

Thurston County DUI/Drug Court- Drug Testing RFP- Clarification Responses

1. Who is the current provider? **Cordant Health Solutions**
2. Why are you evaluating new providers? **Our current contract with Cordant Health Solutions is due to expire in the coming months and the Thurston County procurement policy encourages agencies to engage in a competitive bidding process when contracting for services.**
3. Are there any specific improvements you are seeking of your previous contract? **Thurston County Superior Court uses the procurement process to evaluate current services always with the intention of improving service delivery and efficiency.**
4. What is the current pricing? **In the interest of furthering a fair competitive bidding process, the County declines to answer this question. The incumbent would not have the same advantage of knowing what it will be bidding against. Additionally, pricing is not the only criteria considered in successful bid. The County encourages Bidders to propose pricing based on all aspects of services proposed.**
5. What is the expected volume of tests? (If you can't provide an estimate, can you share figures from 2019?) **In 2019 the combined monthly average for urinalysis samples collected by all court programs included in our contract was approx. 1280.**
6. What is your estimated budget for this project? **The anticipated budget for this contract will be based on the accepted bidders contracted rate and participating program(s) projected census.**
7. Would you be open to allowing Oral Fluid testing? **It is simple, noninvasive and can be done anywhere. We inquired about this services option during the COVID shutdown with our current provider. We decided not to pursue this option as we returned to in-person urinalysis services. It is something we are open to exploring further.**
8. Page 2. "This solicitation is open to those providers that meet the minimum qualifications: 1. Currently certified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)." Are you looking to contract directly with a Laboratory, or may Third-Party Administrators submit? **We are looking to contract directly with laboratories that provide this service. Bids that propose to use third-party administrators will not be considered.**
9. Page 11. "The proposal will be submitted in the form of: One (1) original file on a portable media or electronic readable media..." Please confirm that you don't want any paper copies. **You may provide a paper copy but it must be in addition to the electronic format requested. A paper copy is not necessary. Bidders should not submit any proposal via email.**
10. Could the County please provide the current contract(s)? **Please see the County's answer to question 4 above. In the context of clarification question concerning this RFP, the County will not provide the contract. However, bidders are free to make a records request under General Rule 31.1, the process for which is available on the Superior Court Website.**

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11. How many samples per specimen type does the County anticipate will require testing monthly? Annually? **In 2019 there were approximately 15,000 samples collected between all of the programs receiving toxicology services at the DUI/Drug Court site.**
12. SAMHSA Requirement: Would the County allow CLIA certification in lieu of SAMHSA? Like SAMHSA, CLIA certification is also provided through the federal Department of Health & Human Services. However, SAMHSA licensure is specifically meant to regulate workplace drug testing for only 5 drug classes—Amphetamines/Methamphetamines (including MDMA but excluding MDEA), Cocaine, Opioids (including hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxycodone, oxymorphone, and 6-MAM), PCP and Marijuana (THC). As your agency focuses on the criminal justice sector as opposed to workplace or employment testing, SAMHSA licensure and practices may not be quite as appropriate or necessary. For example, SAMHSA requires a medical review officer (MRO) to provide a review of positive results prior to releasing them and for positives to be automatically confirmed—both of which result in extra expense and extra time for results delivery. Moreover, it appears that your agency is interested in testing for additional non-SAMHSA regulated drugs such as Alcohol, Benzodiazepines, Buprenorphine, Methadone, and Synthetic Cannabinoids, as well as specimen types such as hair and oral fluid. Will the County consider laboratories that have CLIA certification as opposed to SAMHSA? **SAMHSA certification is the minimum requirement any bidder should have. Certification exceeding the requirements of SAMHSA will be considered.**
13. How is the random selection process conducted currently? How are clients notified of the need to test currently? Call in or check on-line?
The current process is a cloud-based system (Sentry) provided by our current vendor. This system manages all aspects of testing including, an automated call in system that allows participants to call in or log-in and be alerted to testing notifications for that date, based on the number of samples we indicate in their participant profile and based on phase in the program or as indicated in service plans.
14. What data systems does the County currently utilize? **The Thurston County DUI/Drug Court uses iMS-Tridents Connexis Cloud case management system.**
15. Does the current vendor employ a dedicated collection staff? **No, the Thurston County DUI/Drug Court program contracts with a treatment services provider who employs two dedicated UA techs.**
16. Please describe the County's current method of specimen collection, either by County staff or the vendor providing collection services? **All Urine drug screens are observed by trained UA techs who follow our collection policy and procedure. Participants identify themselves and then are required to remove excessive clothing and ensure that they are in clear view of the observer, demonstrate physical control by starting and stopping their stream of urine (women use a catch hat) observer must see toilet bowl, seal and bag their own specimen and deposit in secured collection bin. Sealed samples are bagged and courier transports to lab.**
17. Where are the samples currently collected? **All samples are collected on-site at the Thurston County DUI/Drug Court Building. What are the hours of operation? Collection hours are 6:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m. M-F and 7:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.**

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18. How many locations does the County intend to ship samples from? **One**
19. Does the County send all presumptive positives for confirmation? **Yes**
20. What is the County's current positive rate? Approx. **2% over the past 30 days.**
21. What is the cost per confirmation that the County currently pays? **Please see the answer to question 4 above.**
22. How is the County testing for alcohol? What is the cost per test? **ETG or ETS. Please see question 4 above regarding pricing.**
23. What is the County's historic average number of expert testimonies per year? **Less than one.**
24. Does the County plan to conduct vendor interviews after bids are submitted, prior to award notification? **The County may conduct bidder interviews as a part of this RFP.**
25. Page 11 of the RFP asks for one electronic file of the proposal on portable media, and it looks like this should be shipped to the Court offices. If an electronic copy is all that is needed, would it be possible to send the proposal document via email? Or alternatively, with some overnight services still experiencing delays, would the Court prefer to receive the electronic proposal by both overnight service and email? **See answer 9 above regarding proposal submissions.**
26. 2.4, Testing Methods on page 5 states that specimens screened positive can be confirmed using a second EIA. Would the Court consider removing the "second EIA" as one of the available methods to confirm a presumptive positive result? A second EIA is not considered to be legally defensible, per SAMHSA and CAP. **Thurston County DUI/Drug Court will consider Bidder proposals that, in addition to meeting other minimum qualifications, include confirmation processes that are legally defensible and fall within industry and certification standard of practice**