

NASPO Q&A

During the summer 2019, the OneWa executive steering committee concluded a strategy review in response to the approved budget. By this point in time, the program had identified the DES master contract option known as NASPO. The committee approved moving forward with the NASPO option in order to promote meeting the state's needs in a timely manner and subject to any further review that DES or OFM wished to pursue.

The ESC decision to exercise the NASPO purchasing option is in effect, and what follows is a Q&A approach to the information that the program gleaned during review.

What is NASPO?

Started in 1992, [NASPO ValuePoint](#) is the cooperative purchasing arm of the National Association of State Procurement Officials, or NASPO.

NASPO is a non-profit association dedicated to strengthening the procurement community through education, research, and communication. It is made up of the directors of the central purchasing offices of the 50 states, District of Columbia and territories of the United States.

Did NASPO issue a request for proposal for cloud subscription services?

Yes, an RFP was issued in December 2015, by the lead state Utah. The Washington State Department of Enterprise Services issued an intent to participate on the same day December 21, 2015. The authority to participate in cooperative contracts is RCW 39.26.060.

Which vendors were allowed to participate in the NASPO RFP?

All vendors with cloud solutions were provided an opportunity to participate. The RFP sought a broad, nationwide suite of providers to service all risk profiles and with a requirement to provide at least one of these three cloud-based service models: SaaS, Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), or Platform as a Service (PaaS).

For vendors that did not respond to the initial RFP, was there anything that prevented them from following up with NASPO to offer cloud subscription services?

On a biennial basis the lead state (Utah) may re-issue a solicitation, using the RFP document, to solicit new vendors that can provide additional cloud solutions to participating entities and purchasing entities.