

Notice to Providers - Specialist Disability Employment Programme Opportunities to Tender

Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) Events

16 March 2009

Dear Provider

Following the Design / Procurement workshops conducted in December 08, details of which can be found in the Notice to Providers published on the Supplying DWP website on 29th January 09, this note is to provide further details of the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) events for the Specialist Disability Employment Programme tendering exercise. The events will be conducted in late March / early April on the dates and locations listed below:

Date: Tuesday 31st March
Location: Edinburgh

Date: Wednesday 1st April
Location: Leeds

Date: Friday 3rd April
Location: Manchester

Date: Tuesday 7th April
Location: Cardiff

Date: Wednesday 8th April
Location: London

Full details of the events, including venues and how to book a place, will be displayed on the website next week.

Approach to contracting

These contracts will be let following a fair and open competition in accordance with public procurement policy and EU regulations. The DWP website will be used to advertise the competition.

A two-stage approach to tendering will be taken involving the completion of standardised tendering documentation to ensure a consistent approach. For the first stage of the process bidders will be asked to complete a PQQ. Bidders who are successful at this stage will then be invited to complete detailed tendering documentation to tell us how they will fully meet the varied employment needs of targeted customers. Through this process only those providers that are able to

best demonstrate they are able to meet our requirements are asked to spend time completing detailed documentation at the Invitation to Tender (ITT) stage.

The PQQ events will provide the opportunity to explain in more detail our requirements. There will also be the opportunity for potential bidders to raise questions on key issues as the events will be supported by colleagues covering a number of specialist areas. In addition, DWP has secured support from an independent consultant, Community Engine, to provide advice and guidance on formulating Consortia/Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV).

During this exercise DWP is looking to further facilitate networking opportunities between potential Prime and Sub-Contractors, including Third Sector and smaller organisations, by creating a networking database. Further information about this will be given at the PQQ events and appear in the notice to be published next week.

Steve Liptrot
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