

**Request for Response – QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**  
NJ Department of Health (DOH)  
**Health Facilities Evaluation & Licensing (HFEL)**

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1. **QUESTION:** Should an RFP be issued following the review of the RFI responses, do you think it would be within 90 days, 6 months, 12 months, etc...?

**ANSWER: We would like to issue an RFP within three months after the conclusion of the demonstrations.**

2. **QUESTION:** Should an RFP be issued, would responding to the RFI be a re-requisite for responding to the RFP?

**ANSWER:** Responding to the RFI is not a pre-requisite for responding to the RFP.

3. **QUESTION:** Has funding been secured for the System? If so, is it all state monies or have any grants been secured? If not funded yet, what source(s) would the Department look at?

**ANSWER:** State funding has been secured without grants.

4. **QUESTION:** There are several databases that are referred to in the RFI, which ones can be modified and which ones cannot be modified?

**ANSWER: ASPEN cannot be modified; others can be modified.**

5. **QUESTION:** How are these databases accessed today? Is there a separate web application for each database?

**ANSWER: Hippocrates is the only database accessed through a web portal. Staff access the ASPEN and other databases on their PCs through a server.**

6. **QUESTION:** How are the PDF forms generated today? Are they stored in XML format?

**ANSWER: Adobe Acrobat or scanned and not necessarily stored in XML format.**

7. **QUESTION:** How many forms will be converted to web forms?

**ANSWER: All forms may need conversion to web forms, which would number in the hundreds.**

8. **QUESTION:** Is there a set of attributes that need to be reported on from these forms or are all fields required to be reportable?

**ANSWER: All fields would be required to be maintained in a database.**

9. **QUESTION:** What are the current platforms used for the public and internal web applications and what is the plan for them?

**ANSWER: Currently, we use pdfs and MS Access. We plan to replace these with the new solution.**

10. **QUESTION:** Is there an existing content management system and if so what is it?

**ANSWER: CEO Imaging had been used in the past but is no longer supported.**

11. **QUESTION:** How many internal and external users will there be?

**ANSWER: Up to 250 total internal users, maybe up to 100 concurrently. External users would number at least 5,000 and could exceed 20,000.**

12. **QUESTION:** What are the different user roles for this capability?

**ANSWER: DOH users would require at least read-only access up to and including design and development permission. External users would receive emails, complete forms, pay fees, and upload documents or data.**

13. **QUESTION:** Is the State looking to replace its current license application process or looking for an application to interface to the existing license application?

**ANSWER: HFEL will consider both options.**

14. **QUESTION:** This new application to be developed will interface with how many and what all existing applications at the State?

**ANSWER: ASPEN for federal and state data on facilities (license, survey and enforcement); supplemental licensing database for facility information that could not fit in ASPEN; nursing home administrator database; certified nurse aide database for schools; enforcement database, and Hippocrates (a DOH database) for reportable event information. Databases other than ASPEN and Hippocrates are either MS Access or Excel. A vendor, PSI, maintains databases for certified nurse aides, medication aides, and assisted living administrators.**

15. **QUESTION:** Please explain the existing process at the State that this new application is supposed to replace?

**ANSWER: Paper based and manual until recently. See flowcharts of processes.**

16. **QUESTION:** What is the current database technology at the State?

**ANSWER: SQL Server or Oracle.**

17. **QUESTION:** What is the current technology platform for: certified nurse aid, nursing administrator and medication aide program?

**ANSWER: All are either based on MS Access or Excel or vendor developed and maintained (PSI).**

18. **QUESTION:** What is the technical platform for e-Pay application? What kind of interface does the State envision for e-Pay application to this new application?

**ANSWER: This is a web service that is called to a hosted solution within NJ Treasury/State OIT.**

19. **QUESTION:** In case of hosting/cloud solution, does the State want a solution that the contractor will provide for hosting, or the solution will be hosted in State run facility?

**ANSWER: Please respond with options for both**

20. **QUESTION:** Which federal database is HFEL using to store information about licensed facilities, their facilities and investigations, and their enforcement actions?

**ANSWER: ASPEN suite of products.**

21. **QUESTION:** Which federal applications does the new HFEL system need to interface with?

**ANSWER: ASPEN suite of products.**

22. **QUESTION:** Is there a common database that is shared across the 2000 healthcare facilities?

**ANSWER: No.**

23. **QUESTION:** What if any document management applications are currently in use?

**ANSWER: CEO Imaging had been used, but is no longer supported.**

24. **QUESTION:** The "Background" section references 3 distinct databases. Do all 3 run on the same database platform?

**ANSWER: Databases other than ASPEN and Hippocrates run on either Access or Excel.**

25. **QUESTION:** Will the supplier be required to interface with other than commercially available application packages?

**ANSWER: The Federal ASPEN suite of products, the DOH Hippocrates system, and PSI's or another vendor's databases.**

26. **QUESTION:** How big is the workload?

**ANSWER: Relicense 2,000 health care facilities annually, plus license new facilities (maybe 200); relicense 1,200 nursing home administrators triennially, plus license new administrators (maybe 150); recertify 14,000 nurse aides during FFY 2013 and certify 4,000 new nurse aides (with a vendor, PSI); recertify assisted living administrators and certify new administrators (with a vendor, PSI); recertify medication aides and certify new medication aides with a vendor, PSI; approve and monitor already approved training schools and courses for certified nurse aides (250 annually) and certified medication aides. Complete 1,400 surveys and 1,800 investigations of complaints at health care facilities annually to ensure compliance with regulations, approve plans**

of correction when required, and impose remedies or penalties when required. Audit 10 percent of the documentation for nursing home administrators' continuing education annually, and investigate and enforce standards for nursing home administrators (approx. 100 annually). Investigate and enforce regulations for certified nurse aides (approx. 700 per year), medication aides, and assisted living administrators. Process applications for Certificate of Need (varies annually).

27. **QUESTION:** Number of total users and average concurrent users during day?

**ANSWER:** Up to 250 total internal users, maybe up to 100 concurrently.

28. **QUESTION:** Number of reports?

**ANSWER:** Approx. 200 report options currently exist and are used regularly.

29. **QUESTION:** Size of data in GB or TB in each DB and overall.

**ANSWER:** Since most of our information is on paper forms, this is not known at this time

30. **QUESTION:** What is the current architecture with vendors software and hardware model and version numbers? (e.g. Teradata data warehouse version 14.10 running SUSE Linux SLES 11)?

**ANSWER:** PDF files, MS Access, Excel files.

31. **QUESTION:** Who are the incumbent solution providers within DOH and HFEL:

- a. Service companies?
- b. Software companies – BI, reporting, workflow, document management, other online
- c. Hardware companies?
- d. Data companies?

**ANSWER:** HFEL has the ASPEN suite of products (developed Federally), Hippocrates (developed within DOH) and PSI's databases for certified nurse aides, medication aides and assisted living administrators. DOH has no service or data companies. DOH uses Dell and HP hardware. DOH software includes Sharepoint and Business Objects.

32. **QUESTION:** Who built the current systems we would have to interface with, augment, or replace?

**ANSWER:** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) contracted the development and maintenance of the ASPEN suite of products. HFEL staff, including Bob Yarrow, developed other databases. DOH staff and contractors developed Hippocrates. PSI developed the certified professional databases.

33. **QUESTION:** Given that we have a long history working with complex systems in other NJ departments which may have data warehousing and case management systems that may be able to be extended to be used for DOH/HFEL needs as well, may we get some time to meet with/speak with DOH or HFEL officials in the next 3 weeks?

**ANSWER:** If chosen for the demonstration, you will meet DOH staff at that time.