

251: Section H.20 (f) Pay and Benefits (2b) states “The contractor shall become a participating/sponsor employer in the BJC MEPP....” Further (2b) states “The contractor shall enter into an administrative service agreement with BJC regarding the administrative services and the cost thereof to be provided by BJC.” We have contacted BJC and they have specifically informed us that they can provide us no information concerning the scope of these “administrative services” or the concept of operations of how the performance of these services would relate to our staff in Paducah. Since the RFP directs the offeror to enter into a services agreement with BJC rather than constructing our own MEPP (which makes economical sense) and BJC has stated that we must ask these questions direct to DOE and obtain answers direct from DOE. We request clarification as to the scope of these services and how we would price this effort. Understanding the scope of these services would allow us to determine the support required at our field office to interface with BJC. We appreciate the complexity of this situation in the midst of a formal competitive procurement.

Section H.20 (f) Pay and Benefits (2c) states “The contractor shall become a participating/sponsor employer in the BJC MEWA....” Further (2c) states “The contractor shall enter into an administrative service agreement with BJC regarding the administrative services and the cost thereof to be provided by BJC.” We have contacted BJC and they have specifically informed us that they can provide us no information concerning the scope of these services to include the current welfare costs generic in the providers plan for example, cost of a health and welfare family plan or single member with dependent. Additionally BJC would not discuss the concept of operations of how the performance of these services would relate to our potential employees at the Paducah site with regard to communication and employee administrative health and welfare matters rather than constructing our own MEWA. Since the RFP directs the offeror to enter into a services agreement with BJC rather than constructing our own MEPP (which makes economical sense) and BJC has deferred our questions to DOE, we request clarification as to the how we price the employee H&W benefits and the administrative services. Understanding the scope of these services would allow us to determine the support required at our field office to interface with BJC. We appreciate the complexity of this situation in the midst of a formal competitive procurement. We understand the potential advantages to the government for the centralized MEWA. The H&W costs for our employees represent a significant element of our fringe benefit pool.

Answer: The cost of the benefits and the cost of the administrative services to be provided by BJC have been posted and should be used by offerors in preparation of cost proposals. The following is a list of functions related to pension and benefits administration that offerors should use as a basis their proposals.

Offerors should assume that BJC will be responsible for:
(1) Maintaining fiduciary responsibilities of both BJC plans

- (2) Negotiating related services and provider contracts for BJC plans
- (3) Setting and communicating rates and open enrollments to BJC plan participants
- (4) Providing benefits accounting services, sending premiums to vendors, transferring assets as required for BJC plans
- (5) Maintaining an employee benefit service center for those employees under BJC plans
- (6) Obtaining required benefit consultant and legal services pertaining to the plans
- (7) Preparing 5500 Reports for plans administered by BJC
- (8) Preparing and distributing summary plan documents for BJC plans

Offerors should assume that the infrastructure or remediation contractors will be responsible for:

- (1) Provide required employee information to BJC
- (2) Handling of bank authorizations
- (3) Benefits reporting and funding
- (4) Payment of monthly and/or weekly benefits administration costs
- (5) Performance of all payroll functions and payroll tax payment
- (6) Adhering to BJC pay cycles requirements (assume bi-weekly payroll)
- (7) Provide information to BJC for benefit accounting services
- (8) Obtaining employee benefit services from BJC
- (9) Correctness of confidential employee information content given to BJC
- (10) Point of contact for employer/employees
- (11) Point of contact for employees not included under BJC plans
- (12) Preparing 5500 reports for employees not included in BJC plans
- (13) Employee point of contact for benefit issues for those employees not covered under BJC plans
- (14) Maintaining fiduciary responsibilities for plans sponsored by the infrastructure or remediation contractors
- (15) Setting and communicating rates and open enrollments to plan participants for infrastructure or remediation contractor plans
- (16) Providing benefits accounting services, sending premiums to vendors, transferring assets as required for infrastructure or remediation contractor plans
- (17) Obtaining required benefit consultant and legal services pertaining to the infrastructure or remediation contractor plans
- (18) Preparing and distributing summary plan documents for infrastructure or remediation contractor plans
- (19) Negotiating related services and provider contracts for infrastructure or remediation plans

252: M.2, Basis of Contract Award, Overall Relative Importance of Evaluation Criteria, For teams involving major subcontractors (over \$1 million as defined by the solicitation), will the government consider the experience of major subcontractors with the same weight as that of the prime contractor (i.e., will the experience of major subcontractors be evaluated any differently than that of the prime contractor)?

Answer: The experience of the prime contractor and its major subcontractors has not been assigned numerical weights. The experience of the prime contractor (offeror) including that of its major subcontractors will be evaluated in accordance with M.2, Criterion 2 regarding relevant experience in performing work similar in scope and complexity to that in the Statement of Work.