



ADMINISTRACIÓN DE
SEGUROS DE SALUD

ASES

GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO



PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP # 2026-003 (PBM & RA)

Pharmacy Benefit Manager Services and Rebate Aggregator

The Puerto Rico Health Insurance Administration (ASES), created under Act No. 72-1993, as amended, invites interested companies to submit proposals to serve as: (a) Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM); and/or (b) Drug Rebate Aggregator (RA), for the Government Health Plan of Puerto Rico, also known as "Plan Vital." ASES seeks to identify a provider or providers with the technical capacity, regulatory compliance capabilities, and operational readiness to administer the pharmacy and drug rebate programs that support more than one million beneficiaries of Plan Vital, which includes beneficiaries under the state-funded population. The implementation and service start date will be **January 1, 2027**. ASES reserves the right to award these services jointly or separately.

Within the PBM scope, the selected entity must manage all functions related to real-time claims adjudication, ensuring that pricing, benefit rules, and eligibility are applied correctly, and that payments are processed accurately. The selected entity will also be responsible for developing, administering, and overseeing a pharmacy network throughout Puerto Rico for Plan Vital, including credentialing each participating pharmacy, verifying compliance with access and quality standards, and overseeing audits and dispute-resolution processes.

4 The PBM must operate a fully bilingual call center that serves as an operational support point for pharmacies, physicians, and managed care organizations (MCOs). It will also administer the Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) pricing system, along with a transparent appeal mechanism that guarantees fair treatment for independent pharmacies. Its role includes maintaining the Formulary of Covered Medications (FMC), the List of Medications by Exception (LME), supporting the work of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee and the Pharmacy Financial Committee, assisting in the management of high-cost and high-need patients, maintaining a robust fraud, waste, and abuse program, among other required functions.

Within the RA scope, the selected entity will administer federal and state drug rebate programs. Rebate functions include maintaining a secure data repository, producing real-time reports accessible to ASES, validating utilization and federal pricing files prior to invoicing, and resolving disputes with manufacturers in a manner that is financially favorable to Puerto Rico. The RA must implement strict protections against duplicate discounts for 340B medications, including point-of-sale identification and coordination with 330 Centers and their contract pharmacies, among other responsibilities.

The selected entity or entities must comply with independence and conflict-of-interest requirements, which include, among other provisions, that at the time the Contract is executed, the Proponent(s) and any Subcontractor(s) proposed for functions or responsibilities under the Scope of Work of this RFP may not be: (1) a pharmaceutical company; (2) a pharmacy; (3) a Managed Care Organization (MCO) or health service provider of the Government Health Plan (GHP), collectively referred to as "GHP Participants"; (4) be controlled by a pharmaceutical company, pharmacy, or GHP Participant; or (5) be owners or controllers of a pharmaceutical company, pharmacy, or GHP Participant. ASES reserves the right to waive independence and conflict-of-interest requirements.

At the time of the RFP award, interested entities must be authorized to conduct business in Puerto Rico, hold a current certification from the Sole Registry of Professional Service Providers (RUP) of the General Services Administration (ASG), be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM), and must not be debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible to receive contracts by any federal or state department or agency.

 Entities interested in obtaining an electronic copy of the RFP documents and participating in the process will have **until October 5, 2026** to send a *Notice of Intent to Participate* via email to asesprocurement@ases.pr.gov, including the contact information (name, position, email, and phone number) of the person authorized to communicate with the ASES Procurement Contact during the process.

The RFP documents will have a non-refundable cost of **ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00)**, payable exclusively to ASES by certified check. Interested entities will have **until October 5, 2026, on or before 4:00 PM (AST)** to deliver the certified check to the ASES Legal Affairs Office. **Payment must be made by the entity that will submit the proposal.**

Proposing entities will have the option to request from ASES, along with the *Notice of Intent to Participate* sent to asesprocurement@ases.pr.gov, authorization to issue payment by electronic transfer. In such cases, ASES will send the Proponent the banking information needed to make the corresponding payment for the RFP documents. After making the payment, the interested entity will email ASES the proof of payment provided by the financial institution, which must include: (a) date of payment; (b) amount of the bank transfer made to ASES; and (c) name of the interested entity making the payment. Any insufficiency in the payment, even if caused by a fee or transaction charge by the financial institution or an intermediary, will prevent ASES from providing the RFP documents until such insufficiency is covered. Payment must be made by the entity that will submit the proposal. **The deadline to make and submit proof of payment via electronic transfer is October 5, 2026, on or before 4:00 PM (AST).**

ASES will hold a virtual Pre-proposal Conference on **October 8, 2026**. Attendance at this Conference is mandatory for all interested entities. Likewise, the deadline for submitting questions to ASES regarding the RFP will be **October 12, 2026**.

The deadline for submitting proposals is **October 22, 2026, on or before 11:59 PM (AST)**. Proposals must be submitted through the electronic platform provided by ASES. Proponents must also submit a Proposal Bond no later than **4:00 PM (AST) on October 22, 2026**, to be delivered in person at the ASES Legal Affairs Office. The Proposal Bond must be equivalent to 10% of the total bid for the first contract year.

Any questions may be directed to asesprocurement@ases.pr.gov.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on October 1st, 2026.


Carlos A. Santiago Rosario
Esq., LL.M., MHSA, FACHE, CHC
Executive Director

ASES reserves the right to cancel or modify this RFP, reject any or all proposals, and award the contract under the terms most favorable to the Government of Puerto Rico. ASES does not discriminate based on age, race, color, sex, birth, veteran status, political or religious ideology, national or social origin, sexual orientation or gender identity, disability, or physical or mental impairment.