



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF SC, INC.
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CONTRACT LOBBYIST**

Deadline/Submission

All proposals must be received no later than 12:00 noon, August 19, 2026 to:

**Laura Aldinger, Executive Director
Behavioral Health Services Association of SC, Inc.
421 Mission Court, Irmo, SC 29063
or preferred method via email to aldinger@bhsasc.org.**

Organization and Background

The Behavioral Health Services Association of South Carolina (BHSA) consists of the thirty-one local alcohol and drug abuse commissions which contract with the SC Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Office of Substance Use Services (OSUS) to provide prevention, intervention and treatment services to citizens in South Carolina. There is a location in each of the forty-six counties of South Carolina, with funding streams coming from the federal, state, and local levels, therefore each of these agencies is a public/private entity. BHSA maintains a 501(c)4 nonprofit status and is headquartered in Columbia, SC. The mission of BHSA, an association of the local substance abuse authorities, is to represent and support member agencies in the provision of quality behavioral health services in South Carolina. More information on the BHSA can be found at www.bhsasc.org.

Introduction

BHSA is seeking a contract Lobbyist to represent the interests of BHSA before the South Carolina General Assembly and other state agencies as needed. This will be a contract for a period of one year, with an option to extend for an additional year.

Scope of Work

BHSA's expectations for the Lobbyist include, but are not limited to, the following responsibilities:

- In cooperation with the BHSA Board and Public Policy Committee, plan and develop strategy for the implementation and execution of the BHSA Legislative Priorities;
- Draft legislation to accomplish any of the BHSA Legislative Priorities;
- Advocate on behalf of BHSA at the General Assembly and with other state agencies on specific issues as determined and approved by the Public Policy Committee and/or Board;

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- Serve as BHSA's representative at the General Assembly and at various legislative events;
- Participate in the planning and organization of BHSA legislative events;
- Coach and advise the BHSA Membership and advocates on how to best influence a positive response on our initiatives;
- Coach and direct BHSA on developing long-term relationships with the General Assembly;
- Work with BHSA to identify any legislation and monitor within the General Assembly during the legislative session;
- Compile a weekly legislative report during the legislative session for BHSA membership;
- Compile alerts and special communications for distribution by BHSA as situations warrant;
- Attend membership, annual conference, committee and Board meetings at the direction of the Board and PPC for the purpose of providing legislative briefings;
- Facilitate meetings with legislators and/or appropriate staff as needed;
- Report as necessary, but at least monthly, on legislative activity regarding relevant healthcare and state policy issues while the legislature is out of session;
- Meet as needed with BHSA Public Policy Committee and Board to formulate the BHSA yearly legislative priority sheet; and
- Assist in the preparation of any necessary reports to be filed with the SC State Ethics Commission.

Key Qualifications/Requirements

The selected Lobbyist must have knowledge and experience regarding healthcare, ideally with knowledge of the 301-provider system, OSUS, and the services and responsibilities of this system. Key relationships with other state agencies are required, especially the SC Department of Health and Human Services.

Contracted lobbyist is prohibited from contracting independently with a member of BHSA due to a conflict of interest.

Contracted lobbyist shall disclose any other relationships with a potential conflict of interest.

Contracted lobbyist must be registered with the SC Ethics Commission, in good standing.

Proposal Format and Content

In addition to any other information you would like to provide to BHSA for consideration, please address the following points in the proposal and provide the proposal electronically in .pdf format:

- Firm name, business address, telephone number, email address and website (if applicable);
- A description of how your firm can meet the scope of work requested;
- Specific examples of past healthcare legislative experience;
- Qualifications of all people that will work on behalf of BHSA;
- List of current lobbying clients;
- Three references from other entities your firm has provided similar services as related to this proposal; and
- Proposed fee.

Questions/Contact

Please direct any questions regarding this proposal to Laura Aldinger via email (ldaldinger@bhsasc.org) by 5:00 PM on Friday, August 7, 2026.

All proposals must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon on Wednesday, August 19, 2026.

Proposals will be reviewed by the Board of Directors on or about August 21, 2026. We anticipate interviews to be held the week of August 24, 2026.