State of Connecticut  
Department of Public Health  

Request for Information  
For  
Establishing a Public Umbilical Cord Blood Operation  

Issue Date:  
August 15, 2007  

Question Cut-Off Date:  
August 29, 2007 @ 3:00 PM  

RFI Submission Due Date:  
September 26, 2007 @ 3:00 PM  

Issued by:  
State of Connecticut  
Connecticut Department of Public Health  
Office of Research and Development  
410 Capitol Avenue  
P.O. Box 340308  
Hartford, CT  06134-0308
I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Connecticut Department of Public Health seeks information from one or more umbilical cord blood banks concerning the establishment of a public cord blood banking operation in the State of Connecticut. The operation will consist of collecting, transporting, processing, storing and selling cord blood units (CBUs) from Connecticut residents for therapeutic and research purposes.

II. REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES FOR QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

This Request for Information (RFI) outlines the type of information being solicited from vendors and includes guidelines for content and format of responses. From this RFI’s issuance date of August 15, 2007, vendor(s) choosing to respond to this RFI will have two (2) weeks to respond with questions and six (6) weeks to submit their completed written responses.

Questions for the purpose of clarifying this RFI must be in written form, submitted using electronic mail and addressed to:

warren.wollschlager@po.state.ct.us

Written questions must be submitted no later than 3:00 P.M. on August 29, 2007. In the subject line of your email please note “Public UCBB RFI Question” to ensure a prompt response.

Parties desiring to respond to this RFI must do so in writing, providing one original and six (6) complete copies of the submitted response, by 3:00 P.M. on September 26, 2007. Late responses may or may not be considered, depending upon the needs of the Connecticut Department of Public Health. The postal address for RFI responses is:

Warren Wollschlager
Connecticut Department of Public Health
Office of Research and Development
410 Capitol Avenue, MS#51 ORD
P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

III. BACKGROUND

Public Act 06-77, AN ACT DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH AND CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD BANK was enacted on May 30, 2006 in Connecticut. Concerned about the lack of choices for public cord banking offered to birthing women in Connecticut and recognizing the therapeutic and research importance of umbilical cord blood, the General Assembly tasked the Connecticut Department of Public Health, through its Commissioner, to convene an ad hoc committee (the Committee) to study the feasibility of establishing a public umbilical cord bank in Connecticut for
the purpose of collecting and storing umbilical cord blood and placental tissue donated by maternity patients at hospitals licensed in the State. The Committee was also tasked with addressing the potential for a multi-state public umbilical cord partnership, and the potential for developing a public-private partnership with existing umbilical cord blood banks. The Committee reported its findings and recommendations to the legislature and to the Office of the Governor on January 5, 2007.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the most advantageous approach for collection of CBUs within the State is through a public-private partnership between Connecticut and an existing cord blood bank. The Committee identified a number of different approaches to the establishment of a public-private partnership, and recommended that the State solicit proposals from existing banks.

In response to the January 5, 2007 report and recommendations of the Committee, the General Assembly mandated in Public Act 07-252, Sec. 77, that on or before October 1, 2007, the Commissioner of Public Health shall request information from one or more umbilical cord blood banks concerning the establishment of a public cord blood collection operation within this state to collect, transport, process and store cord blood units from Connecticut residents for therapeutic and research purposes. A summary of the responses, along with any recommendations, shall be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly on or before January 1, 2008.

IV. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this RFI is to acquire information about the outlined requirements. To the extent simplifying assumptions are possible, respondents are encouraged to make and document such assumptions in their response. Responses to this RFI must include the following information relative to an adaptable and available public-private partnership between Connecticut and an existing cord blood bank.

1. Company Profile

Provide company profile information which will be used to gain a better understanding of the nature and the capability of each respondent including their expertise in umbilical cord blood banking and their experience with state government.

2. Umbilical Cord Blood Bank Components and Operations

- Describe ability to establish and operate one or more collection sites within the state to collect a target number of cord blood units.
- Describe ability to implement collection procedures designed to collect cord blood units that reflect the state’s racial and ethnic diversity.
- Describe ability to meet the mandate in the law of setting up the cord blood collection operations within six months after execution of a contract with the state, provided that the umbilical cord blood bank is able to negotiate any necessary contracts related to the collection sites within that time frame.
• Describe ability to participate in the National Cord Blood Coordinating Center or similar national cord blood inventory center by listing cord blood units in a manner that assures maximum opportunity for use.
• Describe your program for providing cord blood units for research and your agreement to provide cord blood units that are unsuitable for therapeutic use to researchers located within Connecticut at no charge.
• Describe ability to maintain national accreditation by an accrediting organization recognized by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration.
• Describe your program for conducting educational outreach to practitioners, patient donors and hospitals.

3. Public/Private Partnership

The State of Connecticut anticipates entering into a public/private partnership regarding the collection, transporting, processing, storing and sale of CBUs collected within the State.
• Describe any such partnerships that you may currently be party to.
• Describe any private partnerships that you are party to that would demonstrate experience in this area.
• Identify any conditions or parameters that you would require to pursue a public/private partnership.

V. INFORMATION EXCHANGE MEETINGS

The Connecticut Department of Public Health may consider inviting respondents to make oral presentations should the RFI team wish to further investigate certain functional areas. If pursued, the Department will select a limited number of firms to make presentations. Presentations will be conducted solely for information gathering purposes and not used in any way to make selections. Due to logistical and time constraints, it is possible that some respondents will not be invited to present.

VI. DISCLAIMER

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a solicitation. All information in response to this RFI that is marked Proprietary will be handled accordingly and in accordance with the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)(§1-210 of the CT General Statutes). However, responders should be aware that all materials associated with this effort are subject to the terms of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and all rules, regulations and interpretations resulting there from. It will not be sufficient for responders to merely state that the RFI is proprietary or confidential in nature and not, therefore, subject to release to third parties. Those particular sentences, paragraphs, pages or sections which a responder believes to be exempt from disclosure under the FOIA must be specifically identified as such, with appropriate explanations and rationale accompanying the RFI.
Responses to the RFI shall become the sole property of the State and will not be returned. Responses to this notice are not an offer and cannot be accepted to form a binding contract. It should be understood that this RFI will not result in a contract award. The solicitation of information should not be considered an opportunity to “market” to the Connecticut Department of Public Health or to any entity for the State of Connecticut. Responders are solely responsible for all expenses associated with responding to this RFI.