



South Dakota  
Department of  
**Social Services**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
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December 20, 2024

To: All Interested Vendors

Re: Invitation to Discuss Phase 3 Systems Planning for Eligibility & Enrollment Programs

The State of South Dakota, Department of Social Services (DSS), Division of Economic Assistance (EA) is in the process of developing an integrated approach to their programs. DSS envisions a single-worker model for all EA Eligibility and Enrollment Programs that is customer centric and supports an efficient and effective experience for constituents and staff. DSS seeks a solution that is 1) scalable and interoperable to meet multiple programs and services, each with unique program-level needs, 2) sufficiently robust and flexible to quickly adapt to changing policies and business rules without requiring substantial programming effort or customizations, and 3) resilient and reliable.

This Invitation to Discuss (ID) is being sought strictly for the purpose of gaining knowledge of solutions available and should not be construed as intent, commitment, or promise to acquire services, supplies, or solutions offered. No contract will result from any direct response to this ID.

Information submitted in response to this ID is considered confidential and will become the property of the State of South Dakota.

The State of South Dakota will not pay for any information herein requested nor is it liable for any cost incurred by the vendor.

Any correspondence shall be sent to Kirsten Blachford at [Kirsten.Blachford@state.sd.us](mailto:Kirsten.Blachford@state.sd.us) with the subject line 25ID12182 EA Phase 3 Systems Planning for Eligibility & Enrollment Programs. Any attempt to contact DSS personnel or employees of its third-party service providers, licensors or other suppliers without DSS' approval, which must be obtained on a case-by-case basis, will be grounds for disqualification.

Each Vendor is required to nominate, and provide full contact details for, a single representative with whom all communications are to be channeled. This includes a valid email address at which all communications will be sent, including notices of changes to meeting times and locations, new procedures and new requests for information or clarification. All communications sent to this representative will be deemed to have been received one business day after being sent.

We appreciate your response to this request.

## **1.0 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE(S)**

DSS is issuing this Invitation to Discuss (ID) to review and discuss the continued transformation of the systems that support our safety net programs. DSS has implemented Phase 1 of their safety net program transformation for Medicaid Eligibility and Enrollment, which includes Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) and non-MAGI groups (long term care, HCBS waivers, etc.), utilizing the Merative Cúram platform. Phase 2 of the modernization effort, also utilizing Cúram, is proceeding with design and development activities being completed to add Child Care Assistance to this platform. Planning efforts for Phase 3 which include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) are underway. As part of the Phase 3 planning, DSS is seeking input from vendors with qualifications implementing similar programs on the Cúram platform or products that integrate with the Cúram platform to fully complete its modernization efforts.

Prior to publication of a Request for Proposal, DSS intends to engage the vendor community in a discussion to garner feedback that may be useful to the planning of the Phase 3 implementation. As part of this engagement with such qualified vendors, DSS intends to demonstrate current functionality developed for Phase 1, generally describe Phase 2 scope, share a high-level draft scope of work for Phase 3, and discuss specific, targeted questions regarding solutions for SNAP, TANF, and LIEAP eligibility and enrollment that can leverage the existing Cúram system without duplicating existing functionality, including any Phase 3 solutions that utilize non-Cúram systems.

The information gathered by this ID may be used by DSS in developing any necessary documents to procure a Phase 3 solution for SNAP, TANF, and LIEAP eligibility and enrollment. The State does not intend to pay for design, development, or implementation work already completed as part of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 transformation by DSS or another state and expects any solution to require minimal customization.

The State's Cúram implementation is hosted in the current systems integrator's Azure tenant while the data-mart is hosted in South Dakota's Azure Tenant. The State is interested in hearing thoughts on how qualified vendors propose to add SNAP/TANF/LIEAP functionality to the existing eligibility application and best leverage and/or maximize the design, development, and implementation work completed as part of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 transformations.

## **2.0 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

Vendors Request to Apply and Register Submission Date:	01/10/2025
Notification to Qualified Vendors:	01/17/2025
High Level Scope of Work and State Questions:	01/20/2025
Vendors Responses and Questions Due:	01/31/2025
State and Vendor Meeting Date:	02/10/2025

## **3.0 VENDORS REQUEST TO APPLY AND REGISTER**

Vendor Profile: Provide a brief description of your organization - including company name, address, company contact name, email, and phone number, as well as a very brief narrative (no more than a paragraph) about your company's most recent implementation of a system supporting SNAP, TANF, and LIEAP.

Past Experience: Explain your qualifications as a system integrator and your experience implementing a federally compliant enrollment and eligibility system, specifically related to SNAP, TANF, and LIEAP programs or integration of other equivalent products with a Cúram solution.

- Indicate in which State(s) you implemented a SNAP/TANF/LIEAP and/or a Medicaid solution that also meets the other goals and objectives stated in this invitation.
  - When did you implement this system(s) (list by State with affiliated start and end dates)?
  - For each implementation, please indicate whether you were the prime contractor or subcontractor and your scope of work.
- Please provide a contact name from each State that you have implemented a SNAP/TANF/LIEAP and/or a Medicaid system that South Dakota can speak with prior to scheduling a meeting time with your company.
- How long did it take you to implement your SNAP/TANF/LIEAP and/or Medicaid system and what programs (MAGI, Non-MAGI, SNAP, TANF, Child Care, and/or LIEAP) were included in the initial implementation? If you used a Phased Approach to implementation, what programs were implemented in what phase(s) and how long was each phase? (Respond for each State that you indicated in previous response)

Profile/Experience will be sent to Kirsten Blachford at [Kirsten.Blachford@state.sd.us](mailto:Kirsten.Blachford@state.sd.us) in a PDF format due 01/10/2025. Please include 25ID12182 in the subject line.

## **4.0 NOTIFICATION TO QUALIFIED VENDORS**

A qualified vendor is one that has performed work as a system integrator (design, development, and implementation responsibilities) and has implemented or currently is implementing a federally approved eligibility and enrollment system for other economic assistance programs beyond MAGI and Non-MAGI Medicaid/CHIP eligibility determinations, such as SNAP/TANF/LIEAP, in another state. In addition, a qualified vendor must also be in compliance

with <https://boa.sd.gov/central-services/procurement-management/procurement-management-executiveorder.aspx>.

The State will notify vendors via email with qualification status on 01/17/2025.

## **5.0 HIGH LEVEL SCOPE OF WORK AND STATE QUESTIONS**

The qualified Vendors will receive a high-level scope of work and Questions from the State on 01/20/2025 via email.

## **6.0 VENDORS RESPONSES AND QUESTIONS DUE**

Vendors responses are due 01/31/2025 and are to be sent to Kirsten Blachford via email. At this time the Vendors are allowed to submit back Questions to the State if needed. Feedback on the Vendors Questions will be given at the State and Vendor meeting.

## **7.0 STATE AND VENDOR MEETING**

Once Responses and Questions have been received, the State intends to host a single joint meeting with all qualified vendors for an open discussion in Sioux Falls, SD on 02/10/2025. Additional background information and guidelines will be provided in advance of the meeting. Feedback on Vendor Questions will be given at the Vendor Meeting and the State may have additional questions regarding Vendor Responses. Vendors may have a maximum of five (5) representatives participate in the Vendor Meeting and at least one of the five must be onsite.

Information regarding the time and location will be sent out to all qualified vendors two weeks prior to the Vendor Meeting.

The State will provide a meeting room that can accommodate up to 5 vendor representatives for each qualified vendor and will have Internet connectivity available.

## **8.0 GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### Applicable Law.

This ID process will be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of South Dakota.

### Collusive Conduct; Improper Assistance; Inducements.

No person or entity participating in this process, nor any of its officers, employees, advisors or other representatives will: (i) engage in any collusive tendering, anti-competitive conduct, or any other similar conduct with any other person or entity with respect to this process; (ii) seek any assistance, other than assistance officially provided by DSS in connection with this process, from any DSS employee, advisor or other representative; or (iii) make or offer any gift, gratuity, or other inducement, whether lawful or unlawful, to any of DSS' employees, advisors or other representatives.

### Responsibility for Subcontractors and Personnel.

Each vendor submitting a Response is responsible for ensuring that its subcontractors and all of its personnel, including officers, directors, employees, advisors and other representatives of it or its subcontractors, comply with these General Terms and

Conditions.

Confidentiality.

Except as may be required by law or a court having competent jurisdiction, no information contained in or relating to this ID will be disclosed by any vendor or other persons not officially involved with DSS' examination and evaluation of such responses.

Throughout this process and thereafter, vendors must secure DSS' written approval prior to the release of any information that pertains to the potential work or activities covered by this ID or the subsequent process. Failure to adhere to this requirement may result in disqualification and or legal action.

Proprietary Rights.

DSS shall own all intellectual property rights in the information and ideas developed during this process, including any information and ideas reflected in this ID or vendors' Responses or Vendor Questions or that are expressed or disclosed during the meetings contemplated as part of this process, except for any pre-existing intellectual property of the vendors. Each vendor acknowledges and agrees that DSS is free to disclose any ideas, designs, solutions or other intellectual property developed in connection with this process unless such intellectual property is pre-existing intellectual property of a vendor and clearly identified as such at the time of disclosure (or, if first disclosed orally, within 24 hours after such disclosure).

Publicity.

No vendor shall refer to DSS or this ID in any of its publicity or advertising materials without DSS' prior written approval.