

RFI Questions
– Iowa Judicial Branch – Private Collection

1) The RFI asks for general costs estimates; however, it also states that the contract will provide for a collection fee equal to 25%. This amount would represent the agency's fee. Please clarify what costs the State is looking for if our fee is already regulated.

Response: The 25 percent fee is the fee the State will access to each account referred to a private collection designee. The legislation states that the collection fee will be used to compensate the private vendor. It does not specifically state that private vendor shall receive 25 percent. Therefore, the judicial branch believes the fee may be part of the bid process and tied to the level of service and the market place.

2) "The contract may also assess the private collection designee an initial fee for entering into the contract"- could you please expand on this? What type and dollar amount of fee?

Response: Again, there could be a fee for initial placement with a lower percentage in order to cover costs of setting up the collection and starting the collections process.

3) Can you provide additional information as to what the next steps will be for the State (i.e. issue an RFP, select a vendor to work with, etc.) and what the time line is for that step?

Response: The next step would be for the State to issue an RFP and select a vendor or vendors. There has been no time line established.

4) Why is the state considering outsourcing collections at this time?

Response: The 2008 Iowa Legislature passed Senate File 2428 and it specifically outlined a framework for private collection.

5) When might any resulting RFP be released?

Response: No time line has established.

6) Would any future contract be a guaranteed use contract or would it merely let a vendor or vendors solicit state courts individually?

Response: No guaranteed use contract is being considered. The vendor/s would be contracting with the State Court Administrator not individual courts.

7) To the greatest extent possible, please provide the following data:

a. What amount of debt would be available for collection at contract start?

Response: Unknown at this time.

b. How many accounts would be included?

Response: Unknown at this time.

c. What would be the average balance?

Response: Unknown at this time.

d. How many new accounts would be placed each month or year?

Response: Unknown at this time.