IFB #19-019 – YOUTH BUS TRANSPORTATION

Columbia County Central Services has received the following questions and supplied the following answers to the regarding Youth Bus Transportation - IFB #19-019

The answers to the questions submitted are as follows:

1. I understand that the bid is due November 22, 2019, what is the timeframe you would be looking to have the winner start transporting.

   A. With respect to the Youth Bus Transportation the anticipated start date of the new service would be May 2020.

2. Who is the Youth Transportation Coordinator?

   A. The Youth Transportation Coordinator will be named by the Columbia County Department of Social Services prior to the start of the contract period.

3. Looking on page 8 about the summer and school breaks it states that there can be up to 140 children. Given that a fully loaded school bus can only hold 66 children (and that would be 3 children in a seat), these runs would possibly need 3 buses - yet all the paperwork talks about 2 buses. Is a 3rd bus under consideration, or are they split up with the different routes.

   A. Buses for the Youth Bus Transportation system are supplied by the company providing said transportation and the number of buses will be dependent upon ridership.

4. Page 9 - Phone service - a local line be staffed during operating hours - Just wanted to clarify that operating hours is the total time that the children are on buses (which is going to be approximately 7 pm during the school year)?

   A. For the Youth Bus Transportation system "operating hours" would extend to a reasonable time before and after the operating hours of the bus in order to provide riders and/or their parents or guardians access to information regarding the routes.
5. Page 14 - ADA Compliance - The larger 66 passenger school buses do not meet the ADA compliance and are not what is currently used. If an ADA bus is necessary then there would need to be more buses or routes used as they hold less amount of people. Will this be changed to reflect current practices?

A. Any buses transporting youth must be in compliance with any applicable New York state specifications. If an identified need arises it would be expected that reasonable accommodations would be made to transport a disabled youth.

6. Page 19 - Does the company awarded the bid - or the subcontractor need to hold the $5,000,000 liability insurance?

A. The company awarded either bid must meet the Insurance Specifications outlined in the applicable IFB.

7. Page 21 - Is an employee (or owner of the company) allowed to be a member of the County Transportation committee, as it clearly states this is a conflict of interest?

A. The Columbia County Transportation Committee requests that the awarded party attend Transportation Committee Meetings in an advisory position. These meetings are open to the public and having a representative of the provider company present expedites the resolution of questions pertaining to route structure and ridership to which their knowledge is vital to continue to enhance the County's transportation systems. The awarded vendor is not a party to bidding or contractual discussions nor are they permitted to be present during executive sessions where the public is excluded from attendance and participation.

8. I have looked on the county's website for the past bid specs and cannot seem to find it, do you have a link for it?

A. Prior bid specifications are not available on the Columbia County website however they are available upon specific written request to Columbia County Central Services. Requests should include the year, title and bid number if known for accurate reference.