

## **Answers to Questions posed in response to the Connecticut ABLE Program RFP**

1. Would the state consider a response from a private sector entity to create a standalone CT ABLE program?

The Office of the Connecticut State Treasurer would consider responses from public and private sector entities as well as consider both stand-alone and joint programs.

2. What is the size of the state's ABLE budget or ability to cover the cost to develop state-specific materials and website? What is the size of the state's ABLE marketing and outreach budget? The Personal Services Agreement provides for compensation to be paid to the Contractor. Does the state have an appropriation(s) or other funds available to support the launch and ongoing marketing and maintenance of an ABLE program?

The ABLE program budget has not yet been determined as the state's ABLE program has not been launched yet.

3. Will the state have dedicated ABLE oversight and outreach staff? How many? Does the state have staff available to do education and outreach throughout the state? Does the state have dedicated staff or plan to include dedicated staff in order to execute implementation of CT ABLE program. If so, at what job classification levels and percentage of staff time?

Yes, the Office of the Connecticut State Treasurer has resources who will work with the program manager on an ABLE partnership.

4. Is CT open to alternative forms of agreement and contracting structures (e.g. separate agreements with the state and the program manager the state uses for ABLE)?

The Office of the Connecticut State Treasurer is open to alternative forms of agreement and contracting structures so long as they comply with applicable laws, regulations, policies and procedures of the State of Connecticut.

5. Does CT intend to contract separately with an investment advisory firm to construct a new set of investment portfolios or approve the existing investment portfolios currently used by the state?

The Office of the Connecticut State Treasurer is open to reviewing a separate relationship with an investment advisory firm, so long as the investment advisory firm can comply with applicable laws, resolutions, policies and procedures of the State of Connecticut.

6. The Personal Services Agreement states the contract term as 5 years but the RFP states a 4-year term with 2 optional renewals of 4 years each. Which is accurate?

The term in the RFP is the contemplated term at this time, i.e. 4 years.

7. If the term of our existing contract differs from the contract term you are requesting, are you willing to change your contract terms to run concurrently with ours?

The Office of the Connecticut State Treasurer would consider such a proposal so long as the term is reasonable.

8. Do you expect or is it a requirement that a portion of the fees collected from participants or on the assets in the program go to the State of CT?

All program fees are to be used to support the ABLE Program.

9. Has the state of Connecticut reached any decisions regarding the naming or other branding to be associated with its ABLE program?

The Office of the Connecticut State Treasurer has not reached any decision on naming or branding the ABLE program at this time.

10. In regards to representation in decision making and changes to the ABLE program, has the state identified any minimum requirements such as representation on the contractors decision making board? Can respondents assume that without a requirement clearly stated in the RFP that in person participation in advisory board meetings, while favored, is not mandatory?

If the Office of the State Treasurer partners with another state program, we would request representation on the decision-making board.

11. Do the requirements for certifications and indemnifications apply to states?

For States that respond to this RFP, the Connecticut Legal and Policy Attachments/Certifications are not required at this time. Connecticut reserves the right to require any or all of the Connecticut Legal and Policy Attachments, should the parties enter into contract negotiations.

12. In the event a prospective respondent is unable to submit a fully compliant bid due to its existing contract terms and state procurement/statutory requirements, would the Treasurer consider a response that provides an overview of the existing multi-state program that could include Connecticut, and an offer to provide a presentation/demo for further consideration?

Yes.