STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA **Department of State Treasurer** NC State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees	**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION NO**. 270-20240419GLP Due Date: May 31, 2024, 2:00 PM ET
Refer ALL Inquiries to: Kimberly Alston, Contracting Agent	Issue Date: April 19, 2024 Commodity: 851017 Health Administration Services
E-Mail: Kimberly.Alston@nctreasurer.com with a copy to SHPContracting@nctreasurer.com	Using Agency Name: NC State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS: Respondents shall submit one (1) signed, original paper response, and one (1) electronic copy on a flash drive and one (1) redacted electronic copy on a flash drive, if applicable pursuant to Section 3.0.D. The address label shall clearly note the RFI number as shown below. It is the responsibility of the submitting entity to have the RFI in this office by the specified time and date of opening.

DELIVERY ADDRESS
RFI NO. 270-20240419GLP NC Department of State Treasurer State Health Plan Division Attn: Kimberly Alston, Contracting Agent 3200 Atlantic Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27604

NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS

Responses to this RFI will be received at the address above until May 31, 2024, 2:00 PM ET.

QUESTIONS

Email written questions no later than April 30, 2024, 5:00 PM ET to Kimberly.Alston@nctreasurer.com with a copy to SHPContracting@nctreasurer.com.

EXECUTION

RESPONDENT NAME:	E-MAIL:	
STREET ADDRESS:	P.O. BOX:	ZIP:
CITY & STATE:	TELEPHONE NUMBER:	TOLL FREE TEL. NO:
TYPE OR PRINT NAME & TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING:	FAX NUMBER:	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:	DATE:	

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The North Carolina State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees ("Plan"), a division of the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer, provides health care coverage to more than 740,000 teachers and school personnel, State Employees, retirees, current and former lawmakers, state university and community college personnel, and their dependents. The mission of the State Health Plan is to improve the health and health care of North Carolina teachers, State Employees, retirees, and their dependents, in a financially sustainable manner, thereby serving as a model to the people of North Carolina for improving their health and well-being.

2.0 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE REQUST FOR INFORMATION

The Plan's net spend on glucagon-like peptides (GLP-1s) and gastric inhibitory polypeptide (GIP) agonists for weight loss exceeded $100 million in 2023 and was projected to exceed $170 million in 2024. In order to limit this financially unsustainable expense, the Board of Trustees for the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees ended coverage of GLP-1s, GIP-GLP-1 agonists and other similar molecular entities used for weight loss as a benefit effective April 1, 2024.

The Board further directed Plan staff to explore options that may allow members who need these medications the most to obtain them, informed by medical necessity and long-term cost effectiveness, under a fiscally sustainable model, budgeted over at least the next five years. To that end, the Plan is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to gather ideas and solutions from the marketplace.

This RFI is intended to collect information, recommendations, and potential solutions for the Plan to consider respecting the feasibility of providing benefit coverage to Plan members to use GLP-1, GIP-GLP-1 agonists, and other similar new molecular entities, for the purpose of weight loss in a manner that is financially sustainable for the Plan.

The Plan is seeking responses outlining detailed solutions that would address the following:

A. Permit the Plan to provide benefit coverage to Plan members to use GLP-1, GIP-GLP-1 agonists, and other similar new molecular entities, for the purpose of weight loss.

B. Establish a pricing framework that would permit the Plan to provide such benefit coverage in a fiscally responsible manner in order to maintain financial sustainability. For example, the Plan seeks the ability to:

    1. Pay for varying percentages of the unit cost according to medical necessity considerations.
    2. Receive the same effective net price if the Plan only choses to pay for a medication for an additional FDA indication without paying for it for all other indications.
    3. Audit claims, rebates, and prior authorizations for accuracy and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

C. Potential for establishing a program outlining certain eligibility requirements, parameters, or other prerequisites for Plan members to follow in order to receive benefit coverage of GLP-1, GIP-GLP-1 agonists, and other similar new molecular entities, for weight loss. As a result, the Plan seeks the ability to:

1. Require that an approved weight loss program or nutrition classes be completed before approval of payment for the medication.
2. Develop step therapies involving lower cost medications.
3. Require that medications be prescribed by a practitioner with appropriate levels of expertise.
4. Prohibit Body mass index (BMI) measurements from being estimated via telehealth visit to ensure accuracy and accountability, while enabling a data collection process that supports the successful implementation of the benefit.

D. Potential for establishing a program wherein the Plan has the flexibility to establish parameters for utilization management of GLP-1, GIP-GLP-1 agonists, and other similar new molecular entities for weight loss, which may include considerations such as, but not limited to:

1. BMI;
2. Current weight;
3. Documented history of lifestyle modifications, which may include reduced calorie intake and increased physical activity;
4. Documented enrollment and measurable participation in other nutritional or dietary programs;
5. Consideration of evidence for one or more comorbid conditions or other obesity-related medical conditions;
6. Data analytics and reporting tools supporting successful claims adjudication and program evaluation;
7. Requirements for in-person treatment visits to verify efficacy of medications for individuals; or
8. Any other considerations or parameters that would support a program to achieve the Plan's objectives of serving the members who need these medications the most.

E. Provide cost, price structures, or other relevant expense information related to the recommendations and potential solutions submitted.

3.0 RFI PROCEDURES

A. Schedule

Responses must be received by the date, time and the location specified on the cover sheet of this RFI. Respondents may be requested to present and discuss their submissions at the Plan's offices in-person or remotely. If the Plan requests such a presentation, respondents will be notified of the specific date and time at least two weeks in advance of any presentation.

B. Clarification Questions

Clarification questions will be accepted until April 30, 2024, 5:00 PM ET as specified on the cover sheet of this RFI (the "Clarification Period"). All questions must be submitted in writing. Responses to all questions received shall be addressed and issued as an addendum to this RFI. During the Clarification Period, respondents are strongly encouraged to raise any and all

questions or concerns about the RFI. Any questions or concerns not raised during this period are considered waived by the respondent.

Question submittals should include a reference to the applicable RFI section and be submitted in the format shown below:

No.	Reference	Respondent Question
1.	RFI Section, Page Number	Respondent Question . . . ?

C. Response

The Plan recognizes that considerable effort will be required in preparing a response to this RFI. However, please note this is a request for information only, and not a request for services. The respondent shall bear all costs for preparing this RFI. **Under no circumstances will any documents, information, recommendations, or potential solutions submitted in response to this RFI, or any communications between the Plan and a respondent, create a binding agreement or contract, or expectation thereof, between the Plan and respondent or between the State of North Carolina and respondent.**

1. Content and Format

The Plan expects a comprehensive, detailed explanation of the workings of each component of the response. Each component of the response will explain how it will operate to address the needs and objectives of the Plan as identified in Section 2.0. The Plan is not interested in brochures or "boilerplate" responses. Instead, responses should clearly define how the proposed solution(s) would meet the Plan's needs. Any issues or exceptions to the Plan's requirements should also be identified and explained.

The response may include charts, graphs, or other visuals that assist in demonstrating how a component of a response operates or how that component would meet the Plan's objectives.

A comprehensive, detailed equipment list including software, applications and other information technology components required for the proposed solution should be provided. The Plan is not interested in participating in any field trials of new equipment or software.

The response should define all services that would be required by the proposed solution. The response should also include:

- The respondent's understanding of the project and services by addressing the Plan's objectives; and
- An estimated total cost of ownership for the solution including continued compliance with emerging industry standards.

2. Multiple Responses

Multiple responses, or alternative individual solutions will be accepted from a single respondent provided that each response is comprehensive, meets all of the Plan's requirements, and is truly unique. If submitting multiple responses, place each response in a separate envelope and clearly mark responses as "Response #1, Response #2, etc.

D. Confidentiality

Responses obtained by the Plan under this RFI and items derived therefrom are subject to the State Public Records Act, Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes (the "SPRA").

If a response contains any proprietary or confidential information protected from public disclosure under the SPRA, the respondent shall submit a redacted electronic copy on a flash drive to the Plan with its response. Any proprietary or confidential information under the SPRA must be clearly redacted by the respondent in black markings fully covering and obscuring such information within the redacted electronic copy of the RFI response. By submitting a redacted electronic copy, respondent warrants that it has a good faith opinion that the redacted information in fact meet the requirements of the SPRA and the SPRA prevents their public disclosure. Blanket assertions of confidentiality are not permitted.

In the Plan's unfettered discretion and without notification to any respondent, the Plan may post any responses obtained by the Plan under this RFI, and items derived therefrom, on the Plan's public website (www.shpnc.org). In posting such items to the Plan's website, the Plan will post the redacted version of such items, if respondent has provided redactions in compliance with this section. If no redacted version of such items has been provided to the Plan in compliance with this section, the Plan will post such items on the Plan's website in the manner they were provided to the Plan.

Redacted copies provided by respondents to the Plan may be released in response to SPRA requests without notification to the respondent. Further, respondent's information that cannot be shown to be prohibited from disclosure by the SPRA may be subject to public disclosure under the terms of the SPRA.

If a legal action is brought to compel the Plan to disclose any of the respondent's redacted information, the Plan will notify the respondent of such action and consent to intervention of the respondent in the action and to the respondent's defense of the confidential status of the redacted information. In such legal action, the duty and responsibility to defend such information shall solely be the respondent's, and the Plan shall have no liability to the respondent for the Plan's failure to defend such action.

E. Respondent Materials

All responses, inquiries, or correspondence relating to or referenced in this RFI, and all documentation submitted by the various respondents shall become the property of the Plan when received. Ideas, approaches, information, recommendations, potential solutions, and options (but not proprietary material) presented by respondents may be used in whole or in part by the Plan in developing a future solicitation, should the Plan decide to proceed with a solicitation. Further, combinations of various responses from respondents may also become part of a solicitation, based on the needs of the Plan.