the proposal; however, UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) must treat such information and data as required by the Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.870, et seq.

Information areas which normally might be considered proprietary, and therefore confidential, shall be limited to individual personnel data, customer references, formulae and company financial audits which, if disclosed, would permit an unfair advantage to competitors. If a proposal contains information in these areas and the Offeror declares them to be proprietary in nature and not available for public disclosure, the Offeror shall declare in the Transmittal Letter the inclusion of proprietary information and shall noticeably label as confidential or proprietary each sheet containing such information. Proposals containing information declared by the Offeror to be proprietary or confidential, either wholly or in part, outside the areas listed above may be deemed non-responsive and may be rejected.

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC)'s General Counsel shall review each Offeror's information claimed to be confidential and, in consultation with the Offeror (if needed), make a final determination as to whether or not the confidential or proprietary nature of the information or data complies with the Kentucky Open Records Act.

#### 6.24 Conflict of Interest

This Request for Proposal and resulting Contract are subject to provisions of the Kentucky Revised Statutes regarding conflict of interest and UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct. When submitting and signing a proposal, an Offeror is certifying that no actual, apparent or potential conflict of interest exists between the interests of UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) and the interests of the Offeror. A conflict of interest (whether contractual, financial, organizational or otherwise) exists when any individual, contractor or subcontractor has a direct or indirect interest because of a financial or pecuniary interest, gift or other activities or relationships with other persons (including business, familial or household relationships) and is thus unable to render or is impeded from rendering impartial assistance or

advice, has impaired objectivity in performing the proposed work or has an unfair competitive advantage.

Questions concerning this section or interpretation of this section should be directed to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) purchasing officer identified in this RFP.

#### 6.25 Personal Service Contract Policies

Pursuant to the Kentucky Model Procurement Code (Code), the Government Contract Review Committee (GCRC) of the Kentucky General Assembly may establish policies that govern personal service contracts. Under the Code, a personal service contract is an agreement whereby an individual, firm, partnership or corporation is to perform certain services requiring professional skill or professional judgment for a specified period of time at an agreed upon price.

#### A. Professional Service Rate Schedules:

The GCRC has established rate schedules for certain professional services and may impact any contract established under the Code. These rate schedules are located on the GCRC website at <a href="http://www.lrc.ky.gov/statcomm/Contracts/homepage.htm">www.lrc.ky.gov/statcomm/Contracts/homepage.htm</a>.

#### **B. Invoicing of Personal Service Contracts:**

The Kentucky Model Procurement Code was recently amended to establish conditions for invoicing for fees for personal service contracts. It states, "No payment shall be made on any personal service contract unless the individual, firm, partnership, or corporation awarded the personal service contract submits its invoice on a form established by the committee." The Government Contract Review Committee has adopted a personal service contract invoice form that must be submitted as a condition of payment. A copy of the form is located on the GCRC website at <a href="https://www.uky.edu/hr/sites/www.uky.edu/hr/files/webform/eforms/Personal-Service-Contract-Invoice-Form\_0.pdf">https://www.uky.edu/hr/sites/www.uky.edu/hr/files/webform/eforms/Personal-Service-Contract-Invoice-Form\_0.pdf</a>

#### 6.26 Copyright Ownership and Title to Designs and Copy

The contractor and Medical Center intend this RFP to result in a contract for services, and both consider the products and results of the services to be rendered by the contractor hereunder to be a work made for hire. The contractor acknowledges and agrees that the work and all rights therein, including (without limitation) copyright, belongs to and shall be the sole and exclusive property of UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC). For any work that is not considered a work made for hire under applicable law, title and copyright ownership shall be assigned to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC).

Title to all dies, type, cuts, artwork, negatives, positives, color separations, progressive proofs, plates, copy and any other requirement not stated herein required for completion of the finished product for use in connection with any Medical Center job shall be the property of and owned by UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC). Such items shall be returned to the appropriate department upon completion and/or delivery of work unless otherwise authorized by UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC). In the event that time of return is not specified, the contractor shall return all such items to the appropriate Medical Center department within one week of delivery.

#### 6.27 Medical Center Brand Standards

The contractor must adhere to all UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) Brand Standards. Medical Center Brand Standards are maintained by UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) Marketing Department. Non-adherence to the standards can have a penalty up to and including contract cancellation. Only the Marketing Director or designee can approve exceptions to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) standards.

Contractor warrants that its products or services provided hereunder will be in compliance with all applicable Federal disabilities laws and regulations, including without limitation the accessibility requirements of Section 255 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. § 255) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794d), and its implementing regulations set forth at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1194. For purposes of clarity, updated regulations under Section 508 standards now incorporate WCAG 2.0, and for purposes of this agreement WCAG 2.0 Level AA compliance is expressly included. Contractor agrees to promptly respond to, resolve and remediate any complaint regarding accessibility of products or services in a timely manner and provide an updated version to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) at no cost. If deficiencies are identified, UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) reserves the right to request from Contractor, a timeline by which accessibility standards will be incorporated into the products or services provided by Contractor and shall provide such a timeline within a commercially reasonable duration of time. Failure to comply with these requirements shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement and shall be grounds for termination of this Agreement.

Where any customized web services are provided, Contractor represents that it has reviewed UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC)'s Web Policy and all products or services will comply with its published standards.

Contractor will provide UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) with a current Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) for any deliverable(s). If none is available, Vendor will provide sufficient information to reasonably assure UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) that the products or services are fully compliant with current requirements.

#### 6.28 Printing Statutes

The purchase of printing services for all state agencies is governed by Chapter 57 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes. Specifically, all printing must be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder and approved by the Governor of Kentucky. In compliance with these statutes, all printing must be provided by a contract established by the Purchasing Division.

#### 6.29 Payment Terms

UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) adheres to a strategic approach regarding payables management based on risk minimization, processing costs, and industry best practices. As such, suppliers and individuals doing business with UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) will be paid based on the following protocol:

- a. UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) utilizes Wells Fargo as its primary form of ACH/Credit Card Payments. By enrolling in Wells Fargo credit card payments, the supplier receives an email from Wells Fargo with credit card information and the remittance. If the vendor enrolls in ACH payments via Wells Fargo, the payment will be deposited and a remittance email from Wells Fargo will be sent. ACH forms can be provided by the Accounts Payable department at 606-408-9692.
- b. Payments by check. Payment terms for check payments are Net-40.
- c. Vendors receiving ACH direct payments will be approved by the Accounting Department and the Accounts Payable Supervisor. Payment Terms for ACH are Net-40.

#### 7.0 SCOPE OF SERVICES

#### 7.1 Detailed Services Defined

Offeror is expected to provide scrubs and uniforms in the colors and styles of the uniforms required by our team members according to the dress code and uniform policies as listed below:

• PCTs/CMTs/EKG Techs/Home Health Aides: Navy - Cherokee, Healing Hands, Med Couture, WonderWink, Heart and Soul

• Nursing: Royal Blue – Heart and Soul, Cherokee, Healing Hands, Med Couture, WonderWink

• Imaging Services: Light Blue/Ceil – Cherokee, Healing Hands, Med Couture, Heart and Soul, WonderWink

• Mammography: Shocking Pink – Cherokee Hot Pink –, Cherokee, WonderWink

• Lab: Red – Cherokee, Healing Hands, WonderWink

• Respiratory Therapy: Pewter – Cherokee, Heart and Soul, Healing Hands, Med Couture, WonderWink

• Therapies (excluding Speech Therapists): Light Grey – Cherokee, Heart and Soul, Healing Hands, Wonderwink

• Pharmacy: Caribbean Blue: Cherokee, Heart and Soul, Healing Hands, WonderWink

• Outpatient RNs and LPNs: Royal Blue – Dickies, Heart and Soul, Cherokee, Healing Hands, Med Couture, WonderWink

• Monitor Techs: Hunter Green – Healing Hands, Cherokee, Med Couture, WonderWink, Heart and Soul

- Construction: White painter pants
- Food service: black scrub pants
- Housekeeping: Tan scrubs or pants
- Evs: Royal Blue polo's
- Plant ops : Navy button up work shirt short and long sleeve
- Food service: Black polo's
- A non-slip shoe option is desirable
- UK King's Daughters is open to other brands as long as the colors are comparable.

Offeror is expected to offer free logo embroidery or screen printing options.

Offeror is expected to provide free shipping for orders over 49.00.

Offeror is expected to provide an online shopping option exclusive to UK King's Daughters that allows team members to purchase uniforms using annual uniform allowances, payroll deduction and credit card payment methods.

Offeror is expected to provide a onetime, in-person shopping event per calendar year for team members, either a full roll in event with mobile options to shop for the outreach clinics or a fitting event that allows KDMC team members to try on the sizes and styles in all available uniform options before they place their online orders.

Offeror must be willing to pay a commission to the King's Daughters Auxiliary for a percentage of all orders placed online or in person and will pay the commission on a quarterly schedule.

#### 8.0 FINANCIAL OFFER SUMMARY

The successful Offeror must be willing to pay a commission to the King's Daughters Auxiliary A percentage of all orders placed online and in person and will pay the commission on a quarterly schedule. Offeror should provide the commission percentage with the financial proposal.

The successful Offeror is to provide pricing by brand, size and color for each piece.

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The Offeror may provide pricing for additional services which may or may not be necessary to UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC)'s needs. UK King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) reserves the right to accept or deny the additional services.

#### 8.1 Alternate pricing

In addition to the above financial offer, the offeror may submit alternative financial proposals, However the information requested above shall be supplied and will be used for proposal evaluation purposes.