



**Department of Transformation and Shared Services**  
Governor Asa Hutchinson  
Secretary Amy Fecher  
Director Mitch Rouse

April 7, 2022

Solomon Graves, Secretary  
Arkansas Department of Corrections  
1302 Pike Avenue, Suite C  
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114

Dear Secretary Graves:

The Arkansas Department of Corrections (DOC) is developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a medical services contract to administer and manage DOC's healthcare delivery program. DOC has targeted August 2022 as a release date for the RFP. In December, DOC requested that the total cost be weighted at a lower percentage of the total evaluation score for this RFP. As you noted in your letter in December, Arkansas Code Annotated § 19-11-230(d)(2)(B)(i) allows me to lower the percentage weight given to total cost below the default minimum if it is in the best interest of the State. In RFPs, the default minimum weight given for total cost is established in statute at thirty percent (30%) of the total evaluation score; DOC has requested that total cost be weighted at twenty percent (20%) of the total evaluation score.

The medical services contract for DOC's program is a ten-year contract to manage the delivery of healthcare services for the largest congregated population in Arkansas. Given the size of the system and the nature of the service, it is important that increased emphasis be put on the bidder's ability to provide quality medical care. Moreover, DOC's proposal also puts emphasis on the length of the contract by weighting the annual increase in cost at ten percent (10%) of the total evaluation score, while having total cost be weighted at twenty percent (20%) of the total evaluation score. Thus, DOC is still putting thirty percent (30%) weight on cost; it is just allowing itself the ability to evaluate the increase on cost over the length of the proposed contract.

For these reasons, and those that DOC has highlighted in its letter, I find that it is in the best interest of the State for total cost to be given a weighted value of no less than twenty percent (20%) of the total evaluation score in DOC's upcoming RFP for medical services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mitch Rouse".

Mitch Rouse

**Office of State Procurement**

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