

Request for Proposal

Warm Zone Care Analysis

The Northern Virginia Emergency Response System (NVERS) is seeking contract support on behalf of the Northern Virginia High Threat Response Committee to study, investigate, and analyze Warm Zone Care (WZC) response models and produce a data driven analysis for regional public safety personnel's utilization. The purpose of this request for proposal is to enter into a firm fix-priced contract with a qualified organization or individual to conduct an analysis and develop a detailed and data driven product that shares an assessment of WZC, including best practices and concepts, with public safety personnel in the Northern Virginia Region.

Background/Overview

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Active Shooter Incidents in the United States in 2022, offers that 50 incidents, resulting in 313 casualties, occurred in 2022. In 2022, 13 of these active shooter incidents met the FBI standard for a "Mass Killing" incident.¹ Since 2018, the occurrence of active shooter incidents is trending upward nationally. Studies have shown that most active shooter incidents are over within 19 minutes.²

In this environment of higher occurrence and short durations, first responders are expected to respond to active shooter events quickly to mitigate the threat and provide point of wounding care. WZC is a concept utilized by first responders to quickly respond at the scene of an active violence incident (AVI) and provide care to patients in a "warm" area that is currently under no direct or immediate threat. WZC is sometimes referred to as indirect threat care (ITC). There are four primary warm zone response models:

- Law enforcement rescue;
- Protected corridor;
- Protected island; and
- Rescue task force (RTF).

The above response models are implemented to reach patients in an effective, efficient, quick, and safe manner. Each warm zone response model represents a different methodology of reaching and treating patients during an AVI.

¹ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Active Shooter Incidents in the United States in 2022, April 2023, <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/active-shooter-incidents-in-the-us-2022-042623.pdf/view>

² Schwerin, Daniel L et al. "Active Shooter Response." StatPearls, updated February 13, 2023, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK519067/>

This request for proposal is seeking contract support to collect and evaluate data related to WZC and to produce a data driven document analyzing the strengths and potential limitations of the four primary WZC response models for utilization by Northern Virginia public safety partners.

NVERS' subject matter experts will be utilized to validate the WZC analysis outputs and ensure milestones and deliverables are being appropriately met.

Scope of Work and Technical Requirements

1. Recurring project planning meetings.

- a. Meet bi-weekly with project planning team members assigned by the High Threat Response Committee to discuss project progress, needs, and direction.
- b. Collaborate with NVERS' regional partners to understand current regional WZC practices and policies.
- c. In coordination with the project planning team, validate project findings and direction prior to finalization.
- d. Ensure tracking and timely follow up of action items for NVERS or planning team members arising from project planning meetings.

2. Review and analyze WZC source material.

- a. Analyze international, national, state, and local Northern Virginia after-action reports (AAR), studies, peer-reviewed sources, and other documentation to collect data on the efficacy and limitations of the four primary WZC response models.
 - i. Source material will need to meet a high standard of validity and credibility.
 - ii. Incidents will be considered for inclusion within the analysis if they meet the FBI criteria for an active shooter incident.³

3. Prepare a written, data driven WZC analysis document that identifies WZC response model best practices, potential gaps, limitations, strengths, and recommendations.

³ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Active Shooter Incidents in the United States in 2022, April 2023, <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/active-shooter-incidents-in-the-us-2022-042623.pdf/view>

- a. Contract support will coordinate with the project planning team to validate the written document.
 - i. The project planning team will be looking for data such as, but not limited to, median number of patients, which (if any) WZC model(s) was used, time of first law enforcement on scene to time of threat addressed, time of first law enforcement to time of first rendering of aid to patients, and time of first law enforcement to time of EMS contact.
 1. A complete set of data points will be provided in addition to the final WZC analysis document.

4. Provide a final WZC analysis document for utilization by Northern Virginia public safety partners.

- a. Contract support will provide a final document that identifies the efficacy, strengths, gaps, limitations, best practices, training, and recommendations regarding the four primary WZC response models.

Access to References

For purposes of preparing a well-informed proposal to NVERS, prospective offerors may refer to the *National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 3000: Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Program* or request access to the NVERS' *Joint Action Guide for Active Violence Incidents, Second Edition* (2024). Any additional questions can be directed to Jordan Meservy (Jordan.Meservy@nvers.org). If access to NVERS' subject matter experts or documentation is necessary, the offeror will be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

Project Timeline

This contract will begin on or around August 26, 2024 and terminate on April 30, 2025. Grant funding from the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be used to support this effort.

Minimum Proposal Elements

1. Offeror's name, address, contact information, and subcontractor companies (if applicable).
2. A detailed timeline to complete the project, and any observed obstacles to completing the work.
3. A preliminary work plan that describes the phases or segments into which the proposed project can logically be divided and performed.

- a. This section should also contain a discussion of any changes proposed by the offeror that substantially differs from the project scope.
- b. This section should include detailed descriptions of activities that are to occur, significant milestones, and anticipated deliverables.
4. A statement of qualifications (i.e., organizational and staff experience, references, and personnel assigned to work on this project – including subcontractors).
5. A firm fixed-price cost proposal to complete all milestones and deliverables.

Proposal Evaluation

Responsive proposals will be scored and competitively evaluated to the maximum extent practical. The contract for this project will be awarded to the responsible offeror whose proposal is most advantageous to the project, in alignment with the weighted evaluation criteria listed below.

1. Cost – 10%
2. Demonstrated understanding of the project goals and deliverables – 20%
3. Offeror qualifications and experience with similar projects – 30%
4. Proposed methodology – 20%
5. Proposed key personnel – 10%
6. Comfort with the overall proposal – 10%

Billing Requirements and Product Ownership

The successful offeror will be required to furnish all necessary data elements that compose their periodic invoices in accordance with federal reimbursement guidelines. All created products associated with this project will be the property of NVERS and the contractor may not use any deliverables in the future without the expressed written consent of NVERS. Additionally, the successful offeror will be required to sign a Non-disclosure Agreement (NDA) prior to beginning work on the project.

Proposal Submission

An electronic copy of the proposal must be sent to Jordan Meservy (Jordan.Meservy@nvers.org), no later than Wednesday, July 17, 2024. Offerors may direct questions to the above-listed email address during the application period.