

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SOLE SOURCE:

This Notice of Intent is not a request for competitive proposals. This is not a solicitation or request for offers. No solicitation package is available, and telephone requests will not be honored. Only one responsible source, and no other supplies or services will satisfy agency requirements.

The Defense Health Agency Contracting Activity Healthcare Contracting Division, Southeast (DHACA-HCD-SE), plans to award a firm fixed price sole source contract to The South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind (SCSDB) for **early intervention services for infants and toddlers with vision and/or hearing impairments that include a range of specialized supports designed to address their unique developmental needs. These services shall include but are not limited to include family training, orientation and mobility instruction, introductory American Sign Language (ASL) education, and American Sign Language interpreting services.** This acquisition is being conducted under the authority of Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) (FAR) 12.102(a) "For acquisitions valued at or below the simplified acquisition threshold (SAT), document the decision that only one source is available and the basis for the decision" as The South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind (SCSDB) is the only responsible source capable of providing early intervention services to infants and toddlers with vision and hearing impairments that meet the Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Beaufort Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) eligibility requirements. The contractor shall provide all personnel, equipment, tools, vehicles, materials, supervision, transportation, and services necessary to effectively, economically, and satisfactorily perform the services as required by this Performance Work Statement (PWS) for NMRTC Beaufort.

Special Qualifications/Considerations: The required services operate under the statutory authority of the South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 59, Chapter 47, which charters the state's specialized educational agency for students with sensory disabilities. Furthermore, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-36-20 and the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the partnering entity is legally designated to collaborate with the State Department of Education and local school districts to provide comprehensive early intervention, specialized materials (such as Braille via the state's Instructional Materials Center), and statewide outreach services. To successfully execute these legally mandated services, specific personnel qualifications are required depending on the role, particularly for early intervention professionals who must provide direct services to infants and toddlers (birth to age 3) with sensory impairments and developmental delays, as well as necessary support to their families, in accordance with established general qualifications and requirements for early intervention.

Educational requirements include possessing a bachelor's degree or advanced degree from an accredited college or university. A degree in relevant field such as Early Childhood Education, Special Education, Deaf Education, Blind/Visual Impairment Education, Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Social Work, Psychology or related fields. Advanced degrees may be required for certain specialized roles such as therapist or specialists.

Depending on the role, professionals may need to hold a valid South Carolina license in their field (e.g., teaching certification, therapy licensure). For teachers, certification in Deaf Education or Visual Impairment is often required. For therapists, licensure in fields such as speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, or physical therapy is necessary. Early Intervention Credentialing: Some positions may require certification or credentialing specific to early intervention services, such as training in Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). American Sign Language (ASL) Proficiency: For roles involving children with hearing impairments, proficiency in ASL is often required or preferred. Some positions may require passing an ASL proficiency assessment.

All personnel assigned to this contract shall meet the following minimum mandatory qualifications. The Contractor shall provide documentation to the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) to verify all qualifications prior to the employee commencing work.

Educational Requirements:

All personnel shall possess a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university in one of the following fields:

- Early Childhood Education
- Special Education
- Deaf Education
- Blind/Visual Impairment Education
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Social Work
- Psychology

Professional Licensure and Certification:

- Teachers: All personnel performing teaching duties shall hold a valid South Carolina teaching certificate with an endorsement in Deaf Education or Visual Impairment.
- Therapists: All personnel performing therapeutic duties shall hold a valid South Carolina license in their respective field (e.g., Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy).
- Early Interventionists: All personnel shall possess a valid South Carolina Early Intervention Specialist (EIS) or Early Intervention Supervisor (EISV) credential.

American Sign Language (ASL) Proficiency:

For all personnel providing services to children with hearing impairments, the following is required:

- A passing score on the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) at a level of 2+ or higher. The contractor shall provide the ASLPI score report to the COR.

Period of Performance

- Base Year: 30 September 2026 – 29 September 2027
- Option Year 1: 30 September 2027 – 29 September 2028
- Option Year 2: 30 September 2028 – 29 September 2029
- Option Year 3: 30 September 2026 – 29 September 2030
- Option Year 4: 30 September 2026 – 29 September 2031
- Option Year 5 (-8): 30 September 2031 – 30 March 2032

The intended procurement will be classified under North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 541930 with a Small Business Size Standard of \$22.5.

Materials and Equipment. The contractor shall provide all personnel, equipment, tools, vehicles, materials, supervision, transportation, and services necessary to effectively, economically, and satisfactorily perform the services as required by this Performance Work Statement (PWS) for NMRTC Beaufort.

There are no set-aside restrictions for this requirement.

Capability Statement: Capability statements shall not exceed 5 (8.5 x 11 inch) pages using a font size no smaller than 10-point. All capability statements received by closing of this notification of this synopsis will be considered by the government. A request for documentation or additional information or submissions that only ask questions will not be considered as an affirmative response.

The burden of proof is on the respondent with the submittal of their Capability Statement and addressing the entire need as outlined in the Performance Work Statement.

A determination by the government not to compete based on responses to this notice is solely within the discretion of the government. Information received will be considered solely for the purpose of determining whether to conduct competitive procurement. Capability statements are due by 12:00 PM, EST, July 6, 2026.

Capability statements shall be submitted by email only as a Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF attachment to the Contracting Officer, Mary Shifflett, mary.e.shifflett2.civ@health.mil; and Contract Specialist, Rebecca Brashears, rebecca.a.brashears.civ@health.mil.

