



# **TEXAS**

## **Health and Human Services**

### **TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**

#### **OPEN ENROLLMENT (OE) for Incurred Medical Expenses (IME) for Dental Services**

**OE No. #HHS0013184**

#### **NIGP Class/Item No(s):**

**948-07  
948-28  
948-43  
948-48  
948-65  
948-74**

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## SECTION 1. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<b>Enrollment Period Opens</b> (Posted to HHS OE Opportunities webpage)	<b>March 15, 2023</b>
<b>Enrollment Period Closes</b> (Final date for RECEIPT of Applications)	<b>September 15, 2023</b>
<b>Anticipated Contract Start Date</b>	<b>The effective date of a Contract, if any, awarded to an Applicant will be determined at the sole discretion of HHSC.</b>

Applications must be received by The Health and Human Services Commission (“HHSC”) prior to the closing date as indicated in this Schedule of Events or as changed via an Addendum posted to the [HHS Open Enrollment Opportunities](#) webpage. Every Applicant is solely responsible for ensuring its application is received before the submission period closes. HHSC is not responsible for lost, misdirected or late applications.

The dates in the Schedule of Events are tentative. HHSC reserves the right to modify these dates at any time by posting an Addendum to the [HHS Open Enrollment Opportunities](#) webpage..

By submitting an Application, the Applicant represents and warrants that any individual submitting the Application and any related documents on behalf of the Applicant is authorized to do so and to bind the Applicant under any resulting contract.

### Withdrawal of Application:

Applications may be withdrawn from consideration or amended at any time prior to the “Enrollment Period Closes” date by emailing a request to the Point of Contact, Section 4.1. The email subject line should contain the Open Enrollment (“OE”) number and title as indicated on the cover page. The Applicant is solely responsible for ensuring requests are received timely by HHSC. HHSC is not responsible for lost, misdirected or late emails.

## SECTION 2. OVERVIEW

### 2.1. INTRODUCTION

HHSC determines Medicaid eligibility for individuals residing in Nursing Facilities (“NFs”). HHSC is responsible for making determinations regarding allowable Incurred Medical Expenses (“IME”) for dental services for NF residents.

HHSC processes between 300-350 dental requests each quarter or about 1200 annually. Collectively, requests may be referred to in this Contract as “cases.” Each case may contain a request for more than one dental service.

The purpose of this OE is to provide one or more Texas licensed dentist(s) (the “dentist”) to assist HHSC to make determinations regarding allowable IME for dental services for NF residents.

To be considered for award, Applicants must submit a comprehensive Application which meets all the requirements of this OE and includes all requested documentation.

## 2.2. **LEGAL AUTHORITY**

[Title 1 of the Texas Administrative Code \(“TAC”\), Part 15, Chapter 358, §358.438](#) requires HHSC to follow [42 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) § 435.725](#) when determining the co-payment for a person or couple in an institutional setting. [Texas Government Code Section 531.084\(a\)](#) requires HHSC to establish a fee schedule for reimbursable IMEs for dental services in long-term care facilities.

## 2.3. **NO GUARANTEE OF VOLUME, USAGE OR COMPENSATION**

HHSC does not guarantee any volume, usage, or compensation to be paid to any Contractor under any Contract resulting from this OE. Additionally, all contracts resulting from this OE are subject to appropriations, the availability of funds, and termination.

# **SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS**

Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, throughout this OE, the definition given to a term below applies whenever the term appears in this OE, in any Application submitted in response to this OE, and in any Contract awarded as a result of this OE. All other terms have their ordinary and common meaning.

<b>TERM</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
<b>Addendum</b>	A written clarification or revision to this OE. All Addenda will be posted to the <a href="#">HHS Open Enrollment Opportunities</a> web page.
<b>Amendment</b>	A written agreement, signed by the parties hereto, which documents changes to the Contract other than those permitted by Technical Guidance Letters, as herein defined.
<b>Application</b>	All information and materials submitted by an Applicant in response to this OE.
<b>Applicant</b>	Any person or entity that submits an Application in response to this OE.
<b>Attachment</b>	Documents, terms, conditions, or additional information physically added to this Contract following the execution page or included by reference, as if physically, within the body of this Contract.

<b>TERM</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
<b>Contract</b>	Any Contract(s) awarded, the Signature Document, these Uniform Terms and Conditions, along with any Attachments, and any Amendments, purchase orders, or Technical Guidance Letters that may be issued by the System Agency, to be incorporated by reference herein for all purposes if issued resulting from this OE.
<b>Contractor (Provider)</b>	Each Applicant, if any, awarded a Contract as a result of this OE, may also be referred to as Provider. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, all terms and conditions of this OE and resulting Contract that refer to Applicant apply with equal force to Contractor (Provider).
<b>Deliverables</b>	Any item, report, data, document, photograph, or other submission required to be delivered under the terms of this Contract, in whatever form.
<b>DMD</b>	Doctor of Dental Medicine
<b>DDS</b>	Doctor of Dental Surgery
<b>Durable Medical Equipment (DME)</b>	Items that are used during treatment and recovery of an injury, illness or due to age related problems, such as crutches, wheelchairs, and walkers.
<b>Effective Date</b>	The date agreed to by the Parties as the date on which the Contract takes effect.
<b>Federal Assurances</b>	Standard Form 424B (Rev. 7-97), as prescribed by OMB Circular A-102 (non-construction projects); or Standard Form 424D (Rev. 7-97), as prescribed by OMB Circular A-102 (construction projects).
<b>Federal Certifications</b>	US Department of Commerce Form CD-512 (12-04), "Certifications Regarding Lobbying-Lower Tier Covered Transactions."
<b>Federal Fiscal Year</b>	The period beginning October 1 and ending September 30 each year, which is the annual accounting period for the United States government.
<b>GAAP</b>	Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.
<b>GASB</b>	The Governmental Accounting Standards Board.
<b>Health and Human Services Commission or HHSC</b>	The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) may be identified as the administrative agency established under <a href="#">Chapter 531, Texas Government Code</a> or its designee in this OE or any resulting Contract(s).
<b>HHS Open Enrollment Opportunities</b>	The HHS web page where OE are posted: <a href="https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/pcs/openenrollment.cfm">https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/pcs/openenrollment.cfm</a>

<b>TERM</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
<b>HUB</b>	A Historically Underutilized Business, as defined by <a href="#">Chapter 2161, Texas Government Code</a> .
<b>Incurred Medical Expenses (IME)</b>	Means those paid or unpaid bills for medical care which are recognized under State law.
<b>Intellectual Property</b>	Patents, rights to apply for patents, trademarks, trade names, service marks, domain names, copyrights and all applications and worldwide registration of such, schematics, industrial models, inventions, know-how, trade secrets, computer software programs, and other intangible proprietary information.
<b>Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF-IID)</b>	A facility that serves four (4) or more persons with intellectual disability or persons with related conditions and provides health or rehabilitative services on a regular basis to individuals whose mental and physical conditions require services including room, board, and active treatment for their intellectual disability or related conditions.
<b>Nursing Facilities (NFs)</b>	Nursing homes, also called skilled nursing facilities, provide a wide range of health and personal care services.
<b>Open Enrollment (OE)</b>	This document, including all exhibits, attachments, and addenda, as applicable, posted on the <a href="#">HHS Open Enrollment Opportunities</a> webpage.
<b>Parties</b>	The System Agency and Contractor, collectively.
<b>Party</b>	Either the System Agency or Contractor, individually.
<b>Project</b>	The goods and/or Services described in the Signature Document or an Attachment to this Contract.
<b>Public Information Act (PIA)</b>	<a href="#">Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code</a> .
<b>Receiving Agency</b>	The State agency receiving the benefit of the goods or services provided under this Contract.
<b>Services</b>	The tasks, functions, and responsibilities assigned and delegated to Contractor.
<b>Signature Document</b>	The document executed by both Parties that specifically sets forth all the documents that constitute the Contract.
<b>State Fiscal Year</b>	The period beginning September 1 and ending August 31 each year, which is the annual accounting period for the State of Texas.

<b>TERM</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
<b>Statement of Work</b>	The description of services and deliverables in this OE that the Contractor (Provider) is required to provide under the Contract.
<b>System Agency</b>	HHSC or any of the agencies of the State of Texas that are overseen by HHSC under authority granted under State law and the officers, employees, and designees of those agencies. These agencies include: the Department of Aging and Disability Services, the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, the Department of Family and Protective Services, and the Department of State Health Services.
<b>Texas Licensed Dentist</b>	<a href="#">Chapter 256 of the Occupations Code</a>
<b>Work</b>	All Services to be performed, goods to be delivered, any appurtenant actions performed, and items produced, conceived, or developed, including Deliverables.

## **SECTION 4. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **4.1. SOLE POINT OF CONTACT**

All questions, requests for clarification, or other communication about this OE shall be made in writing only to the HHSC sole point of contact listed below.

Attempts to ask questions by phone or in person will not be allowed or recognized as valid.

Alethea Flores, CTCM  
Senior Administration Manager  
Email: [alethea.flores@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:alethea.flores@hhs.texas.gov)

**To be considered for contract award, applications must only be submitted to this address. See Section #13 for submission requirements.**

**Do not contact other HHS Agency personnel regarding this OE.**

**This restriction, as to only communicating in writing with the HHSC sole point of contact identified above, does not preclude discussions between Applicant and agency personnel for the purposes of conducting business unrelated to this OE.**

**Failure of an Applicant or its representatives to comply with these requirements may result in disqualification of the submitted Application.**

#### 4.2. **CHANGES, MODIFICATIONS AND CANCELLATION**

HHSC reserves the right to change, amend, modify, or cancel this OE at any time.

All Applications, including those submitted after cancellation of the OE, become the property of HHSC upon receipt.

##### 4.2.1. **ADVERTISEMENT OF CHANGES, MODIFICATIONS OR CANCELLATION**

If HHSC determines that the OE needs to be changed or modified, either an addendum will be posted on the [OE Opportunities](#) webpage. or the OE will be canceled. The action to be taken will be determined at the sole discretion of HHSC. Furthermore, if the OE will be canceled, HHSC will determine, in its sole discretion, if a new OE will be posted.

No HHS Agency will be responsible or liable in any regard for the failure of any individual or entity to receive notification of any posting to the OE Opportunities webpage.

It is the responsibility of each Applicant to monitor the [OE Opportunities](#) webpage for any Addenda or additional information regarding this OE. Failure to monitor the [OE Opportunities](#) webpage will in no way release or relieve any Applicant or Contractor of its obligations to fulfill the requirements as posted.

#### 4.3. **OFFER PERIOD**

By submitting an Application in response to this OE, Applicant agrees that its Application will remain a firm and binding offer to enter into a Contract under all terms and conditions of this OE for at least 240 days from the date applications are due, as stated in Exhibit A, HHS Solicitation Affirmations, unless withdrawn by the Applicant before the Enrollment Period closes.

An Applicant may extend the time for which its Application will be honored and include the extended period in the Application.

#### 4.4. **COSTS INCURRED**

HHSC accepts no obligations for costs incurred in preparing, submitting, and screening an Application, including, but not limited to, costs or expenses related to contract execution.

Applicants understand that issuance of this OE or retention of Applications in no way constitutes a commitment by HHSC to award a Contract. All Applications shall be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise delineation of the Applicant's capabilities to satisfy the requirements of this OE and submitted at the sole expense of the Applicant.

## 4.5. **OE QUESTIONS OR CLARIFICATIONS**

### 4.5.1. **QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION**

Written questions and requests for clarification regarding this OE are permitted if submitted by email to the Sole Point of Contact, Section 4.1.

Responses to questions and requests for clarification will not be posted. However, if HHSC determines, based on a question, request for clarification, or any other factor (including, but not limited to notices of ambiguity, conflict, or discrepancy as referenced in Section 4.5.3, below), that the OE needs to be amended or clarified, either an addendum will be posted on the [OE Opportunities](#) webpage or the OE will be canceled. The action to be taken will be determined at the sole discretion of HHSC. Furthermore, if the OE will be canceled, HHSC will determine, in its sole discretion, if a new OE will be posted.

### 4.5.2. **QUESTION AND CLARIFICATION FORMAT**

Questions and requests for clarification must include the following information:

- a. the OE Number
- b. the question or request for clarification, providing the following information:
  - OE language, topic, section heading
  - Section, Paragraph and Page number(s) or Exhibit/Attachment

The requestor must provide the following contact information:

- Company Name
- Company Representative Name
- Phone Number
- Email address

### 4.5.3. **AMBIGUITY, CONFLICT, DISCREPANCY**

Applicants must notify the Sole Point of Contact, Section 4.1, of any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, exclusionary specification, omission, or other error in the OE. Notices must be submitted in the same manner for submitting questions.

Each Applicant submits its Application at its own risk.

If an Applicant fails to properly and timely notify the Sole Point of Contact, Section 4.1, of any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, exclusionary specification, omission or other error in the OE, the Applicant, whether awarded a contract or not:

- a. shall have waived any claim of error or ambiguity in the OE and any resulting contract,
- b. shall not contest the interpretation by HHSC of such provision(s), and
- c. shall not be entitled to additional compensation, relief, or time by reason of ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, exclusionary specification, omission, or other error or its later correction.

## **SECTION 5. HUB SUBCONTRACTING PLAN (HSP) REQUIREMENTS**

HHS has determined subcontracting opportunities are not probable under this OE; therefore, a **HSP is not required to be submitted with the Application.**

## **SECTION 6. CONTRACT TERM**

### **6.1. TERM OF CONTRACT**

HHSC may award one or more Contracts under this OE.

Any Contract resulting from this OE will be effective on the signature date of the latter of the Parties to sign the agreement and will expire five (5) years after contract execution unless terminated earlier pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Contract.

### **6.2. EXTENSION OPTION**

HHSC, at its sole option and subject to availability of funding, may extend the Contract beyond the initial term for up to one year as necessary to ensure continuity of service, to process a new OE to award new contract(s), for purposes of transition, or as otherwise determined to serve the best interest of the State of Texas.

## **SECTION 7. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

To be eligible to apply for a Contract and receive an award, Applicant(s), must be eligible, qualified, and meet all requirements of this OE. Applicant requirements apply with equal force to Contractors and Providers awarded contracts under this OE.

### **7.1. REQUIRED EXPERIENCE**

- a. To be considered for contract award under this OE, an Applicant shall have an active or retired Texas state license and must have a minimum of 5 years of dental practice experience.
- b. Texas residents only.

### **7.2. LICENSURE AND ACCREDITATION**

Applicant and all personnel and technicians assigned to provide services under the Contract must have all licenses and certifications required by applicable law.

Assigned personnel and technicians, who may include department directors or equivalent positions, providing services that, by law, require a professional license or certification, must hold a current, valid, and applicable Texas license and/or certification in good standing.

Contractor is responsible for ensuring all Contractor staff and subcontractors, if any, hold current, valid, and applicable licenses and/or certifications in good standing.

Contractor must provide a copy of either a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or a Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) and must be submitted with your Application.

Each Contractor is required to maintain all required licenses and certifications for the business during the term of the Contract. The Contractor and Contractor's personnel and subcontractors, if any, must also maintain their individual required licenses and certifications during the term of the Contract. All required licenses and/or certifications must be included with submitted Applications. During annual contract reviews, Contractor shall provide updated licenses and/or certifications at HHSC request.

## **SECTION 8. STATEMENT OF WORK**

### **8.1. HHSC RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. Provide relevant policy and procedures related to Dental IMEs.
- b. Provide dental IME fee schedules for reference.
- c. Offer technical assistance to Contractor involving operational issues.
- d. Track IME requests submitted to and received from the Contractor.
- e. Validate invoices for services delivered by the Contractor against requests tracked.
- f. Make timely payment on services delivered by the Contractor.

### **8.2. CONTRACTOR (PROVIDER) RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. Provide a Texas licensed dentist to review dental IME requests related to the Medicaid NF program.
  1. Ensure treatment requested is indicated and supported by the individual's treatment plan and legible and appropriate radiographic images, if appropriate.
  2. Within five business days of receipt respond to the request and "reply all" to all original requestors with the recommendation regarding whether to approve or deny the request.
  3. Identify the type of records required, and the level of detail needed within those records, when reviewing a request for dental services and a dental treatment plan.

- b. Provide suggestions for criteria on the process for future submissions of Medicaid NF dental IME requests to the contracted dentist ("Guidelines").
- c. Provide expert input upon request to receiving agency staff to classify dental procedures as routine or non-routine.
- d. Participate in Informal Fair Hearings, as necessary, regarding IME decisions that result in adverse action taken by HHSC. In situations where adverse actions based on the dental review results in an appeal and request for an Informal Fair Hearing (pursuant to [1 TAC RULE §357.3 Authority and Right to Appeal](#)), the Contractor may be requested to participate in the Informal Fair Hearings process as deemed necessary by HHSC.
- e. Use HHSC dental IME fee schedules and other HHSC documents when reviewing dental IME requests.
- f. Provide a report of work performed during the reporting period with the invoices delivered by the Contractor.
  - 1. Develop a monthly tracking report to include all requests received, disposition of the requests, and rationale.
  - 2. The report must identify each individual case reviewed by using the initials of the first and last name of the individual being reviewed, date the records were reviewed by the contracted dentist, and the amount of time contributed to the review process.
  - 3. Submit the report to the HHSC's Contract Manager via email at [DentalIME@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:DentalIME@hhs.texas.gov) by the 15th day of the month following the report month.

**8.3. PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

HHSC will look solely to the Contractor(s) for the performance of all contractual obligations resulting from an award based on this OE.

No Contractor will be relieved of its obligations for any nonperformance by its subcontractors. Contractor must ensure that its subcontractors abide by all requirements, terms, and conditions of this Contract. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, every requirement and every prohibition set forth in this OE and any resulting contract that applies to a Contractor applies with equal force to its employees, agents, representatives, and subcontractors.

**8.4. CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE**

HHSC, at its sole discretion, may request in writing the immediate removal of any Contractor from the services being provided under the Contract. Upon such request, Contractor shall immediately be removed.

**8.5. NOTICE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**

At the time of submission, Applicants shall provide confirmation that the Applicant, any person with ownership or controlling interest in Applicant, and Applicant's agents, employees, subcontractors, and volunteers who will be providing the required services:

- a. have not engaged in any activity that does or could constitute a criminal offense equal to or greater than a Class A misdemeanor or grounds for disciplinary action by a state or federal regulatory authority; and
- b. have not been placed on community supervision, received deferred adjudication, or been indicted for or convicted of a criminal offense relating to involvement in any financial matter, federal or state program, or sex crime.

This is a continuing disclosure requirement; prior to Contract award, if any, Applicants must notify the HHSC Sole Point of Contact within five days of the date Applicant learns of actions set forth in subsections (a) and (b) above. Additionally, this is a continuing disclosure requirement for each Contractor, during the term of the Contract, to immediately report, in writing, to the HHSC contract manager when Contractor learns of or has any reason to believe it or any person with ownership or controlling interest in Contractor, or any of Contractor's agents, employees, subcontractors or volunteers has: engaged in any activity that does or could constitute a criminal offense equal to or greater than a Class A misdemeanor or grounds for disciplinary action by a state or federal regulatory authority; or been placed on community supervision, received deferred adjudication, or been indicted for or convicted of a criminal offense relating to the involvement in any financial matter, federal or state program, or sex crime.

Contractor shall not permit any person who engaged, or was alleged to have engaged, in any activity subject to reporting under this section to perform direct client services or have direct contact with clients, unless otherwise directed in writing by the HHSC contract manager.

Personnel with sex offender, child or adult abuse, or fraud offenses shall not be allowed to provide Contract services and shall not be allowed access to HHS Agency property, facilities, or documents.

Key personnel with misdemeanor offenses must receive prior approval by the HHS Agency before being allowed to work under this contract.

HHSC, at its sole discretion, may terminate any Contract if Contractor, its agents, employees, subcontractors, or volunteers are arrested, indicted, or convicted of any criminal activity.

#### **8.6. NOTICE OF INSOLVENCY OR INDEBTEDNESS**

At the time of submission, Applicants shall provide with the Application detailed written descriptions of any insolvency, incapacity, and outstanding unpaid obligations of Applicant owed to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or the State of Texas, or any agency or political subdivision of the State of Texas. This is a continuing disclosure requirement; prior to Contract award, if any, Applicants must notify the HHSC Sole Point of Contact within five days of the date Applicant learns of such financial circumstances after submission of the Application.

Additionally, Contractors are under a continuing obligation to notify the HHSC contract manager, as applicable, within five days of the date Contractor learns of such financial circumstances after Contract award.

#### **8.7. REPORTING CRITERIA**

- a. Within five business days of receipt of each case, review Medicaid NF IMEs submitted by HHSC and respond to the request and “reply all” to all original requestors, with the recommendation regarding whether to approve or deny the request.
- b. Develop a monthly tracking report to include all requests received, disposition of the requests, and rationale. This tracking report is to be submitted to HHSC Contract Manager via email by the 15th day of the month following the report month.

#### **8.8. INVOICE REQUIREMENTS AND PAYMENT**

##### **8.8.1. INVOICE REQUIREMENTS**

Contractor shall submit to HHSC detailed and accurate invoice(s) which include the information below. Each invoice must be submitted to [DentalIME@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:DentalIME@hhs.texas.gov) in the format prescribed by HHSC, not later than 10 calendar days after the contract quarter.

The email address for submitting an invoice is: [DentalIME@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:DentalIME@hhs.texas.gov)

The invoice shall include, at a minimum:

- a. Unique invoice number;
- b. Invoice date;
- c. Service month(s);
- d. Contractor's mailing and email (if applicable) address;
- e. Contractor's telephone number;
- f. Name and telephone number of a person designated by the contractor to answer questions regarding the invoice;
- g. The State agency's name, agency number, and delivery address;
- h. The state agency's purchase order number, if applicable;
- i. The contract number or other reference number, if applicable;
- j. Valid Texas identification number (TIN) issued by the comptroller;
- k. Description of the goods or services, in sufficient detail to identify the order which relates to the invoice;
- l. Daily timesheets documenting the date, minutes, and hours worked;
- m. Unit numbers corresponding to the amount of the invoice; and
- n. Any other relevant information supporting and explaining the payment requested.

No payment will be made under this Contract without submission of detailed, accurate invoices submitted as outlined.

**8.8.2. PAYMENT**

- a. Contractor must submit invoices for cost reimbursement on a monthly basis or as otherwise indicated on the purchase order;
- b. Separate invoices must be submitted for each service month, as applicable; and
- c. Failure to submit an accurate and valid invoice with all required information may result in delay of payment;
- d. Contractor shall be paid a rate of \$105.00 per hour for the services under this Contract. The Contractor shall keep daily timesheets documenting the date, minutes, and hours worked. HHSC projects that the assigned dentist may work up to 16 hours per week, each week for the term of this Contract to provide the required services identified in Section 8. Contractor may increase or decrease the number of hours worked per week, however, that any adjustment in time worked per week shall not:
  - 1) cause the not-to-exceed amount of this Contract to increase; or
  - 2) result in the failure to timely provide required services.
- e. Contractor is required to notify HHSC of a change in work hours if not already requested by HHSC. Contractor is solely responsible for time management.

**8.8.3. DISPUTED INVOICE(S)**

In accordance with [34 Texas Administrative Code, Rule §20.487\(b\)](#), the HHS Agency will immediately return disputed invoices to the Contractor but in no event later than the 21st day after the HHS Agency receives the invoice. The HHS Agency reserves the right to dispute any portion of an invoice and will attempt to resolve the dispute with the Contractor in good faith. The HHS Agency shall not be required to pay any disputed portion of an invoice until the dispute is resolved. Notwithstanding any such dispute, the Contractor must continue to perform the services and/or produce deliverables in compliance with the terms of the Contract. Pending resolution of a dispute, the HHS Agency will continue to process payments for undisputed amounts and invoices to the Contractor.

**8.9. DATA USE AGREEMENT (DUA)**

By submitting an Application and, if applicable, signing a contract resulting from this OE, Applicant agrees to the terms of the Data Use Agreement, Exhibit B. The Applicant must complete, sign, and return with its Application, (Texas HHS System - Data Use Agreement – Exhibit B, Security and Privacy Initial Inquiry (SPI) – Exhibit C).

#### 8.10. **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Submission of an Application in response to this OE constitutes acceptance of all Terms and Conditions attached to, referenced, or set forth in the OE. Applicant shall not submit additional or different terms and conditions.

Any term, condition, or other part of an Applicant's submitted application that has been rejected by HHSC, that is not accepted in writing by HHSC, or that conflicts with applicable law, this OE, any resulting Contract, or applicable terms and conditions will not constitute part of the Contract.

#### 8.11. **STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR VENDORS**

Pursuant to [1 TAC 391.405\(a\)](#), contractors, respondents, and vendors interested in working with HHS are required to implement standards of conduct to apply to all matters involving, or related to, those solicitations and contract(s) between themselves and HHS. These standards must adhere to ethics requirements adopted in rule, in addition to any ethics policy, or code of ethics approved by the HHSC Executive Commissioner and must be at least as restrictive as those applicable to HHS personnel in the applicable ethics law and policy provisions.

The standards of conduct must include the ten standards of ethical conduct set forth in Section I of the HHS Ethics Policy and requirements to comply with ethical standards set forth in federal and state law (including, but not limited to, [1 TAC Chapter 391, Subchapter D](#)).

The standards of conduct, together with the responsibilities and restrictions incorporated herein, also apply to subcontractors of contractors, respondents, and vendors.

Standards of conduct of any contractor, respondent or vendor may be reviewed and/or audited by the State Auditor and HHSC. Additionally, pursuant to [1 TAC 391.405\(a\)](#), HHS may examine a respondent's standards of conduct in the evaluation of a bid, offer, proposal, quote, or other applicable expression of interest in a proposed purchase of goods or services.

Any vendor or contractor that violates a provision of [1 TAC Chapter 391, Subchapter D](#) may be barred from receiving future contracts or have an existing contract canceled. Additionally, HHSC may report the vendor's actions to the Comptroller of Public Accounts for statewide debarment, or law enforcement.

## **SECTION 9. HHSC CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION**

HHSC will designate a Contract Manager and provide the manager's contact information to the Contractor.

After award of any Contract resulting from this OE, all communications related to the Contract will be processed through the designated Contract Manager. Additional requirements apply to legal notices which must be provided to the HHS Chief Counsel as well as the Contract Manager.

## SECTION 10. CONFIDENTIAL OR PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

### 10.1. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT

#### **Applicant Requirements Regarding Disclosure**

Applications and contracts are subject to the [Texas Public Information Act \(PIA\)](#), [Texas Government Code Chapter 552](#), and may be disclosed to the public upon request. Other legal authority also requires HHSC to post certain contracts and Applications on HHSC's website and to provide such information to the Legislative Budget Board for posting on its website.

Under the PIA, certain information is protected from public release. If Applicant asserts that information provided in its Application is exempt from disclosure under the PIA, Applicant must:

#### **a. Mark Original Application:**

1. Mark the original Application, on the top of the front page, the words "CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION" in large, bold, capitalized letters (the size of, or equivalent to, 12-point Times New Roman font or larger); and
2. Identify, adjacent to each portion of the Application that Applicant claims is exempt from public disclosure, the claimed exemption from disclosure (NOTE: no redactions are to be made in the original Application);

#### **b. Certify in Original Application - HHS Solicitation Affirmations (attached as Exhibit A to this OE):** certify, in the designated section of the HHS Solicitation Affirmations, Applicant's confidential information assertion and the filing of its Public Information Act Copy; and

#### **c. Submit Public Information Act Copy of Application:** submit a separate "Public Information Act Copy" of the original Application (in addition to the original and all copies otherwise required under the provisions of this OE). The Public Information Act Copy must meet the following requirements:

1. The copy must be clearly marked as "Public Information Act Copy" on the front page in large, bold, capitalized letters (the size of, or equivalent to, 12-point Times New Roman font or larger);
2. Each portion Applicant claims is exempt from public disclosure must be redacted; and
3. Applicant must identify, adjacent to each redaction, the claimed exemption from disclosure. Each identification provided as required in subsection (c) of this section must be identical to those set forth in the original Application as required in section a.(2), above. The only difference in required markings and information between the original Application and

the "Public Information Act Copy" of the Application will be redactions - which can only be included in the "Public Information Act Copy." There must be no redactions in the original Application.

**By submitting an Application to this OE, Applicant agrees that, if Applicant does not mark the original Application, provide the required certification in the HHS Solicitation Affirmations, and submit the Public Information Act Copy, Applicant's Application will be considered to be public information that may be released to the public in any manner including, but not limited to, in accordance with the Public Information Act, posted on HHSC's public website, and posted on the Legislative Budget Board's website.**

**If Applicants submit partial, but not complete, information suggesting inclusion of confidential information and failure to comply with the requirements set forth in this section, HHSC, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to (1) disqualify all Applicants that fail to fully comply with the requirements set forth in this section, or (2) to offer all Applicants that fail to fully comply with the requirements set forth in this section additional time to comply.**

Applicant should not submit a Public Information Act Copy indicating that the entire Application is exempt from disclosure. Merely making a blanket claim that the entire Application is protected from disclosure because it contains any amount of confidential, proprietary, trade secret, or privileged information is not acceptable, and may make the entire Application subject to release under the PIA.

Applications should not be marked or asserted as copyrighted material. If Applicant asserts a copyright to any portion of its Application, by submitting an Application, Applicant agrees to reproduction and posting on public websites by the State of Texas, including HHSC and all other state agencies, without cost or liability.

HHSC will strictly adhere to the requirements of the PIA regarding the disclosure of public information. As a result, by participating in this OE process, Applicant acknowledges that all information, documentation, and other materials submitted in the Application in response to this OE may be subject to public disclosure under the PIA. HHSC does not have authority to agree that any information submitted will not be subject to disclosure. Disclosure is governed by the PIA and by rulings of the Office of the Texas Attorney General. Applicants are advised to consult with their legal counsel concerning disclosure issues resulting from this process and to take precautions to safeguard trade secrets and proprietary or otherwise confidential information. HHSC assumes no obligation or responsibility relating to the disclosure or nondisclosure of information submitted by Applicants.

For more information concerning the types of information that may be withheld under the PIA or questions about the PIA, refer to the Public Information Act

Handbook published by the Office of the Texas Attorney General, or contact the attorney general's Open Government Hotline at (512) 478-OPEN (6736) or toll-free at (877) 673-6839 (877-OPEN-TEX). The Public Information Act Handbook may be accessed at:

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/members-public>

10.2. **APPLICANT WAIVER – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

**SUBMISSION OF ANY DOCUMENT TO ANY HHS AGENCY IN RESPONSE TO THIS OE CONSTITUTES AN IRREVOCABLE WAIVER, AND AGREEMENT BY THE SUBMITTING PARTY TO FULLY INDEMNIFY THE STATE OF TEXAS, HHSC FROM ANY CLAIM OF INFRINGEMENT BY HHSC REGARDING THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS OF THE SUBMITTING PARTY OR ANY THIRD PARTY FOR ANY MATERIALS SUBMITTED TO HHS BY THE SUBMITTING PARTY.**

**SECTION 11. BINDING OFFER**

All Applications should be responsive to the OE as issued or amended through written and posted Addenda, not with any assumption that HHSC will negotiate any or all terms, conditions, or provisions of the OE. Furthermore, all Applications constitute binding offers. **Any Application that includes any type of disclaimer or other statement indicating that the Application submitted in response to this OE does not constitute a binding offer will be disqualified.**

## SECTION 12. REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

<p><b>All documentation listed must be returned for a complete Application. Provide the documentation in the same sequence as outlined below by using the Item number(s) and title(s) as necessary.</b></p>	
<p><b>1. Exhibit A – HHS Solicitation Affirmations</b> Must be completed and signed. <b>Important Note: Applications received without the signed Exhibit A will be disqualified.</b></p>	
<p><b>2. OE Addenda, if applicable - signed</b></p>	
<p><b>3. Exhibit B - DUA (Data Use Agreement) – completed and signed</b></p>	
<p><b>4. Exhibit C – SPI (Security and Privacy Initial Inquiry) - completed and signed</b></p>	
<p><b>5. Exhibit D – Federal Assurances – Non-Construction - completed and signed</b></p>	
<p><b>6. Exhibit E - Face Page</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Applicant Business Structure or Company Type:</b> Provide the entity type (e.g., Private, Non-Profit, State Agency, Local Government, etc.). If Corporation, provide State of Incorporation and filing number.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Court or Governmental Agency Proceedings, Investigations, or Other Actions:</b> Applicant shall provide information required pursuant to the HHS Solicitation Affirmations (Exhibit A), paragraph 36.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Former Employees of a Texas State Agency:</b> Applicant must provide the following information regarding individuals that formerly worked for any Texas state agency and now work for Applicant or any of Applicant's subcontractors: Name Address Phone Number State agency for which previously worked Dates of employment for each identified state agency  Any additional information requested by HHS regarding identified individuals must be provided by Applicant.</p> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Exhibit F – HHS Uniform Terms and Conditions (UTC), Vendor Version 3.3, July 2022</b></p>	
<p><b>8. Minimum Qualifications – Reference Section #7</b></p> <p><b>Required Experience:</b> Provide documentation of demonstrated experience to confirm the Applicant meets the minimum requirements.</p> <p><b>Licensure or Accreditation</b> Provide current copies of all required Licensure and Accreditation for the Applicant and Applicant's personnel as applicable.</p>	

## **SECTION 13. APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

The Application must be submitted in accordance with this section.

The complete Application must be submitted to:

Health and Human Services Commission

Access and Eligibility Services

Eligibility Operations and Disability of Determination Services Contracts (EODDS)

Email: [DentalIME@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:DentalIME@hhs.texas.gov)

Each Applicant is solely responsible for ensuring its Application is submitted in accordance with all OE requirements and ensuring timely receipt by HHSC.

**In no event will HHSC be responsible or liable for any delay or error in submission or delivery.**

The Application must be submitted by email.

### **13.1. EMAIL SUBMISSION**

Each Applicant is solely responsible for ensuring its Application is submitted in accordance with all OE requirements, including, but not limited to, the Section 13, Required Application Documents and ensuring timely email receipt by HHSC.

The Application, including all documentation outlined in Section 13, must be sent in its entirety in one or more emails.

**In no event will HHSC be responsible or liable for any delay or error in delivery. Applications must be RECEIVED by HHSC before the OE period closes as identified in Schedule of Events, Section 1, or subsequent Addenda.**

The email subject line should contain the OE number, title as indicated on the cover page and number of emails if more than one (e.g., Email 1 of #, etc.). The Applicant is solely responsible for ensuring that Applicant's complete electronic Application is sent to and RECEIVED by HHSC at the proper destination server before the submission deadline.

The Application documentation must not be encrypted to prevent HHSC from opening the documents.

IMPORTANT NOTE: HHSC recommends a 10MB limit on each attachment. This may require Applicants to send multiple emails to HHSC at [DentalIME@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:DentalIME@hhs.texas.gov) to ensure all documentation contained in an Application is received.

All documents should be submitted in Microsoft office® formats (Word® and Excel®, as applicable) or in a form that may be read by Microsoft office® software. Any documents with signatures shall be submitted as an Adobe® portable document format (pdf) file. HHSC is not responsible for documents that cannot be read or converted. Unreadable applications may be, in HHSC'S sole discretion, rejected as nonresponsive.

Please be aware Internet Service Providers may limit file sizes on outgoing emails; therefore, it is recommended Applications not contain graphics, pictures, letterheads, etc., which consume a lot of space. These typically include \*.tif/\*.tiff, \*.gif, & \*.bmp file extensions, but may use others, as well. HHSC's firewall virus protection always runs, so during times of new active virus alerts, incoming traffic may be delayed while virus software scans emails with attachments. HHSC takes no responsibility for emailed Applications that are captured, blocked, filtered, quarantined, or otherwise prevented from reaching the proper destination server by any HHSC anti-virus or other security software.

Applicants may email the Point of Contact, Section 4.1 to request confirmation of receipt.

#### **13.2. RECEIPT OF APPLICATION**

All Applications become the property of HHSC upon receipt and will not be returned to Applicants.

HHSC will NOT be held responsible for any Application that is mishandled by the Applicant, any Applicant's delivery, or mail service or for Applications sent by email that are captured, blocked, filtered, quarantined or otherwise prevented from reaching the proper destination server by any HHSC anti-virus or other security software.

Applications received after the OE Period closes will not be considered.

### **SECTION 14. SCREENING OF APPLICATIONS**

Neither issuance of this OE nor retention of Applications constitutes a commitment on the part of HHSC to award a Contract. HHSC maintains the right to reject any or all Applications and to cancel this OE if HHSC, in its sole discretion, considers it to be in the best interests of HHSC to do so.

Submission and retention of Applications by HHSC confers no legal rights upon any Applicant.

HHSC reserves the right to select qualified Applicants to this OE with or without discussion of the Applications with Applicants. It is understood by Applicant that all Applications, contracts, and related documents are subject to the [Texas Public Information Act](#).

#### **14.1. INITIAL SCREENING OF APPLICATIONS**

An initial screening of Applications will be conducted by HHSC to determine which Applications are deemed to be responsive and qualified for further consideration for award. This screening includes a review to determine that each Applicant meets the minimum requirements, qualifications and each Application includes all required documentation.

HHSC reserves the right to:

- a. Ask questions or request clarification from any Applicant at any time during the OE and screening process, and
- b. Conduct studies and other investigations as necessary to evaluate any Application.

##### **Informalities:**

HHSC reserves the right to waive minor informalities in an Application. A "minor informality" is an omission or error that, in HHSC's determination if waived or modified when screening Applications, would not give an Applicant an unfair advantage over other Applicants or result in a material change in the Application or OE requirements.

HHSC, at its sole discretion, may give an Applicant the opportunity to submit missing information or make corrections. The missing information or corrections must be submitted to the Point of Contact email address in Section 4.1 by the deadline set by HHSC. Failure to respond before the deadline may result in HHSC's rejecting the Application and the Applicant not being considered for award.

Note: Any disqualifying factor set forth in this OE does not constitute an informality (e.g., Exhibit A, HHS Solicitation Affirmations which must be signed and submitted with the Application).

#### **14.2. VERIFICATION OF PAST VENDOR PERFORMANCE**

HHSC reserves the right to conduct studies and other investigations as necessary to evaluate any Application. By submitting an Application, the Applicant generally releases from liability and waives all claims against any party providing information about the Applicant at the request of HHSC.

Applicants may be rejected as a result of unsatisfactory past performance under any contract(s) as reflected in vendor performance reports, reference checks, or other sources.

An Applicant's past performance may be considered in the initial screening process and prior to making an award determination.

Reasons for which an Applicant may be denied a contract include but are not limited to:

- a. Applicant has an unfavorable report or grade on the CPA Vendor Performance Tracking System (VPTS).  
VPTS may be accessed at:  
<https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/programs/vendor-performance-tracking/>  
OR,
- b. Applicant is currently under a corrective action plan through HHSC, OR,
- c. Applicant has had repeated, negative vendor performance reports for the same reason, OR,
- d. Applicant has a record of repeated non-responsiveness to vendor performance issues, OR,
- e. Applicant has contracts or purchase orders that have been cancelled in the previous 12 months for non-performance or sub-standard performance.
- f. Verify the dentist's license on the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners website.

In addition, HHSC may examine other sources of vendor performance which may include information provided by any governmental entity, whether an agency or political subdivision of the State of Texas, another state, or the Federal government.

The performance information may include, but is not limited to:

- Notices of termination,
- Cure notices,
- Assessments of liquidated damages,
- Litigation,
- Audit reports, and
- Non-renewals of contracts.

Further, HHSC, at its sole discretion, may initiate investigations or examinations of vendor performance based upon media reports. Any negative findings, as determined by HHSC in its sole discretion, may result in HHSC's removing the Applicant from further consideration for award.

## **SECTION 15. AWARD PROCESS**

### **15.1. CONTRACT AWARD AND EXECUTION**

HHSC, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to cancel this OE at any time or decline to award any contracts as a result of this OE.

HHSC intends to award one or more contracts as a result of this OE.

All awards are contingent upon approval of the HHSC Executive Commissioner or the HHSC Executive Commissioner's designee.

## 15.2. COMPLIANCE FOR PARTICIPATION IN STATE CONTRACTS

### 15.2.1. REQUIRED PRE-AWARD VERIFICATIONS

In addition to the initial screening process, the following verification checks are required to be conducted for each Applicant to determine compliance for participating in State contracts.

The Applicant's Legal Name and, if applicable, Assumed Business Name (DBA) will be used to conduct these checks.

Applicants found to be barred, prohibited, or otherwise excluded from contract award will be disqualified from further consideration.

#### a. State of Texas Debarment

Must not be debarred from doing business with the State of Texas through the Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA):  
<https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/programs/vendor-performance-tracking/debarred-vendors.php>

#### b. System of Award Management (SAM) Exclusions List - Federal

Must not be excluded from contract participation at the federal level. This verification is conducted through SAM, official website of the US Government which may be accessed at this link:  
<https://www.sam.gov/SAM/pages/public/searchRecords/search.jsf>

Note: If the link does not work, copy/paste the link into browser bar.

#### c. Divestment Statute Lists

Must not be listed on the Divestment Statute Lists provided by CPA which may be accessed at:

<https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/publications/divestment.php>  
<https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/publications/divestment.php>

1. Companies that boycott Israel;
2. Scrutinized Companies with Ties to Sudan;
3. Scrutinized Companies with Ties to Iran;
4. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations; and
5. Scrutinized Companies with Ties to Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

### 15.2.2. ADDITIONAL REQUIRED PRE-AWARD VERIFICATIONS

After the checks performed in Section 16.2.1, the following verifications will be conducted for each Applicant. The verifications will be based on the legal name and, if applicable, the Assumed Business Name (DBA),

and/or the Secretary of State (SOS) charter number, the Federal ID or Texas Payee ID numbers, or the CPA Franchise Tax number provided, as applicable, on Exhibit A, HHS Solicitation Affirmations.

The results of the checks below will be used to further consider an Applicant for award and may result in disqualification.

**a. Texas Franchise Tax Status**

The Texas franchise tax is a privilege tax imposed on each taxable entity formed or organized in Texas or doing business in Texas. Although not all entities are required to file or pay franchise taxes, HHSC will process a search of the Applicant through the CPA Franchise Tax system to verify the Applicant is in good standing.

Franchise tax checks may reveal as to applicable entities (1) debts or delinquencies owed to the state (implicating contracting limitations) and (2) forfeiture of the right to transact business in Texas.

**b. Texas Warrant Hold Status**

The check for warrant holds through the CPA is required to determine if an Applicant is on hold for any reason. [Texas Government Code Section 2252.903](#) requires agencies to verify the warrant hold status no earlier than the seventh day before and no later than the day of contract execution for transactions involving a written contract. In accordance with Section 3.3 of Exhibit F Uniform Terms and Conditions, payments under any contract resulting from this OE will be applied directly toward eliminating the Applicant's debt or delinquency regardless of when it arises.

**c. Texas Secretary of State**

Must be registered, if required by law, with the Texas Secretary of State as a public or private entity eligible to do business in Texas: <https://direct.sos.state.tx.us/acct/acct-login.asp>

**15.3. AWARD TO GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES**

If Applicant is a governmental entity, responding to this OE in its capacity as a governmental entity, certain terms and conditions may not be applicable including, but not limited to, any HSP requirement. Furthermore, to the extent permitted by law, if an Application is received from a governmental entity, HHSC reserves the right to enter into an interagency or interlocal agreement with the governmental entity.

## Exhibit A

**Solicitation Number HHS0013184**

### **Exhibit A. HHS SOLICITATION AFFIRMATIONS**

In this document, HHS includes both the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). System Agency refers to HHSC, DSHS, or both, that will be a party to any contract resulting from the Solicitation. In this document, the terms Respondent, Contractor, Applicant, and Vendor, when referring to the following affirmations (whether framed as certifications, representations, warranties, or in other terms) refer to Respondent, and the affirmations apply to all Respondents regardless of their business form (e.g., individual, partnership, corporation). To the extent applicable for DFPS solicitations, the definition of System Agency includes DFPS.

Respondent must provide information, as applicable, and affirms, without exception, as follows:

1. Respondent represents and warrants that all certifications, representations, warranties, and other provisions in this Affirmations and Solicitation Acceptance apply to Respondent and all of Respondent's principals, officers, directors, shareholders, partners, owners, agents, employees, subcontractors, independent contractors, and any other representatives who may provide services under, who have a financial interest in, or otherwise are interested in this Solicitation or any contract resulting from this Solicitation.
2. **Complete and Accurate Information.** Respondent represents and warrants that all statements and information provided to HHS are current, complete, and accurate. This includes all statements and information in this Solicitation Response.
3. **Public Information Act.** Respondent understands that HHS will comply with the Texas Public Information Act (Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code) as interpreted by judicial rulings and opinions of the Attorney General of the State of Texas. Information, documentation, and other material prepared and submitted in connection with this Solicitation or any resulting contract may be subject to public disclosure pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act. In accordance with Section 2252.907 of the Texas Government Code, Respondent is required to make any information created or exchanged with the State pursuant to the contract, and not otherwise excepted from disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act, available in a format that is accessible by the public at no additional charge to the State.
4. **Contracting Information Requirements.** Respondent represents and warrants that it will comply with the requirements of Section 552.372(a) of the Texas Government Code. Except as provided by Section 552.374(c) of the Texas Government Code, the requirements of Subchapter J (Additional Provisions Related to Contracting Information), Chapter 552 of the Government Code, may apply to the contract and the Respondent agrees that the contract can be terminated if the Respondent knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.
5. **Confidential or Proprietary Information.** Respondent acknowledges its obligation to specifically identify information it contends to be confidential or proprietary and, if Respondent designated substantial portions of its Solicitation Response or its entire Solicitation Response as confidential or proprietary, the Solicitation Response is subject to being disqualified.

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6. **Binding Offer.** Respondent's Solicitation Response will remain a firm and binding offer for 240 days from the date the Solicitation Response is due.
7. **Assignment.** Respondent shall not assign its rights under the contract or delegate the performance of its duties under the contract without prior written approval from System Agency. Any attempted assignment in violation of this provision is void and without effect.
8. **Terms and Conditions.** Respondent accepts the Solicitation terms and conditions unless specifically noted by exceptions advanced in the form and manner directed in the Solicitation. No exceptions, terms, or conditions will be considered if not advanced in the form and manner directed in the Solicitation. Respondent agrees that all exceptions to the Solicitation as well as terms and conditions advanced by Respondent that differ in any manner from HHS' terms and conditions are rejected unless expressly accepted by System Agency in writing in a fully executed contract.
9. **HHS Right to Use.** Respondent agrees that HHS has the right to use, produce, and distribute copies of and to disclose to HHS employees, agents, and contractors and other governmental entities all or part of Respondent's Solicitation Response as HHS deems necessary to complete the procurement process or comply with state or federal laws.
10. **Release from Liability.** Respondent generally releases from liability and waives all claims against any party providing information about the Respondent at the request of HHS.
11. **Addenda and Amendments to Solicitation.** Respondent acknowledges all addenda and amendments to the Solicitation.
12. **Texas Bidder.** Respondent certifies that if a Texas address is shown as the address of Respondent on this Response, Respondent qualifies as a Texas Bidder as defined in Section 2155.444(c) of the Texas Government Code.
13. **Preferences.** Respondent represents and warrants that it qualifies for all preferences claimed under 34 Texas Administrative Code, Section 20.306 or Chapter 2155, Subchapter H of the Texas Government Code as indicated below (check applicable boxes):
  - ☐ Goods produced or offered by a Texas bidder that is owned by a Texas resident service-disabled veteran
  - ☐ Goods produced in Texas or offered by a Texas bidder that is not owned by a Texas resident service-disabled veteran
  - ☐ Agricultural products grown in Texas
  - ☐ Agricultural products offered by a Texas bidder
  - ☐ Services offered by a Texas bidder that is owned by a Texas resident service-disabled veteran
  - ☐ Services offered by a Texas bidder that is not owned by a Texas resident service-disabled veteran
  - ☐ Texas Vegetation Native to the Region
  - ☐ USA-produced supplies, materials or equipment
  - ☐ Products of persons with mental or physical disabilities

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- ☐ Products made of recycled, remanufactured, or environmentally sensitive materials including recycled steel
- ☐ Energy efficient products
- ☐ Rubberized asphalt paving material
- ☐ Recycled motor oil and lubricants
- ☐ Products produced at facilities located on formerly contaminated property
- ☐ Products and services from economically depressed or blighted areas
- ☐ Vendors that meet or exceed air quality standards
- ☐ Recycled or reused computer equipment of other manufacturers
- ☐ Foods of higher nutritional value
- ☐ Commercial production company or advertising agency located in Texas

- 14. Dealings with Public Servants.** Respondent has not given, has not offered to give, and does not intend to give at any time hereafter any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor, or service to a public servant in connection with this Solicitation Response, this Solicitation, or any contract resulting from this Solicitation.
- 15. Financial Participation Prohibited.** Under Section 2155.004, Texas Government Code (relating to financial participation in preparing solicitations), Respondent certifies that the individual or business entity named in this Response or contract is not ineligible to receive the specified contract and acknowledges that this contract may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.
- 16. Prior Disaster Relief Contract Violation.** Under Sections 2155.006 and 2261.053 of the Texas Government Code (relating to convictions and penalties regarding Hurricane Rita, Hurricane Katrina, and other disasters), the Respondent certifies that the individual or business entity named in this bid or contract is not ineligible to receive the specified contract and acknowledges that this contract may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.
- 17. Child Support Obligation.** Under Section 231.006(d) of the Texas Family Code regarding child support, Respondent certifies that the individual or business entity named in this Response is not ineligible to receive the specified payment and acknowledges that the contract may be terminated and payment may be withheld if this certification is inaccurate. If the certification is shown to be false, Respondent may be liable for additional costs and damages set out in 231.006(f). Furthermore, any Respondent subject to Section 231.006 of the Texas Family Code must include in the Response the names and social security numbers (SSNs) of each person with at least 25% ownership of the business entity submitting the Response:

Name: _____	SSN: _____
Name: _____	SSN: _____
Name: _____	SSN: _____
Name: _____	SSN: _____

**FEDERAL PRIVACY ACT NOTICE:** This notice is given pursuant to the Federal Privacy Act. Disclosure of requested SSNs is required under Section 231.006(c) and

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Section 231.302(c)(2), Texas Family Code. The SSNs will be used to identify persons that may owe child support. The SSNs will be kept confidential to the fullest extent permitted by law.

If submitted by email, Responses containing SSNs must be encrypted. Failure by a Respondent to provide or encrypt the SSNs as required may result in disqualification of the Respondent's Response.

18. **Suspension and Debarment.** Respondent certifies that it and its principals are not suspended or debarred from doing business with the state or federal government as listed on the *State of Texas Debarred Vendor List* maintained by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and the *System for Award Management (SAM)* maintained by the General Services Administration. This certification is made pursuant to the regulations implementing Executive Order 12549 and Executive Order 12689, Debarment and Suspension, 2 C.F.R. Part 376, and any relevant regulations promulgated by the Department or Agency funding this project. This provision shall be included in its entirety in Respondent's subcontracts, if any, if payment in whole or in part is from federal funds.
19. **Excluded Parties.** Respondent certifies that it is not listed in the prohibited vendors list authorized by Executive Order 13224, "*Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions with Persons Who Commit, Threaten to Commit, or Support Terrorism*," published by the United States Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control.
20. **Foreign Terrorist Organizations.** Respondent represents and warrants that it is not engaged in business with Iran, Sudan, or a foreign terrorist organization, as prohibited by Section 2252.152 of the Texas Government Code.
21. **Executive Head of a State Agency.** In accordance with Section 669.003 of the Texas Government Code, relating to contracting with the executive head of a state agency, Respondent certifies that it is not (1) the executive head of an HHS agency, (2) a person who at any time during the four years before the date of the contract was the executive head of an HHS agency, or (3) a person who employs a current or former executive head of an HHS agency.
22. **Human Trafficking Prohibition.** Under Section 2155.0061 of the Texas Government Code, the Respondent certifies that the individual or business entity named in this Response or contract is not ineligible to receive the specified contract and acknowledges that this contract may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.
23. **Franchise Tax Status.** Respondent represents and warrants that it is not currently delinquent in the payment of any franchise taxes owed the State of Texas under Chapter 171 of the Texas Tax Code.
24. **Debts and Delinquencies.** Respondent agrees that any payments due under any contract resulting from this Solicitation shall be applied towards any debt or delinquency that is owed to the State of Texas.
25. **Lobbying Prohibition.** Respondent represents and warrants that payments to Respondent and Respondent's receipt of appropriated or other funds under any contract resulting from this Solicitation are not prohibited by Sections 556.005, 556.0055, or 556.008 of the Texas Government Code (relating to use of appropriated money or state funds to employ or pay lobbyists, lobbying expenses, or influence legislation).

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26. **Buy Texas.** Respondent agrees to comply with Section 2155.4441 of the Texas Government Code, requiring the purchase of products and materials produced in the State of Texas in performing service contracts.
27. **Disaster Recovery Plan.** Respondent agrees that upon request of HHS, Respondent shall provide copies of its most recent business continuity and disaster recovery plans.
28. **Computer Equipment Recycling Program.** If Respondent is submitting a Response for the purchase or lease of computer equipment, then Respondent certifies that it is in compliance with Subchapter Y, Chapter 361 of the Texas Health and Safety Code related to the Computer Equipment Recycling Program and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality rules in 30 TAC Chapter 328.
29. **Television Equipment Recycling Program.** If Respondent is submitting a Response for the purchase or lease of covered television equipment, then Respondent certifies that it is compliance with Subchapter Z, Chapter 361 of the Texas Health and Safety Code related to the Television Equipment Recycling Program.
30. **Cybersecurity Training.** Respondent represents and warrants that it will comply with the requirements of Section 2054.5192 of the Texas Government Code relating to cybersecurity training and required verification of completion of the training program.
31. **Restricted Employment for Certain State Personnel.** Respondent acknowledges that, pursuant to Section 572.069 of the Texas Government Code, a former state officer or employee of a state agency who during the period of state service or employment participated on behalf of a state agency in a procurement or contract negotiation involving Respondent may not accept employment from Respondent before the second anniversary of the date the contract is signed or the procurement is terminated or withdrawn.
32. **No Conflicts of Interest.** Respondent represents and warrants that it has no actual or potential conflicts of interest in providing the requested goods or services to System Agency under this Solicitation and any resulting contract and that Respondent's provision of the requested goods and/or services under this Solicitation and any resulting contract will not constitute an actual or potential conflict of interest or reasonably create an appearance of impropriety.
33. **Fraud, Waste, and Abuse.** Respondent understands that HHS does not tolerate any type of fraud, waste, or abuse. Violations of law, agency policies, or standards of ethical conduct will be investigated, and appropriate actions will be taken. Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 321.022, if the administrative head of a department or entity that is subject to audit by the state auditor has reasonable cause to believe that money received from the state by the department or entity or by a client or contractor of the department or entity may have been lost, misappropriated, or misused, or that other fraudulent or unlawful conduct has occurred in relation to the operation of the department or entity, the administrative head shall report the reason and basis for the belief to the Texas State Auditor's Office (SAO). All employees or contractors who have reasonable cause to believe that fraud, waste, or abuse has occurred (including misconduct by any HHS employee, Grantee officer, agent, employee, or subcontractor that would constitute fraud, waste, or abuse) are required to immediately report the questionable activity to the Health and Human Services Commission's Office of Inspector General. Respondent agrees to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and System Agency policies regarding fraud, waste, and abuse including, but not limited to, HHS Circular C-027.

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A report to the SAO must be made through one of the following avenues:

- SAO Toll Free Hotline: 1-800-TX-AUDIT
- SAO website: <http://sao.fraud.state.tx.us/>

All reports made to the OIG must be made through one of the following avenues:

- OIG Toll Free Hotline 1-800-436-6184
- OIG Website: ReportTexasFraud.com
- Internal Affairs Email: InternalAffairsReferral@hhsc.state.tx.us
- OIG Hotline Email: OIGFraudHotline@hhsc.state.tx.us.
- OIG Mailing Address: Office of Inspector General  
Attn: Fraud Hotline  
MC 1300  
P.O. Box 85200  
Austin, Texas 78708-5200

34. **Antitrust.** The undersigned affirms under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Texas that (a) in connection with this Response, neither I nor any representative of the Respondent has violated any provision of the Texas Free Enterprise and Antitrust Act, Tex. Bus. & Comm. Code Chapter 15; (b) in connection with this Response, neither I nor any representative of the Respondent has violated any federal antitrust law; and (c) neither I nor any representative of the Respondent has directly or indirectly communicated any of the contents of this Response to a competitor of the Respondent or any other company, corporation, firm, partnership or individual engaged in the same line of business as the Respondent.
35. **Legal and Regulatory Actions.** Respondent represents and warrants that it is not aware of and has received no notice of any court or governmental agency proceeding, investigation, or other action pending or threatened against Respondent or any of the individuals or entities included in numbered paragraph 1 of this Affirmations and Solicitation Acceptance within the five (5) calendar years immediately preceding the submission of this Solicitation response that would or could impair Respondent's performance under any contract resulting from this Solicitation, relate to the contracted or similar goods or services, or otherwise be relevant to System Agency's consideration of entering into a contract. If Respondent is unable to make the preceding representation and warranty, then Respondent instead represents and warrants that it has included as a detailed attachment to this Solicitation Affirmations document a complete, detailed disclosure of any such court or governmental agency proceeding, investigation, or other action that would or could impair Respondent's performance under a contract awarded as a result of this Solicitation, relate to the contracted or similar goods or services, or otherwise be relevant to System Agency's consideration of entering into a contract. Respondent must identify here how many pages, if any, are attached: \_\_\_\_\_. Respondent acknowledges this is a continuing disclosure requirement. In addition, Respondent represents and warrants that, if awarded a contract as a result of this Solicitation, Respondent shall notify System Agency in writing within five (5) business days of any changes to the representations or warranties in this clause and understands that failure to so timely update System Agency shall constitute breach of contract and may result in immediate contract termination.
36. **E-Verify.** Respondent certifies that for contracts for services, Respondent shall utilize the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system during the term of the contract to determine the eligibility of:

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- A. all persons employed by Respondent to perform duties within Texas; and
- B. all persons, including subcontractors, assigned by Respondent to perform work pursuant to the contract within the United States of America.

**37. Former Agency Employees – Certain Contracts.** If this Solicitation is for an employment contract, a professional services contract under Chapter 2254 of the Texas Government Code, or a consulting services contract under Chapter 2254 of the Texas Government Code, Respondent represents and warrants that neither Respondent nor any of Respondent's employees including, but not limited to, those authorized to provide services under the contract, were former employees of an HHS Agency during the twelve (12) month period immediately prior to the date of the execution of the contract.

**38. Disclosure of Prior State Employment – Consulting Services.** If this Solicitation is for consulting services,

- A. In accordance with Section 2254.033 of the Texas Government Code, a Respondent offering to provide consulting services in response to this solicitation who has been employed by, or employs an individual who has been employed by, System Agency or another State of Texas agency at any time during the two years preceding the submission of Respondent's Solicitation Response must disclose the following information in its Solicitation Response and hereby certifies that this information is true, correct, and complete:

(1) Name of individual(s) (Respondent or employee(s)):

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(2) Status (check one): ☐ Respondent ☐ Employee

(3) The nature of the previous employment with System Agency or the other State of Texas agency:

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(4) The date the employment was terminated and the reason for the termination:

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(5) The annual rate of compensation for the employment at the time of its termination: \_\_\_\_\_

If more than one individual is identified in A(1) above, Respondent must provide responses to A(2)-(5) as to each identified individual. To satisfy this requirement, Respondent must attach a separate page or pages, as necessary, and include the information required in Section A, including subsections (1)-(5). Respondent must identify here how many pages, if any, are attached: \_\_\_\_\_. Respondent acknowledges, agrees, and certifies that all information provided is true, correct, and complete on this and all attached pages.

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B. If no information is provided in response to Section A above, Respondent certifies that neither Respondent nor any individual employed by Respondent was employed by System Agency or any other State of Texas agency at any time during the two years preceding the submission of Respondent's Solicitation Response.

39. **Entities that Boycott Israel.** Pursuant to Section 2271.002 of the Texas Government Code, Respondent certifies that either (1) it meets an exemption criteria under Section 2271.002; or (2) it does not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of the contract resulting from this Solicitation. If Respondent refuses to make that certification, Respondent shall state here any facts that make it exempt from the boycott certification:

- 
40. **Abortion Funding Limitation.** Respondent understands, acknowledges, and agrees that, pursuant to Article IX of the General Appropriations Act (the Act), to the extent allowed by federal and state law, money appropriated by the Texas Legislature may not be distributed to any individual or entity that, during the period for which funds are appropriated under the Act: (1) performs an abortion procedure that is not reimbursable under the state's Medicaid program; (2) is commonly owned, managed, or controlled by an entity that performs an abortion procedure that is not reimbursable under the state's Medicaid program; or (3) is a franchise or affiliate of an entity that performs an abortion procedure that is not reimbursable under the state's Medicaid program. The provision does not apply to a hospital licensed under Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code, or an office exempt under Section 245.004(2), Health and Safety Code. Respondent represents and warrants that it is not ineligible, nor will it be ineligible during the term of the contract resulting from this Solicitation, to receive appropriated funding pursuant to Article IX.

41. **Funding Eligibility.** Respondent understands, acknowledges, and agrees that, pursuant to Chapter 2272 (eff. Sept. 1, 2021, Ch. 2273) of the Texas Government Code, except as exempted under that Chapter, System Agency cannot contract with an abortion provider or an affiliate of an abortion provider. Respondent certifies that it is not ineligible to contract with System Agency under the terms of Chapter 2272 (eff. Sept. 1, 2021, Ch. 2273) of the Texas Government Code. If Respondent refuses to make that certification, Respondent shall state here any facts that make it exempt from the certification:

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42. **Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (2 CFR 200.216).** Respondent certifies that the individual or business entity

named in this Response or contract is not ineligible to receive the specified contract or funding pursuant to 2 CFR 200.216.

**43. COVID-19 Vaccine Passports.** Pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 161.0085(c), Respondent certifies that it does not require its customers to provide any documentation certifying the customer's COVID-19 vaccination or post-transmission recovery on entry to, to gain access to, or to receive service from the Respondent's business. Respondent acknowledges that such a vaccine or recovery requirement would make Respondent ineligible for a state-funded contract.

**44. Entities that Boycott Energy Companies.** In accordance with Senate Bill 13, Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., if Respondent is required to make a verification pursuant to Section 2274.002 of the Texas Government Code (relating to prohibition on contracts with companies boycotting certain energy companies), Respondent verifies that Respondent does not boycott energy companies and will not boycott energy companies during the term of the Contract. If Respondent does not make that verification, Respondent must state here why the verification is not required:

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**45. Entities that Discriminate Against Firearm and Ammunition Industries.** In accordance with Senate Bill 19, Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., if Respondent is required to make a verification pursuant to Section 2274.002 of the Texas Government Code (relating to prohibition on contracts with companies that discriminate against firearm and ammunition industries), Respondent verifies that it (1) does not have a practice, policy, guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association and (2) will not discriminate during the term of the contract against a firearm entity or firearm trade association. If Respondent does not make that verification, Respondent must state here why the verification is not required:

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**46. Security Controls for State Agency Data.** In accordance with Senate Bill 475, Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 2054.138, Respondent understands, acknowledges, and agrees that if awarded a contract pursuant to this Solicitation and under which Respondent will be authorized to access, transmit, use, or store data for System Agency, Respondent is required to meet the security controls the System Agency determines are proportionate with System Agency's risk under the contract based on the sensitivity of System Agency's data and that Respondent must periodically provide to System Agency evidence that Respondent meets the security controls required under the contract.

**47. Cloud Computing State Risk and Authorization Management Program (TX-RAMP).** In accordance with Senate Bill 475, Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 2054.0593, Respondent acknowledges and agrees that, if providing cloud computing services for System Agency, Respondent must comply with

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the requirements of the state risk and authorization management program and that System Agency may not enter or renew a contract with a vendor to purchase cloud computing services for the agency that are subject to the state risk and authorization management program unless the vendor demonstrates compliance with program requirements. If providing cloud computing services for System Agency that are subject to the state risk and authorization management program, Respondent certifies it will maintain program compliance and certification throughout the term of the Contract.

48. **Foreign-Owned Companies in Connection with Critical Infrastructure.** If Texas Government Code, Section 2274.0102(a)(1) (relating to prohibition on contracts with certain foreign-owned companies in connection with critical infrastructure) is applicable to a contract resulting from this Solicitation, pursuant to Government Code Section 2274.0102, Respondent certifies that neither it nor its parent company, nor any affiliate of Respondent or its parent company, is: (1) majority owned or controlled by citizens or governmental entities of China, Iran, North Korea, Russia, or any other country designated by the Governor under Government Code Section 2274.0103, or (2) headquartered in any of those countries.
49. **Critical Infrastructure Subcontracts.** For purposes of this Paragraph, the designated countries are China, Iran, North Korea, Russia, and any countries lawfully designated by the Governor as a threat to critical infrastructure. Pursuant to Section 113.002 of the Business and Commerce Code, Respondent shall not enter into a subcontract that will provide direct or remote access to or control of critical infrastructure, as defined by Section 113.001 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code, in this state, other than access specifically allowed for product warranty and support purposes to any subcontractor unless (i) neither the subcontractor nor its parent company, nor any affiliate of the subcontractor or its parent company, is majority owned or controlled by citizens or governmental entities of a designated country; and (ii) neither the subcontractor nor its parent company, nor any affiliate of the subcontractor or its parent company, is headquartered in a designated country. Respondent will notify the System Agency before entering into any subcontract that will provide direct or remote access to or control of critical infrastructure, as defined by Section 113.001 of the Texas Business & Commerce Code, in this state.
50. **Enforcement of Certain Federal Firearms Laws Prohibited.** In accordance with House Bill 957, Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., if Texas Government Code, Section 2.101 is applicable to Respondent, Respondent certifies that it is not ineligible to receive state grant funds pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 2.103.
51. **Prohibition on Abortions.** Respondent understands, acknowledges, and agrees that, pursuant to Article II of the General Appropriations Act, (1) no funds shall be used to pay the direct or indirect costs (including marketing, overhead, rent, phones, and utilities) of abortion procedures provided by contractors of HHSC; and (2) no funds appropriated for Medicaid Family Planning, Healthy Texas Women Program, or the Family Planning Program shall be distributed to individuals or entities that perform elective abortion procedures or that contract with or provide funds to individuals or entities for the performance of elective abortion procedures. Respondent represents and warrants that it is not ineligible, nor will it be ineligible during the term of the contract resulting from this Solicitation, to receive appropriated funding pursuant to Article II.

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52. **Public Information Act Copy.** Respondent understands, acknowledges, and agrees, that solicitation responses and contracts are subject to the Texas Public Information Act (PIA), Texas Government Code Chapter 552, and may be disclosed to the public upon request or through posting on the System Agency’s website, the LBB’s website, or as otherwise required by law. Respondent certifies that it:
- ☐ asserts that information provided in its response is exempt from disclosure under the PIA, and Respondent, therefore, has submitted a “Public Information Act Copy” as required under the solicitation; or
  - ☐ asserts that there is no information provided in its response that is exempt from disclosure under the PIA, and Respondent, therefore, has not submitted a “Public Information Act Copy.”
53. **No Felony Criminal Convictions.** Respondent represents that neither Respondent nor any of its employees, agents, or representatives, including any subcontractors and employees, agents, or representative of such subcontractors, have been convicted of a felony criminal offense or that if such a conviction has occurred Respondent has fully advised System Agency in writing of the facts and circumstances surrounding the convictions.
54. **Unfair Business Practices.** Respondent represents and warrants that it has not been the subject of allegations of Deceptive Trade Practices violations under Chapter 17 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code, or allegations of any unfair business practice in any administrative hearing or court suit and that Respondent has not been found to be liable for such practices in such proceedings. Respondent certifies that it has no officers who have served as officers of other entities who have been the subject of allegations of Deceptive Trade Practices violations or allegations of any unfair business practices in an administrative hearing or court suit and that such officers have not been found to be liable for such practices in such proceedings.
55. **False Representation.** Respondent understands, acknowledges, and agrees that any false representation or any failure to comply with a representation, warranty, or certification made by Respondent is subject to all civil and criminal consequences provided at law or in equity including, but not limited to, immediate termination of any contract resulting from this Solicitation.
56. **Permits and Licenses.** Respondent represents and warrants that it will comply with all applicable laws and maintain all permits and licenses required by applicable city, county, state, and federal rules, regulations, statutes, codes, and other laws that pertain to any contract resulting from this Solicitation.
57. **False Statements.** Respondent represents and warrants that all statements and information prepared and submitted in this document are current, complete, true, and accurate. Submitting a Response with a false statement or material misrepresentations made during the performance of a contract is a material breach of contract and may void the submitted Response and any resulting contract.
58. **Signature Authority.** By submitting this Response, Respondent represents and warrants that the individual submitting this document and the documents made part of this Response is authorized to sign such documents on behalf of the Respondent and to bind the Respondent under any contract that may result from the submission of this Response.

**Signature Page Follows**

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**Authorized representative on behalf of Respondent must complete and sign the following:**

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**Legal Name of Respondent**

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**Assumed Business Name of Respondent, if applicable (d/b/a or 'doing business as')**

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**Texas County(s) for Assumed Business Name (d/b/a or 'doing business as')**  
**Attach Assumed Name Certificate(s) filed with the Texas Secretary of State and Assumed Name Certificate(s), if any, for each Texas County Where Assumed Name Certificate(s) has been filed.**

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**Signature of Authorized Representative**

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**Date Signed**

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**Printed Name of Authorized Representative  
First, Middle Name or Initial, and Last Name**

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**Title of Authorized Representative**

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**Physical Street Address**

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**City, State, Zip Code**

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**Mailing Address, if different**

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**City, State, Zip Code**

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**Phone Number**

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**Fax Number**

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**Email Address**

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**DUNS Number**

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**Federal Employer Identification Number**

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**Texas Identification Number (TIN)**

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**Texas Franchise Tax Number**

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**Texas Secretary of State Filing Number**

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**SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)**

**Exhibit B**  
**DATA USE AGREEMENT**  
**BETWEEN THE**  
**TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM**  
**AND**  
**CONTRACTOR**

This Data Use Agreement (“DUA”) is effective as of the date of the Base Contract into which it is incorporated (“Effective Date”), by and between the Texas Health and Human Services System, which includes the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and the Department of State Health Services (“HHS”) and Contractor (the "Base Contract").

**ARTICLE 1. PURPOSE; APPLICABILITY; ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**

The purpose of this DUA is to facilitate access to, creation, receipt, maintenance, use, disclosure or transmission of Confidential Information with Contractor, and describe Contractor’s rights and obligations with respect to the Confidential Information and the limited purposes for which the Contractor may create, receive, maintain, use, disclose or have access to Confidential Information. This DUA also describes HHS’s remedies in the event of Contractor’s noncompliance with its obligations under this DUA. This DUA applies to both HHS business associates, as “business associate” is defined in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and contractors who are not business associates, who create, receive, maintain, use, disclose or have access to Confidential Information on behalf of HHS, its programs or clients as described in the Base Contract. As a best practice, HHS requires its contractors to comply with the terms of this DUA to safeguard all types of Confidential Information.

As of the Effective Date of this DUA, if any provision of the Base Contract conflicts with this DUA, this DUA controls.

**ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this DUA, capitalized, underlined terms have the following meanings:

“**Authorized Purpose**” means the specific purpose or purposes described in the Base Contract for Contractor to fulfill its obligations under the Base Contract, or any other purpose expressly authorized by HHS in writing in advance.

“**Authorized User**” means a person:

- (1) Who is authorized to create, receive, maintain, have access to, process, view, handle, examine, interpret, or analyze Confidential Information pursuant to this DUA;
- (2) For whom Contractor warrants and represents has a demonstrable need to create, receive, maintain, use, disclose or have access to the Confidential Information; and
- (3) Who has agreed in writing to be bound by the disclosure and use limitations pertaining to the Confidential Information as required by this DUA.

“**Breach**” means an impermissible use or disclosure of electronic or non-electronic sensitive personal information by an unauthorized person or for an unauthorized purpose that compromises the security or privacy of Confidential Information such that the use or disclosure poses a risk of reputational harm, theft of financial information, identity theft, or medical identity theft. Any acquisition, access, use, disclosure or loss of Confidential Information other than as permitted by this

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DUA shall be presumed to be a Breach unless Contractor demonstrates, based on a risk assessment, that there is a low probability that the Confidential Information has been compromised.

**“Confidential Information”** means any communication or record (whether oral, written, electronically stored or transmitted, or in any other form) provided to or made available to Contractor or that Contractor may create, receive, maintain, use, disclose or have access to on behalf of HHS that consists of or includes any or all of the following:

- (1) Education records as defined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99
- (2) Federal Tax Information as defined in Internal Revenue Code §6103 and Internal Revenue Service Publication 1075;
- (3) Personal Identifying Information (PII) as defined in Texas Business and Commerce Code, Chapter 521;
- (4) Protected Health Information (PHI) in any form including without limitation, Electronic Protected Health Information or Unsecured Protected Health Information as defined in 45 C.F.R. §160.103;
- (5) Sensitive Personal Information (SPI) as defined in Texas Business and Commerce Code, Chapter 521;
- (6) Social Security Administration Data, including, without limitation, Medicaid information means disclosures of information made by the Social Security Administration or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services from a federal system of records for administration of federally funded benefit programs under the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C., Chapter 7;
- (7) All privileged work product;
- (8) All information designated as confidential under the constitution and laws of the State of Texas and of the United States, including the Texas Health & Safety Code and the Texas Public Information Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 552.

**“Destroy”, “Destruction”, for Confidential Information,** means:

- (1) Paper, film, or other hard copy media have been shredded or destroyed such that the Confidential Information cannot be read or otherwise cannot be reconstructed. Redaction is specifically excluded as a means of data destruction.
- (2) Electronic media have been cleared, purged, or destroyed consistent with NIST Special Publication 800-88, “Guidelines for Media Sanitization,” such that the Confidential Information cannot be retrieved.

**“Discover, Discovery”** means the first day on which a Breach becomes known to Contractor, or, by exercising reasonable diligence would have been known to Contractor.

**“Legally Authorized Representative”** of an individual, including as provided in 45 CFR 435.923 (authorized representative); 45 CFR 164.502(g)(1) (personal representative); Tex. Occ. Code § 151.002(6); Tex. H. & S. Code §166.164 (medical power of attorney); and Texas Estates Code § 22.031 (representative).

**“Required by Law”** means a mandate contained in law that compels an entity to use or disclose Confidential Information that is enforceable in a court of law, including court orders, warrants, subpoenas or investigative demands.

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**“Subcontractor”** means a person who contracts with a prime contractor to work, to supply commodities, or to contribute toward completing work for a governmental entity.

**“Workforce”** means employees, volunteers, trainees or other persons whose performance of work is under the direct control of a party, whether or not they are paid by that party.

### ARTICLE 3. CONTRACTOR'S DUTIES REGARDING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

#### **Section 3.01 Obligations of Contractor**

Contractor agrees that:

**(A) With respect to PHI, Contractor shall:**

(1) Make PHI available in a designated record set if requested by HHS, if Contractor maintains PHI in a designated record set, as defined in HIPAA.

(2) Provide to HHS data aggregation services related to the healthcare operations Contractor performs for HHS pursuant to the Base Contract, if requested by HHS, if Contractor provides data aggregation services as defined in HIPAA.

(3) Provide access to PHI to an individual who is requesting his or her own PHI, or such individual's Legally Authorized Representative, in compliance with the requirements of HIPAA.

(4) Make PHI available to HHS for amendment, and incorporate any amendments to PHI that HHS directs, in compliance with HIPAA.

(5) Document and make available to HHS, an accounting of disclosures in compliance with the requirements of HIPAA.

(6) If Contractor receives a request for access, amendment or accounting of PHI by any individual, promptly forward the request to HHS or, if forwarding the request would violate HIPAA, promptly notify HHS of the request and of Contractor's response. HHS will respond to all such requests, unless Contractor is Required by Law to respond or HHS has given prior written consent for Contractor to respond to and account for all such requests.

**(B) With respect to ALL Confidential Information, Contractor shall:**

(1) Exercise reasonable care and no less than the same degree of care Contractor uses to protect its own confidential, proprietary and trade secret information to prevent Confidential Information from being used in a manner that is not expressly an Authorized Purpose or as Required by Law. Contractor will access, create, maintain, receive, use, disclose, transmit or Destroy Confidential Information in a secure fashion that protects against any reasonably anticipated threats or hazards to the security or integrity of such information or unauthorized uses.

(2) Establish, implement and maintain appropriate procedural, administrative, physical and technical safeguards to preserve and maintain the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the Confidential Information, in accordance with applicable laws or regulations relating to Confidential Information, to prevent any unauthorized use or disclosure of Confidential Information as long as Contractor has such Confidential Information in its actual or constructive possession.

(3) Implement, update as necessary, and document privacy, security and Breach notice policies and procedures and an incident response plan to address a Breach, to comply with the privacy, security and breach notice requirements of this DUA prior to conducting work under the Base Contract.

Contractor

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shall produce, within three business days of a request by HHS, copies of its policies and procedures and records relating to the use or disclosure of Confidential Information.

(4) Obtain HHS's prior written consent to disclose or allow access to any portion of the Confidential Information to any person, other than Authorized Users, Workforce or Subcontractors of Contractor who have completed training in confidentiality, privacy, security and the importance of promptly reporting any Breach to Contractor's management and as permitted in Section 3.01(A)(3), above. Contractor shall produce evidence of completed training to HHS upon request. HHS, at its election, may assist Contractor in training and education on specific or unique HHS processes, systems and/or requirements. All of Contractor's Authorized Users, Workforce and Subcontractors with access to a state computer system or database will complete a cybersecurity training program certified under Texas Government Code Section 2054.519 by the Texas Department of Information Resources.

(5) Establish, implement and maintain appropriate sanctions against any member of its Workforce or Subcontractor who fails to comply with this DUA, the Base Contract or applicable law. Contractor shall maintain evidence of sanctions and produce it to HHS upon request.

(6) Obtain prior written approval of HHS, to disclose or provide access to any Confidential Information on the basis that such act is Required by Law, so that HHS may have the opportunity to object to the disclosure or access and seek appropriate relief. If HHS objects to such disclosure or access, Contractor shall refrain from disclosing or providing access to the Confidential Information until HHS has exhausted all alternatives for relief.

(7) Certify that its Authorized Users each have a demonstrated need to know and have access to Confidential Information solely to the minimum extent necessary to accomplish the Authorized Purpose and that each has agreed in writing to be bound by the disclosure and use limitations pertaining to the Confidential Information contained in this DUA. Contractor and its Subcontractors shall maintain at all times an updated, complete, accurate list of Authorized Users and supply it to HHS upon request.

(8) Provide, and shall cause its Subcontractors and agents to provide, to HHS periodic written confirmation of compliance with controls and the terms and conditions of this DUA.

(9) Return to HHS or Destroy, at HHS's election and at Contractor's expense, all Confidential Information received from HHS or created or maintained by Contractor or any of Contractor's agents or Subcontractors on HHS's behalf upon the termination or expiration of this DUA, if reasonably feasible and permitted by law. Contractor shall certify in writing to HHS that all such Confidential Information has been Destroyed or returned to HHS, and that Contractor and its agents and Subcontractors have retained no copies thereof. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Contractor acknowledges and agrees that it may not Destroy any Confidential Information if federal or state law, or HHS record retention policy or a litigation hold notice prohibits such Destruction. If such return or Destruction is not reasonably feasible, or is impermissible by law, Contractor shall immediately notify HHS of the reasons such return or Destruction is not feasible and agree to extend the protections of this DUA to the Confidential Information for as long as Contractor maintains such Confidential Information.

(10) Complete and return with the Base Contract to HHS, attached as Attachment 2 to this DUA, the HHS Security and Privacy Initial Inquiry (SPI) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/forms/miscellaneous/hhs-information-security-privacy-initial-inquiry-spi>. The SPI identifies basic privacy and security controls with which Contractor must comply to protect Confidential Information. Contractor shall comply with periodic security controls compliance assessment and monitoring by HHS as required by state and federal law, based on the type of Confidential Information Contractor creates, receives, maintains, uses, discloses or has access to and the Authorized Purpose and level of risk. Contractor's

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security controls shall be based on the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-53. Contractor shall update its security controls assessment whenever there are significant changes in security controls for HHS Confidential Information and shall provide the updated document to HHS. HHS also reserves the right to request updates as needed to satisfy state and federal monitoring requirements.

(11) Comply with the HHS Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and require each Subcontractor and Workforce member who has direct access to HHS Information Resources, as defined in the AUP, to execute an HHS Acceptable Use Agreement.

(12) Only conduct secure transmissions of Confidential Information whether in paper, oral or electronic form. A secure transmission of electronic Confidential Information *in motion* includes secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) or encryption at an appropriate level as required by rule, regulation or law. Confidential Information *at rest* requires encryption unless there is adequate administrative, technical, and physical security as required by rule, regulation or law. All electronic data transfer and communications of Confidential Information shall be through secure systems. Contractor shall provide proof of system, media or device security and/or encryption to HHS no later than 48 hours after HHS's written request in response to a compliance investigation, audit, or the Discovery of a Breach. HHS may also request production of proof of security at other times as necessary to satisfy state and federal monitoring requirements. Deidentification of Confidential Information in accordance with HIPAA de-identification standards is deemed secure.

(13) Designate and identify a person or persons, as Privacy Official and Information Security Official, each of whom is authorized to act on behalf of Contractor and is responsible for the development and implementation of the privacy and security requirements in this DUA. Contractor shall provide name and current address, phone number and e-mail address for such designated officials to HHS upon execution of this DUA and prior to any change. Upon written notice from HHS, Contractor shall promptly remove and replace such official(s) if such official(s) is not performing the required functions.

(14) Make available to HHS any information HHS requires to fulfill HHS's obligations to provide access to, or copies of, Confidential Information in accordance with applicable laws, regulations or demands of a regulatory authority relating to Confidential Information. Contractor shall provide such information in a time and manner reasonably agreed upon or as designated by the applicable law or regulatory authority.

(15) Comply with the following laws and standards *if applicable to the type of Confidential Information and Contractor's Authorized Purpose*:

- Title 1, Part 10, Chapter 202, Subchapter B, Texas Administrative Code;
- The Privacy Act of 1974;
- OMB Memorandum 17-12;
- The Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (FISMA);
- The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA);
- Internal Revenue Publication 1075 – Tax Information Security Guidelines for Federal, State and Local Agencies;
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-66 Revision 1 – An Introductory Resource Guide for Implementing the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Security Rule;

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- NIST Special Publications 800-53 and 800-53A – Recommended Security Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations, as currently revised;
- NIST Special Publication 800-47 – Security Guide for Interconnecting Information Technology Systems;
- NIST Special Publication 800-88, Guidelines for Media Sanitization;
- NIST Special Publication 800-111, Guide to Storage of Encryption Technologies for End User Devices containing PHI;
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
- Texas Business and Commerce Code, Chapter 521;
- Any other State or Federal law, regulation, or administrative rule relating to the specific HHS program area that Contractor supports on behalf of HHS.

(16) Be permitted to use or disclose Confidential Information for the proper management and administration of Contractor or to carry out Contractor's legal responsibilities, except as otherwise limited by this DUA, the Base Contract, or law applicable to the Confidential Information, if:

- (a) Disclosure is Required by Law;
- (b) Contractor obtains reasonable assurances from the person to whom the information is disclosed that the person shall:
  1. Maintain the confidentiality of the Confidential Information in accordance with this DUA;
  2. Use or further disclose the information only as Required by Law or for the Authorized Purpose for which it was disclosed to the person; and
  3. Notify Contractor in accordance with Section 4.01 of a Breach of Confidential Information that the person Discovers or should have Discovered with the exercise of reasonable diligence.

(C) With respect to ALL Confidential Information, Contractor shall NOT:

- (1) Attempt to re-identify or further identify Confidential Information that has been deidentified, or attempt to contact any persons whose records are contained in the Confidential Information, except for an Authorized Purpose, without express written authorization from HHS.
- (2) Engage in prohibited marketing or sale of Confidential Information.
- (3) Permit, or enter into any agreement with a Subcontractor to, create, receive, maintain, use, disclose, have access to or transmit Confidential Information, on behalf of HHS without requiring that Subcontractor first execute either the Form Subcontractor Agreement, Attachment 1, or Contractor's own Subcontractor agreement that ensures that the Subcontractor shall comply with the same safeguards and restrictions contained in this DUA for Confidential Information. Contractor is directly responsible for its Subcontractors' compliance with, and enforcement of, this DUA.

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## ARTICLE 4. BREACH NOTICE, REPORTING AND CORRECTION REQUIREMENTS

### **Section 4.01. Cooperation and Financial Responsibility.**

(A) Contractor shall, at Contractor's expense, cooperate fully with HHS in investigating, mitigating to the extent practicable, and issuing notifications as directed by HHS, for any Breach of Confidential Information.

(B) Contractor shall make Confidential Information in Contractor's possession available pursuant to the requirements of HIPAA or other applicable law upon a determination of a Breach.

(C) Contractor's obligation begins at the Discovery of a Breach and continues as long as related activity continues, until all effects of the Breach are mitigated to HHS's satisfaction (the "incident response period").

### **Section 4.02. Initial Breach Notice.**

For federal information *obtained from a federal system of records*, including Federal Tax Information and Social Security Administration Data (which includes Medicaid and other governmental benefit program Confidential Information), Contractor shall notify HHS of the Breach within the first consecutive clock hour of Discovery. The Base Contract shall specify whether Confidential Information is obtained from a federal system of records. For all other types of Confidential Information Contractor shall notify HHS of the Breach not more than 24 hours after Discovery, *or in a timeframe otherwise approved by HHS in writing*. Contractor shall initially report to HHS's Privacy and Security Officers via email at: [privacy@HHSC.state.tx.us](mailto:privacy@HHSC.state.tx.us) and to the HHS division responsible for the Base Contract.

Contractor shall report all information reasonably available to Contractor about the Breach.

Contractor shall provide contact information to HHS for Contractor's single point of contact who will communicate with HHS both on and off business hours during the incident response period.

**Section 4.03 Third Business Day Notice:** No later than 5 p.m. on the third business day after Discovery, or a time within which Discovery reasonably should have been made by Contractor of a Breach of Confidential Information, Contractor shall provide written notification to HHS of all reasonably available information about the Breach, and Contractor's investigation, including, to the extent known to Contractor:

- a. The date the Breach occurred;

- b. The date of Contractor's and, if applicable, Subcontractor's Discovery;
- c. A brief description of the Breach, including how it occurred and who is responsible (or hypotheses, if not yet determined);
- d. A brief description of Contractor's investigation and the status of the investigation;
- e. A description of the types and amount of Confidential Information involved;
- f. Identification of and number of all individuals reasonably believed to be affected, including first and last name of the individual and if applicable, the Legally authorized representative, last known address, age, telephone number, and email address if it is a preferred contact method;
- g. Contractor's initial risk assessment of the Breach demonstrating whether individual or other notices are required by applicable law or this DUA for HHS approval, including an analysis of whether there is a low probability of compromise of the Confidential Information or whether any legal exceptions to notification apply;
- h. Contractor's recommendation for HHS's approval as to the steps individuals and/or Contractor on behalf of individuals, should take to protect the individuals from potential harm, including

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Contractor's provision of notifications, credit protection, claims monitoring, and any specific protections for a Legally Authorized Representative to take on behalf of an individual with special capacity or circumstances;

- i. The steps Contractor has taken to mitigate the harm or potential harm caused (including without limitation the provision of sufficient resources to mitigate);
- j. The steps Contractor has taken, or will take, to prevent or reduce the likelihood of recurrence of a similar Breach;
- k. Identify, describe or estimate of the persons, Workforce, Subcontractor, or individuals and any law enforcement that may be involved in the Breach;
- l. A reasonable schedule for Contractor to provide regular updates regarding response to the Breach, but no less than every three (3) business days, or as otherwise directed by HHS in writing, including information about risk estimations, reporting, notification, if any, mitigation, corrective action, root cause analysis and when such activities are expected to be completed; and
- m. Any reasonably available, pertinent information, documents or reports related to a Breach that HHS requests following Discovery.

#### **Section 4.04. Investigation, Response and Mitigation.**

- (A) Contractor shall immediately conduct a full and complete investigation, respond to the Breach, commit necessary and appropriate staff and resources to expeditiously respond, and report as required to HHS for incident response purposes and for purposes of HHS's compliance with report and notification requirements, to the satisfaction of HHS.
- (B) Contractor shall complete or participate in a risk assessment as directed by HHS following a Breach, and provide the final assessment, corrective actions and mitigations to HHS for review and approval.
- (C) Contractor shall fully cooperate with HHS to respond to inquiries and/or proceedings by state and federal authorities, persons and/or individuals about the Breach.
- (D) Contractor shall fully cooperate with HHS's efforts to seek appropriate injunctive relief or otherwise prevent or curtail such Breach, or to recover or protect any Confidential Information, including complying with reasonable corrective action or measures, as specified by HHS in a Corrective Action Plan if directed by HHS under the Base Contract.

#### **Section 4.05. Breach Notification to Individuals and Reporting to Authorities.**

- (A) HHS may direct Contractor to provide Breach notification to individuals, regulators or third-parties, as specified by HHS following a Breach.
- (B) Contractor must comply with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements in the time, manner and content of any notification to individuals, regulators or third-parties, or any notice required by other state or federal authorities, including without limitation, notifications required by Texas Business and Commerce Code, Chapter 521.053(b) and HIPAA. Notice letters will be in Contractor's name and on Contractor's letterhead, unless otherwise directed by HHS, and will contain contact information, including the name and title of Contractor's representative, an email address and a toll-free telephone number, for the individual to obtain additional information.
- (C) Contractor shall provide HHS with draft notifications for HHS approval prior to distribution and copies of distributed and approved communications.

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(D) Contractor shall have the burden of demonstrating to the satisfaction of HHS that any required notification was timely made. If there are delays outside of Contractor's control, Contractor shall provide written documentation to HHS of the reasons for the delay.

(E) If HHS directs Contractor to provide notifications, HHS shall, in the time and manner reasonably requested by Contractor, cooperate and assist with Contractor's information requests in order to make such notifications.

## **ARTICLE 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Section 5.01 Ownership of Confidential Information**

Contractor acknowledges and agrees that the Confidential Information is and shall remain the property of HHS. Contractor agrees it acquires no title or rights to the Confidential Information.

### **Section 5.02 HHS Commitment and Obligations**

HHS will not request Contractor to create, maintain, transmit, use or disclose PHI in any manner that would not be permissible under applicable law if done by HHS.

### **Section 5.03 HHS Right to Inspection**

At any time upon reasonable notice to Contractor, or if HHS determines that Contractor has violated this DUA, HHS, directly or through its agent, will have the right to inspect the facilities, systems, books and records of Contractor to monitor compliance with this DUA. For purposes of this subsection, HHS's agent(s) include, without limitation, the HHS Office of the Inspector General, the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, the State Auditor's Office, outside consultants, legal counsel or other designee.

### **Section 5.04 Term; Termination of DUA; Survival**

This DUA will be effective on the date on which Contractor executes the Base Contract and will terminate upon termination of the Base Contract and as set forth herein. If the Base Contract is extended, this DUA is extended to run concurrent with the Base Contract.

(A) If HHS determines that Contractor has violated a material term of this DUA; HHS may in its sole discretion:

- (1) Exercise any of its rights including but not limited to reports, access and inspection under this DUA and/or the Base Contract; or
- (2) Require Contractor to submit to a corrective action plan, including a plan for monitoring and plan for reporting as HHS may determine necessary to maintain compliance with this DUA; or
- (3) Provide Contractor with a reasonable period to cure the violation as determined by HHS; or
- (4) Terminate the DUA and Base Contract immediately and seek relief in a court of competent jurisdiction in Travis County, Texas.

Before exercising any of these options, HHS will provide written notice to Contractor describing the violation and the action it intends to take.

(B) If neither termination nor cure is feasible, HHS shall report the violation to the applicable regulatory authorities.

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(C) The duties of Contractor or its Subcontractor under this DUA survive the expiration or termination of this DUA until all the Confidential Information is Destroyed or returned to HHS, as required by this DUA.

#### **Section 5.05 Injunctive Relief**

(A) Contractor acknowledges and agrees that HHS may suffer irreparable injury if Contractor or its Subcontractor fails to comply with any of the terms of this DUA with respect to the Confidential Information or a provision of HIPAA or other laws or regulations applicable to Confidential Information.

(B) Contractor further agrees that monetary damages may be inadequate to compensate HHS for Contractor's or its Subcontractor's failure to comply. Accordingly, Contractor agrees that HHS will, in addition to any other remedies available to it at law or in equity, be entitled to seek injunctive relief without posting a bond and without the necessity of demonstrating actual damages, to enforce the terms of this DUA.

#### **Section 5.06 Indemnification**

Contractor shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless HHS and its respective Executive Commissioner, employees, Subcontractors, agents (including other state agencies acting on behalf of HHS) or other members of HHS' Workforce (each of the foregoing hereinafter referred to as "Indemnified Party") against all actual and direct losses suffered by the Indemnified Party and all liability to third parties arising from or in connection with any breach of this DUA or from any acts or omissions related to this DUA by Contractor or its employees, directors, officers, Subcontractors, or agents or other members of Contractor's Workforce. The duty to indemnify, defend and hold harmless is independent of the duty to insure. Upon demand, Contractor shall reimburse HHS for any and all losses, liabilities, lost profits, fines, penalties, costs or expenses (including costs of required notices, investigation, and mitigation of a Breach, fines or penalties imposed on an Indemnified Party by a regulatory authority, and reasonable attorneys' fees) which may be imposed upon any Indemnified Party to the extent caused by and which results from the Contractor's failure to meet any of its obligations under this DUA. Contractor's obligation to defend, indemnify and hold harmless any Indemnified Party will survive the expiration or termination of this DUA.

#### **Section 5.07 Insurance**

(A) In addition to any insurance required in the Base Contract, at HHS's option, HHS may require Contractor to maintain, at its expense, the special and/or custom first- and third-party insurance coverages, including without limitation data breach, cyber liability, crime theft and notification expense coverages, with policy limits sufficient to cover any liability arising under this DUA, naming the State of Texas, acting through HHS, as an additional named insured and loss payee, with primary and noncontributory status.

(B) Contractor shall provide HHS with written proof that required insurance coverage is in effect, at the request of HHS.

#### **Section 5.08 Entirety of the Contract**

This DUA is incorporated by reference into the Base Contract and, together with the Base Contract, constitutes the entire agreement between the parties. No change, waiver, or discharge of obligations arising under those documents will be valid unless in writing and executed by the party against whom such change, waiver, or discharge is sought to be enforced.

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**Section 5.09 Automatic Amendment and Interpretation**

Upon the effective date of any amendment or issuance of additional regulations to any law applicable to Confidential Information, this DUA will automatically be amended so that the obligations imposed on HHS and/or Contractor remain in compliance with such requirements. Any ambiguity in this DUA will be resolved in favor of a meaning that permits HHS and Contractor to comply with laws applicable to Confidential Information.

**Section 5.10 Notices; Requests for Approval**

All notices and requests for approval related to this DUA must be directed to the HHS Chief Privacy Officer at [privacy@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:privacy@hhsc.state.tx.us).

ATTACHMENT 1. SUBCONTRACTOR AGREEMENT FORM

HHS CONTRACT NUMBER:

HHS0013184

The DUA between HHS and Contractor establishes the permitted and required uses and disclosures of Confidential Information by Contractor.

Contractor has subcontracted with \_\_\_\_\_ (Subcontractor) for performance of duties on behalf of CONTRACTOR which are subject to the DUA. Subcontractor acknowledges, understands and agrees to be bound by the same terms and conditions applicable to Contractor under the DUA, incorporated by reference in this Agreement, with respect to HHS Confidential Information. Contractor and Subcontractor agree that HHS is a third-party beneficiary to applicable provisions of the subcontract.

HHS has the right, but not the obligation, to review or approve the terms and conditions of the subcontract by virtue of this Subcontractor Agreement Form.

Contractor and Subcontractor assure HHS that any Breach as defined by the DUA that Subcontractor Discovers shall be reported to HHS by Contractor in the time, manner and content required by the DUA.

If Contractor knows or should have known in the exercise of reasonable diligence of a pattern of activity or practice by Subcontractor that constitutes a material breach or violation of the DUA or the Subcontractor's obligations, Contractor shall:

1. Take reasonable steps to cure the violation or end the violation, as applicable;
2. If the steps are unsuccessful, terminate the contract or arrangement with Subcontractor, if feasible;
3. Notify HHS immediately upon Discovery of the pattern of activity or practice of Subcontractor that constitutes a material breach or violation of the DUA and keep HHS reasonably and regularly informed about steps Contractor is taking to cure or end the violation or terminate Subcontractor's contract or arrangement.

This Subcontractor Agreement Form is executed by the parties in their capacities indicated below.

CONTRACTOR

SUBCONTRACTOR

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_


TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_, **202**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Exhibit C

 <b>TEXAS</b> Health and Human Services		<b>Texas HHS System - Data Use Agreement - Attachment 2</b> <b>SECURITY AND PRIVACY INQUIRY (SPI)</b>	
<p>If you are a bidder for a new procurement/contract, in order to participate in the bidding process, you must have corrected any "No" responses (except A9a) prior to the contract award date. If you are an applicant for an open enrollment, you must have corrected any "No" answers (except A9a and A11) prior to performing any work on behalf of any Texas HHS agency.</p> <p>For any questions answered "No" (except A9a and A11), an <i>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline</i> must be documented in the designated area below the question. The timeline for compliance with HIPAA-related requirements for safeguarding Protected Health Information is 30 calendar days from the date this form is signed. Compliance with requirements related to other types of Confidential Information must be confirmed within 90 calendar days from the date the form is signed.</p>			
<b>SECTION A: APPLICANT/BIDDER INFORMATION (To be completed by Applicant/Bidder)</b>			
<b>1. Does the applicant/bidder access, create, disclose, receive, transmit, maintain, or store Texas HHS Confidential Information in electronic systems (e.g., laptop, personal use computer, mobile device, database, server, etc.)? IF NO, STOP. THE SPI FORM IS NOT REQUIRED.</b>			<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<b>2. Entity or Applicant/Bidder Legal Name</b>		Legal Name: Legal Entity Tax Identification Number (TIN) (Last Four Numbers Only): Procurement/Contract#: Address: City: State: ZIP: Telephone #: Email Address:	
<b>3. Number of Employees, at all locations, in Applicant/Bidder's Workforce</b> "Workforce" means all employees, volunteers, trainees, and other Persons whose conduct is under the direct control of Applicant/Bidder, whether or not they are paid by Applicant/Bidder. If Applicant/Bidder is a sole proprietor, the workforce may be only one employee.		Total Employees:	
<b>4. Number of Subcontractors</b> (if Applicant/Bidder will not use subcontractors, enter "0")		Total Subcontractors:	
<b>5. Name of Information Technology Security Official and Name of Privacy Official for Applicant/Bidder</b> (Privacy and Security Official may be the same person.)		<b>A. Security Official:</b> Legal Name: Address: City: State: ZIP: Telephone #: Email Address:	
		<b>B. Privacy Official:</b> Legal Name: Address: City: State: ZIP: Telephone #: Email Address:	

<b>6. Type(s) of Texas HHS Confidential Information the Applicant/Bidder will create, receive, maintain, use, disclose or have access to: (Check all that apply)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) data</li> <li>• Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) data</li> <li>• Internal Revenue Service Federal Tax Information (IRS FTI) data</li> <li>• Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services (CMS)</li> <li>• Social Security Administration (SSA)</li> <li>• Personally Identifiable Information (PII)</li> </ul>	<b>HIPAA</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>CJIS</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>IRS FTI</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>CMS</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SSA</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>PII</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please List)						
<b>7. Number of Storage Devices for Texas HHS Confidential Information (as defined in the Texas HHS System Data Use Agreement (DUA))</b>  Cloud Services involve using a network of remote servers hosted on the Internet to store, manage, and process data, rather than a local server or a personal computer.  A Data Center is a centralized repository, either physical or virtual, for the storage, management, and dissemination of data and information organized around a particular body of knowledge or pertaining to a particular business.						Total # (Sum a-d)  0
<b>a. Devices.</b> Number of personal user computers, devices or drives, including mobile devices and mobile drives.						
<b>b. Servers.</b> Number of Servers that are not in a data center or using Cloud Services.						
<b>c. Cloud Services.</b> Number of Cloud Services in use.						
<b>d. Data Centers.</b> Number of Data Centers in use.						
<b>8. Number of unduplicated individuals for whom Applicant/Bidder reasonably expects to handle Texas HHS Confidential Information during one year:</b>						Select Option (a-d)
<b>a.</b> 499 individuals or less <b>b.</b> 500 to 999 individuals <b>c.</b> 1,000 to 99,999 individuals <b>d.</b> 100,000 individuals or more						<input type="radio"/> a. <input type="radio"/> b. <input type="radio"/> c. <input type="radio"/> d.
<b>9. HIPAA Business Associate Agreement</b>						
<b>a.</b> Will Applicant/Bidder use, disclose, create, receive, transmit or maintain protected health information on behalf of a HIPAA-covered Texas HHS agency for a HIPAA-covered function?						<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<b>b.</b> Does Applicant/Bidder have a Privacy Notice prominently displayed on a Webpage or a Public Office of Applicant/Bidder's business open to or that serves the public? (This is a HIPAA requirement. Answer "N/A" if not applicable, such as for agencies not covered by HIPAA.)						<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>						<u>Compliance Date:</u>
<b>10. Subcontractors.</b> If the Applicant/Bidder responded "0" to Question 4 (indicating no subcontractors), check "N/A" for both 'a.' and 'b.'						
<b>a.</b> Does Applicant/Bidder require subcontractors to execute the DUA Attachment 1 Subcontractor Agreement Form?						<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>						<u>Compliance Date:</u>

<p><b>b.</b> Will Applicant/Bidder agree to require subcontractors who will access Confidential Information to comply with the terms of the DUA, not disclose any Confidential Information to them until they have agreed in writing to the same safeguards and to discontinue their access to the Confidential Information if they fail to comply?</p>	<p> <input type="radio"/> Yes  <input type="radio"/> No  <input type="radio"/> N/A </p>
<p><u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u></p>	<p><u>Compliance Date:</u></p>
<p><b>11.</b> Does Applicant/Bidder have any <b>Optional Insurance</b> currently in place?</p> <p>Optional Insurance provides coverage for: (1) Network Security and Privacy; (2) Data Breach; (3) Cyber Liability (lost data, lost use or delay/suspension in business, denial of service with e-business, the Internet, networks and informational assets, such as privacy, intellectual property, virus transmission, extortion, sabotage or web activities); (4) Electronic Media Liability; (5) Crime/Theft; (6) Advertising Injury and Personal Injury Liability; and (7) Crisis Management and Notification Expense Coverage.</p>	<p> <input type="radio"/> Yes  <input type="radio"/> No  <input type="radio"/> N/A </p>

**SECTION B: PRIVACY RISK ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT (To be completed by Applicant/Bidder)**

For any questions answered "No," an Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline must be documented in the designated area below the question. The timeline for compliance with HIPAA-related requirements for safeguarding Protected Health Information is 30 calendar days from the date this form is signed. Compliance with requirements related to other types of Confidential Information must be confirmed within 90 calendar days from the date the form is signed.

1. Written Policies & Procedures. Does Applicant/Bidder have current written privacy and security policies and procedures that, at a minimum:	Yes or No
a. Does Applicant/Bidder have current written privacy and security policies and procedures that identify Authorized Users and Authorized Purposes (as defined in the DUA) relating to creation, receipt, maintenance, use, disclosure, access or transmission of Texas HHS Confidential Information?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
b. Does Applicant/Bidder have current written privacy and security policies and procedures that require Applicant/Bidder and its Workforce to comply with the applicable provisions of HIPAA and other laws referenced in the DUA, relating to creation, receipt, maintenance, use, disclosure, access or transmission of Texas HHS Confidential Information on behalf of a Texas HHS agency?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
c. Does Applicant/Bidder have current written privacy and security policies and procedures that limit use or disclosure of Texas HHS Confidential Information to the minimum that is necessary to fulfill the Authorized Purposes?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
d. Does Applicant/Bidder have current written privacy and security policies and procedures that respond to an actual or suspected breach of Texas HHS Confidential Information, to include at a minimum (if any responses are "No" check "No" for all three):  i. Immediate breach notification to the Texas HHS agency, regulatory authorities, and other required Individuals or Authorities, in accordance with Article 4 of the DUA; ii. Following a documented breach response plan, in accordance with the DUA and applicable law; & iii. Notifying Individuals and Reporting Authorities whose Texas HHS Confidential Information has been breached, as directed by the Texas HHS agency?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
<b>e. Does Applicant/Bidder have current written privacy and security policies and procedures that conduct annual workforce training and monitoring for and correction of any training delinquencies?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
<b>f. Does Applicant/Bidder have current written privacy and security policies and procedures that permit or deny individual rights of access, and amendment or correction, when appropriate?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
<b>g. Does Applicant/Bidder have current written privacy and security policies and procedures that permit only Authorized Users with up-to-date privacy and security training, and with a reasonable and demonstrable need to use, disclose, create, receive, maintain, access or transmit the Texas HHS Confidential Information, to carry out an obligation under the DUA for an Authorized Purpose, unless otherwise approved in writing by a Texas HHS agency?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
<b>h. Does Applicant/Bidder have current written privacy and security policies and procedures that establish, implement and maintain proof of appropriate sanctions against any Workforce or Subcontractors who fail to comply with an Authorized Purpose or who is not an Authorized User, and used or disclosed Texas HHS Confidential Information in violation of the DUA, the Base Contract or applicable law?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
<b>i. Does Applicant/Bidder have current written privacy and security policies and procedures that require updates to policies, procedures and plans following major changes with use or disclosure of Texas HHS Confidential Information within 60 days of identification of a need for update?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>

<p><b>j.</b> Does Applicant/Bidder have current written privacy and security policies and procedures that restrict permissions or attempts to re-identify or further identify de-identified Texas HHS Confidential Information, or attempt to contact any Individuals whose records are contained in the Texas HHS Confidential Information, except for an Authorized Purpose, without express written authorization from a Texas HHS agency or as expressly permitted by the Base Contract?</p>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<p><u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u></p>	<p><u>Compliance Date:</u></p>
<p><b>k.</b> If Applicant/Bidder intends to use, disclose, create, maintain, store or transmit Texas HHS Confidential Information outside of the United States, will Applicant/Bidder obtain the express prior written permission from the Texas HHS agency and comply with the Texas HHS agency conditions for safeguarding offshore Texas HHS Confidential Information?</p>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<p><u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u></p>	<p><u>Compliance Date:</u></p>
<p><b>l.</b> Does Applicant/Bidder have current written privacy and security policies and procedures that require cooperation with Texas HHS agencies' or federal regulatory inspections, audits or investigations related to compliance with the DUA or applicable law?</p>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<p><u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u></p>	<p><u>Compliance Date:</u></p>
<p><b>m.</b> Does Applicant/Bidder have current written privacy and security policies and procedures that require appropriate standards and methods to destroy or dispose of Texas HHS Confidential Information?</p>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<p><u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u></p>	<p><u>Compliance Date:</u></p>
<p><b>n.</b> Does Applicant/Bidder have current written privacy and security policies and procedures that prohibit disclosure of Applicant/Bidder's work product done on behalf of Texas HHS pursuant to the DUA, or to publish Texas HHS Confidential Information without express prior approval of the Texas HHS agency?</p>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<p><u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u></p>	<p><u>Compliance Date:</u></p>
<p><b>2.</b> Does Applicant/Bidder have a current Workforce training program?  Training of Workforce must occur at least once every year, and within 30 days of date of hiring a new Workforce member who will handle Texas HHS Confidential Information. Training must include: (1) privacy and security policies, procedures, plans and applicable requirements for handling Texas HHS Confidential Information, (2) a requirement to complete training before access is given to Texas HHS Confidential Information, and (3) written proof of training and a procedure for monitoring timely completion of training.</p>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
<b>3. Does Applicant/Bidder have Privacy Safeguards to protect Texas HHS Confidential Information in oral, paper and/or electronic form?</b> "Privacy Safeguards" means protection of Texas HHS Confidential Information by establishing, implementing and maintaining required Administrative, Physical and Technical policies, procedures, processes and controls, required by the DUA, HIPAA (45 CFR 164.530), Social Security Administration, Medicaid and laws, rules or regulations, as applicable. Administrative safeguards include administrative protections, policies and procedures for matters such as training, provision of access, termination, and review of safeguards, incident management, disaster recovery plans, and contract provisions. Technical safeguards include technical protections, policies and procedures, such as passwords, logging, emergencies, how paper is faxed or mailed, and electronic protections such as encryption of data. Physical safeguards include physical protections, policies and procedures, such as locks, keys, physical access, physical storage and trash.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
<b>4. Does Applicant/Bidder and all subcontractors (if applicable) maintain a current list of Authorized Users who have access to Texas HHS Confidential Information, whether oral, written or electronic?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
<b>5. Does Applicant/Bidder and all subcontractors (if applicable) monitor for and remove terminated employees or those no longer authorized to handle Texas HHS Confidential Information from the list of Authorized Users?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>

**SECTION C: SECURITY RISK ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT (to be completed by Applicant/Bidder)**

<b>This section is about your electronic system. If your business DOES NOT store, access, or transmit Texas HHS Confidential Information in electronic systems (e.g., laptop, personal use computer, mobile device, database, server, etc.) select the box to the right, and "YES" will be entered for all questions in this section.</b>	<b>No Electronic Systems</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
For any questions answered "No," an Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline must be documented in the designated area below the question. The timeline for compliance with HIPAA-related items is 30 calendar days, PII-related items is 90 calendar days.	
<b>1. Does the Applicant/Bidder ensure that services which access, create, disclose, receive, transmit, maintain, or store Texas HHS Confidential Information are maintained IN the United States (no offshoring) unless ALL of the following requirements are met?</b> <b>a. The data is encrypted with FIPS 140-2 validated encryption</b> <b>b. The offshore provider does not have access to the encryption keys</b> <b>c. The Applicant/Bidder maintains the encryption key within the United States</b> <b>d. The Application/Bidder has obtained the express prior written permission of the Texas HHS agency</b>  <i>For more information regarding FIPS 140-2 encryption products, please refer to:</i> <a href="http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips">http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips</a>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
<b>2. Does Applicant/Bidder utilize an IT security-knowledgeable person or company to maintain or oversee the configurations of Applicant/Bidder's computing systems and devices?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
<b>3. Does Applicant/Bidder monitor and manage access to Texas HHS Confidential Information (e.g., a formal process exists for granting access and validating the need for users to access Texas HHS Confidential Information, and access is limited to Authorized Users)?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
<b>4. Does Applicant/Bidder a) have a system for changing default passwords, b) require user password changes at least every 90 calendar days, and c) prohibit the creation of weak passwords (e.g., require a minimum of 8 characters with a combination of uppercase, lowercase, special characters, and numerals, where possible) for all computer systems that access or store Texas HHS Confidential Information.</b> <b>If yes, upon request must provide evidence such as a screen shot or a system report.</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>

<p>5. Does each member of Applicant/Bidder's Workforce who will use, disclose, create, receive, transmit or maintain Texas HHS Confidential Information have a unique user name (account) and private password?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u></p>	<p><u>Compliance Date:</u></p>
<p>6. Does Applicant/Bidder lock the password after a certain number of failed attempts and after 15 minutes of user inactivity in all computing devices that access or store Texas HHS Confidential Information?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u></p>	<p><u>Compliance Date:</u></p>
<p>7. Does Applicant/Bidder secure, manage and encrypt remote access (including wireless access) to computer systems containing Texas HHS Confidential Information? (e.g., a formal process exists for granting access and validating the need for users to remotely access Texas HHS Confidential Information, and remote access is limited to Authorized Users).</p> <p><i>Encryption is required for all Texas HHS Confidential Information. Additionally, FIPS 140-2 validated encryption is required for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) data, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) data, Internal Revenue Service Federal Tax Information (IRS FTI) data, and Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services (CMS) data.</i></p> <p><i>For more information regarding FIPS 140-2 encryption products, please refer to:</i> <a href="http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips">http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips</a></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u></p>	<p><u>Compliance Date:</u></p>
<p>8. Does Applicant/Bidder implement computer security configurations or settings for all computers and systems that access or store Texas HHS Confidential Information? (e.g., non-essential features or services have been removed or disabled to reduce the threat of breach and to limit exploitation opportunities for hackers or intruders, etc.)</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u></p>	<p><u>Compliance Date:</u></p>
<p>9. Does Applicant/Bidder secure physical access to computer, paper, or other systems containing Texas HHS Confidential Information from unauthorized personnel and theft (e.g., door locks, cable locks, laptops are stored in the trunk of the car instead of the passenger area, etc.)?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u></p>	<p><u>Compliance Date:</u></p>

<p><b>10. Does Applicant/Bidder use encryption products to protect Texas HHS Confidential Information that is <u>transmitted</u> over a public network (e.g., the Internet, WiFi, etc.)?</b></p> <p><b>If yes, upon request must provide evidence such as a screen shot or a system report.</b></p> <p><i>Encryption is required for all HHS Confidential Information. Additionally, <b>FIPS 140-2</b> validated encryption is required for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) data, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) data, Internal Revenue Service Federal Tax Information (IRS FTI) data, and Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services (CMS) data.</i></p> <p><i>For more information regarding FIPS 140-2 encryption products, please refer to:  <a href="http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips">http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips</a></i></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes  <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u></p>	<p><u>Compliance Date:</u></p>
<p><b>11. Does Applicant/Bidder use encryption products to protect Texas HHS Confidential Information <u>stored</u> on end user devices (e.g., laptops, USBs, tablets, smartphones, external hard drives, desktops, etc.)?</b></p> <p><b>If yes, upon request must provide evidence such as a screen shot or a system report.</b></p> <p><i>Encryption is required for all Texas HHS Confidential Information. Additionally, <b>FIPS 140-2</b> validated encryption is required for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) data, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) data, Internal Revenue Service Federal Tax Information (IRS FTI) data, and Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services (CMS) data.</i></p> <p><i>For more information regarding FIPS 140-2 encryption products, please refer to:  <a href="http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips">http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips</a></i></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes  <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u></p>	<p><u>Compliance Date:</u></p>
<p><b>12. Does Applicant/Bidder require Workforce members to formally acknowledge rules outlining their responsibilities for protecting Texas HHS Confidential Information and associated systems containing HHS Confidential Information before their access is provided?</b></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes  <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u></p>	<p><u>Compliance Date:</u></p>
<p><b>13. Is Applicant/Bidder willing to perform or submit to a criminal background check on Authorized Users?</b></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes  <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u></p>	<p><u>Compliance Date:</u></p>
<p><b>14. Does Applicant/Bidder prohibit the access, creation, disclosure, reception, transmission, maintenance, and storage of Texas HHS Confidential Information with a subcontractor (e.g., cloud services, social media, etc.) unless Texas HHS has approved the subcontractor agreement which must include compliance and liability clauses with the same requirements as the Applicant/Bidder?</b></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes  <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u></p>	<p><u>Compliance Date:</u></p>

<b>15. Does Applicant/Bidder keep current on security updates/patches (including firmware, software and applications) for computing systems that use, disclose, access, create, transmit, maintain or store Texas HHS Confidential Information?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
<b>16. Do Applicant/Bidder's computing systems that use, disclose, access, create, transmit, maintain or store Texas HHS Confidential Information contain up-to-date anti-malware and antivirus protection?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
<b>17. Does the Applicant/Bidder review system security logs on computing systems that access or store Texas HHS Confidential Information for abnormal activity or security concerns on a regular basis?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
<b>18. Notwithstanding records retention requirements, does Applicant/Bidder's disposal processes for Texas HHS Confidential Information ensure that Texas HHS Confidential Information is destroyed so that it is unreadable or undecipherable?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>
<b>19. Does the Applicant/Bidder ensure that all public facing websites and mobile applications containing Texas HHS Confidential Information meet security testing standards set forth within the Texas Government Code (TGC), Section 2054.516; including requirements for implementing vulnerability and penetration testing and addressing identified vulnerabilities?</b>  <i>For more information regarding TGC, Section 2054.516 DATA SECURITY PLAN FOR ONLINE AND MOBILE APPLICATIONS, please refer to: <a href="https://legiscan.com/TX/text/HB8/2017">https://legiscan.com/TX/text/HB8/2017</a></i>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<u>Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline:</u>	<u>Compliance Date:</u>

**SECTION D: SIGNATURE AND SUBMISSION (to be completed by Applicant/Bidder)***Please sign the form digitally, if possible. If you can't, provide a handwritten signature.*

**1. I certify that all of the information provided in this form is truthful and correct to the best of my knowledge. If I learn that any such information was not correct, I agree to notify Texas HHS of this immediately.**

2. Signature

3. Title

4. Date:

To **submit** the completed, signed form:

- Email the form as an attachment to the appropriate Texas HHS Contract Manager(s).

**Section E: To Be Completed by Texas HHS Agency Staff:**

Agency(s):

HHSC: ☐DFPS: ☐DSHS: ☐

Requesting Department(s):

Legal Entity Tax Identification Number (TIN) (Last four Only):

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PO/Contract(s) #:

Contract Manager:

Contract Manager Email Address:

Contract Manager Telephone #:

Contract Manager:

Contract Manager Email Address:

Contract Manager Telephone #:

Contract Manager:

Contract Manager Email Address:

Contract Manager Telephone #:

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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE SECURITY AND PRIVACY INQUIRY (SPI)

Below are instructions for Applicants, Bidders and Contractors for Texas Health and Human Services requiring the Attachment 2, Security and Privacy Inquiry (SPI) to the Data Use Agreement (DUA). Instruction item numbers below correspond to sections on the SPI form.

If you are a bidder for a new procurement/contract, in order to participate in the bidding process, you must have corrected any "No" responses (except A9a) prior to the contract award date. If you are an applicant for an open enrollment, you must have corrected any "No" answers (except A9a and A11) prior to performing any work on behalf of any Texas HHS agency.

For any questions answered "No" (except A9a and A11), an *Action Plan for Compliance with a Timeline* must be documented in the designated area below the question. The timeline for compliance with HIPAA-related requirements for safeguarding Protected Health Information is 30 calendar days from the date this form is signed. Compliance with requirements related to other types of Confidential Information must be confirmed within 90 calendar days from the date the form is signed.

### SECTION A. APPLICANT /BIDDER INFORMATION

**Item #1.** Only contractors that access, transmit, store, and/or maintain Texas HHS Confidential Information will complete and email this form as an attachment to the appropriate Texas HHS Contract Manager.

**Item #2. Entity or Applicant/Bidder Legal Name.** Provide the legal name of the business (the name used for legal purposes, like filing a federal or state tax form on behalf of the business, and is not a trade or assumed named "dba"), the legal tax identification number (last four numbers only) of the entity or applicant/bidder, the address of the corporate or main branch of the business, the telephone number where the business can be contacted regarding questions related to the information on this form and the website of the business, if a website exists.

**Item #3. Number of Employees, at all locations, in Applicant/Bidder's workforce.** Provide the total number of individuals, including volunteers, subcontractors, trainees, and other persons who work for the business. If you are the only employee, please answer "1."

**Item #4. Number of Subcontractors.** Provide the total number of subcontractors working for the business. If you have none, please answer "0" zero.

**Item #5. Number of unduplicated individuals for whom Applicant/Bidder reasonably expects to handle HHS Confidential Information during one year.** Select the radio button that corresponds with the number of clients/consumers for whom you expect to handle Texas HHS Confidential Information during a year. Only count clients/consumers once, no matter how many direct services the client receives during a year.

**Item #5. Name of Information Technology Security Official and Name of Privacy Official for Applicant/Bidder.** As with all other fields on the SPI, this is a required field. This may be the same person and the owner of the business if such person has the security and privacy knowledge that is required to implement the requirements of the DUA and respond to questions related to the SPI. In 4.A. provide the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the person whom you have designated to answer any security questions found in Section C and in 4.B. provide this information for the person whom you have designated as the person to answer any privacy questions found in Section B. The business may contract out for this expertise; however, designated individual(s) must have knowledge of the business's devices, systems and methods for use, disclosure, creation, receipt, transmission and maintenance of Texas HHS Confidential Information and be willing to be the point of contact for privacy and security questions.

**Item #6. Type(s) of HHS Confidential Information the Entity or Applicant/Bidder Will Create, Receive, Maintain, Use, Disclose or Have Access to:** Provide a complete listing of all Texas HHS Confidential Information that the Contractor will create, receive, maintain, use, disclose or have access to. The DUA section Article 2, Definitions, defines Texas HHS Confidential Information as:

"Confidential Information" means any communication or record (whether oral, written, electronically stored or transmitted, or in any other form) provided to or made available to CONTRACTOR or that CONTRACTOR may create, receive, maintain, use, disclose or have access to on behalf of Texas HHS that consists of or includes any or all of the following:

- (1) Client Information;
- (2) Protected Health Information in any form including without limitation, Electronic Protected Health Information or Unsecured Protected Health Information;
- (3) Sensitive Personal Information defined by Texas Business and Commerce Code Ch. 521;

- (4) Federal Tax Information;
- (5) Personally Identifiable Information;
- (6) Social Security Administration Data, including, without limitation, Medicaid information;
- (7) All privileged work product;
- (8) All information designated as confidential under the constitution and laws of the State of Texas and of the United States, including the Texas Health & Safety Code and the Texas Public Information Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 552.

Definitions for the following types of confidential information can be found the following sites:

- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) - <http://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/index.html>
- Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) - <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/cjis-security-policy-resource-center>
- Internal Revenue Service Federal Tax Information (IRS FTI) - <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p1075.pdf>
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) - <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Regulations-and-Guidance.html>
- Social Security Administration (SSA) - <https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/>
- Personally Identifiable Information (PII) - <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/800-122/sp800-122.pdf>

**Item #7. Number of Storage devices for Texas HHS Confidential Information.** The total number of devices is automatically calculated by exiting the fields in lines a - d. Use the <Tab> key when exiting the field to prompt calculation, if it doesn't otherwise sum correctly.

- **Item 7a. Devices.** Provide the number of personal user computers, devices, and drives (including mobile devices, laptops, USB drives, and external drives) on which your business stores or will store Texas HHS Confidential Information.
- **Item 7b. Servers.** Provide the number of servers not housed in a data center or "in the cloud," on which Texas HHS Confidential Information is stored or will be stored. A server is a dedicated computer that provides data or services to other computers. It may provide services or data to systems on a local area network (LAN) or a wide area network (WAN) over the Internet. If none, answer "0" (zero).
- **Item 7c. Cloud Services.** Provide the number of cloud services to which Texas HHS Confidential Information is stored. Cloud Services involve using a network of remote servers hosted on the Internet to store, manage, and process data, rather than on a local server or a personal computer. If none, answer "0" (zero.)
- **Item 7d. Data Centers.** Provide the number of data centers in which you store Texas HHS Confidential Information. A Data Center is a centralized repository, either physical or virtual, for the storage, management, and dissemination of data and information organized around a particular body of knowledge or pertaining to a particular business. If none, answer "0" (zero).

**Item #8. Number of unduplicated individuals for whom the Applicant/Bidder reasonably expects to handle Texas HHS Confidential Information during one year.** Select the radio button that corresponds with the number of clients/consumers for whom you expect to handle Confidential Information during a year. Only count clients/consumers once, no matter how many direct services the client receives during a year.

**Item #9. HIPAA Business Associate Agreement.**

- **Item #9a.** Answer "Yes" if your business will use, disclose, create, receive, transmit, or store information relating to a client/consumer's healthcare on behalf of the Department of State Health Services, the Department of Disability and Aging Services, or the Health and Human Services Commission for treatment, payment, or operation of Medicaid or Medicaid clients. If your contract does not include HIPAA covered information, respond "no." If "no," a compliance plan is not required.
- **Item #9b.** Answer "Yes" if your business has a notice of privacy practices (a document that explains how you protect and use a client/consumer's healthcare information) displayed either on a website (if one exists for your business) or in your place of business (if that location is open to clients/consumers or the public). If your contract does not include HIPAA covered information, respond "N/A."

**Item #10. Subcontractors.** If your business responded "0" to question 4 (number of subcontractors), Answer "N/A" to Items 10a and 10b to indicate not applicable.

- **Item #10a.** Answer "Yes" if your business requires that all subcontractors sign Attachment 1 of the DUA.
- **Item #10b.** Answer "Yes" if your business obtains Texas HHS approval before permitting subcontractors to handle Texas HHS Confidential Information on your business's behalf.

**Item #11. Optional Insurance.** Answer "yes" if applicant has optional insurance in place to provide coverage for a Breach or any

other situations listed in this question. If you are not required to have this optional coverage, answer "N/A" A compliance plan is not required.

## SECTION B. PRIVACY RISK ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

Reasonable and appropriate written Privacy and Security policies and procedures are required, even for sole proprietors who are the only employee, to demonstrate how your business will safeguard Texas HHS Confidential Information and respond in the event of a Breach of Texas HHS Confidential Information. To ensure that your business is prepared, all of the items below must be addressed in your written Privacy and Security policies and procedures.

**Item #1.** Answer "Yes" if you have written policies in place for each of the areas (a-o).

- **Item #1a.** Answer "yes" if your business has written policies and procedures that identify everyone, including subcontractors, who are authorized to use Texas HHS Confidential Information. The policies and procedures should also identify the reason why these Authorized Users need to access the Texas HHS Confidential Information and this reason must align with the Authorized Purpose described in the Scope of Work or description of services in the Base Contract with the Texas HHS agency.
- **Item #1b.** Answer "Yes" if your business has written policies and procedures that require your employees (including yourself), your volunteers, your trainees, and any other persons whose work you direct, to comply with the requirements of HIPAA, if applicable, and other confidentiality laws as they relate to your handling of Texas HHS Confidential Information. Refer to the laws and rules that apply, including those referenced in the DUA and Scope of Work or description of services in the Base Contract.
- **Item #1c.** Answer "Yes" if your business has written policies and procedures that limit the Texas HHS Confidential Information you disclose to the minimum necessary for your workforce and subcontractors (if applicable) to perform the obligations described in the Scope of Work or service description in the Base Contract. (e.g., if a client/consumer's Social Security Number is not required for a workforce member to perform the obligations described in the Scope of Work or service description in the Base Contract, then the Social Security Number will not be given to them.) If you are the only employee for your business, policies and procedures must not include a request for, or use of, Texas HHS Confidential Information that is not required for performance of the services.
- **Item #1d.** Answer "Yes" if your business has written policies and procedures that explain how your business would respond to an actual or suspected breach of Texas HHS Confidential Information. The written policies and procedures, at a minimum, must include the three items below. If any response to the three items below are no, answer "no."
  - **Item #1di.** Answer "Yes" if your business has written policies and procedures that require your business to immediately notify Texas HHS, the Texas HHS Agency, regulatory authorities, or other required Individuals or Authorities of a Breach as described in Article 4, Section 4 of the DUA.  
Refer to Article 4, Section 4.01:  
***Initial Notice of Breach** must be provided in accordance with Texas HHS and DUA requirements with as much information as possible about the Event/Breach and a name and contact who will serve as the single point of contact with HHS both on and off business hours. Time frames related to Initial Notice include:*
    - *within one hour of Discovery of an Event or Breach of Federal Tax Information, Social Security Administration Data, or Medicaid Client Information*
    - *within 24 hours of all other types of Texas HHS Confidential Information **48-hour Formal Notice** must be provided no later than 48 hours after Discovery for protected health information, sensitive personal information or other non-public information and must include applicable information as referenced in Section 4.01 (C) 2. of the DUA.*
  - **Item #1dii.** Answer "Yes" if your business has written policies and procedures require you to have and follow a written breach response plan as described in Article 4 Section 4.02 of the DUA.
  - **Item #1diii.** Answer "Yes" if your business has written policies and procedures require you to notify Reporting Authorities and Individuals whose Texas HHS Confidential Information has been breached as described in Article 4 Section 4.03 of the DUA.
- **Item #1e.** Answer "Yes" if your business has written policies and procedures requiring annual training of your entire workforce on matters related to confidentiality, privacy, and security, stressing the importance of promptly reporting any Event or Breach, outlines the process that you will use to require attendance and track completion for employees who failed to complete annual training.

- **Item #1f.** Answer "Yes" if your business has written policies and procedures requiring you to allow individuals (clients/consumers) to access their individual record of Texas HHS Confidential Information, and allow them to amend or correct that information, if applicable.
- **Item #1g.** Answer "Yes" if your business has written policies and procedures restricting access to Texas HHS Confidential Information to only persons who have been authorized and trained on how to handle Texas HHS Confidential Information
- **Item #1h.** Answer "Yes" if your business has written policies and procedures requiring sanctioning of any subcontractor, employee, trainee, volunteer, or anyone whose work you direct when they have accessed Texas HHS Confidential Information but are not authorized to do so, and that you have a method of proving that you have sanctioned such an individuals. If you are the only employee, you must demonstrate how you will document the noncompliance, update policies and procedures if needed, and seek additional training or education to prevent future occurrences.
- **Item #1i.** Answer "Yes" if your business has written policies and procedures requiring you to update your policies within 60 days after you have made changes to how you use or disclose Texas HHS Confidential Information.
- **Item #1j.** Answer "Yes" if your business has written policies and procedures requiring you to restrict attempts to take de-identified data and re-identify it or restrict any subcontractor, employee, trainee, volunteer, or anyone whose work you direct, from contacting any individuals for whom you have Texas HHS Confidential Information except to perform obligations under the contract, or with written permission from Texas HHS.
- **Item #1k.** Answer "Yes" if your business has written policies and procedures prohibiting you from using, disclosing, creating, maintaining, storing or transmitting Texas HHS Confidential Information outside of the United States.
- **Item #1l.** Answer "Yes" if your business has written policies and procedures requiring your business to cooperate with HHS agencies or federal regulatory entities for inspections, audits, or investigations related to compliance with the DUA or applicable law.
- **Item #1m.** Answer "Yes" if your business has written policies and procedures requiring your business to use appropriate standards and methods to destroy or dispose of Texas HHS Confidential Information. Policies and procedures should comply with Texas HHS requirements for retention of records and methods of disposal.
- **Item #1n.** Answer "Yes" if your business has written policies and procedures prohibiting the publication of the work you created or performed on behalf of Texas HHS pursuant to the DUA, or other Texas HHS Confidential Information, without express prior written approval of the HHS agency.

**Item #2.** Answer "Yes" if your business has a current training program that meets the requirements specified in the SPI for you, your employees, your subcontractors, your volunteers, your trainees, and any other persons under you direct supervision.

**Item #3.** Answer "Yes" if your business has privacy safeguards to protect Texas HHS Confidential Information as described in the SPI.

**Item #4.** Answer "Yes" if your business maintains current lists of persons in your workforce, including subcontractors (if applicable), who are authorized to access Texas HHS Confidential Information. If you are the only person with access to Texas HHS Confidential Information, please answer "yes."

**Item #5.** Answer "Yes" if your business and subcontractors (if applicable) monitor for and remove from the list of Authorized Users, members of the workforce who are terminated or are no longer authorized to handle Texas HHS Confidential Information. If you are the only one with access to Texas HHS Confidential Information, please answer "Yes."

## SECTION C. SECURITY RISK ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

This section is about your electronic systems. If you DO NOT store Texas HHS Confidential Information in electronic systems (e.g., laptop, personal computer, mobile device, database, server, etc.), select the "No Electronic Systems" box and respond "Yes" for all questions in this section.

**Item #1.** Answer "Yes" if your business does not "offshore" or use, disclose, create, receive, transmit or maintain Texas HHS Confidential Information outside of the United States. If you are not certain, contact your provider of technology services (application, cloud, data center, network, etc.) and request confirmation that they do not offshore their data.

**Item #2.** Answer "Yes" if your business uses a person or company who is knowledgeable in IT security to maintain or oversee the configurations of your business's computing systems and devices. You may be that person, or you may hire someone who can provide that service for you.

**Item #3.** Answer "Yes" if your business monitors and manages access to Texas HHS Confidential Information (i.e., reviews systems to ensure that access is limited to Authorized Users; has formal processes for granting, validating, and reviews the need for remote access to Authorized Users to Texas HHS Confidential Information, etc.). If you are the only employee, answer "Yes" if you have implemented a process to periodically evaluate the need for accessing Texas HHS Confidential Information to fulfill your Authorized Purposes.

**Item #4.** Answer "Yes" if your business has implemented a system for changing the password a system initially assigns to the user (also known as the default password), and requires users to change their passwords at least every 90 days, and prohibits the creation of weak passwords for all computer systems that access or store Texas HHS Confidential Information (e.g., a strong password has a minimum of 8 characters with a combination of uppercase, lowercase, special characters, and numbers, where possible). If your business uses a Microsoft Windows system, refer to the Microsoft website on how to do this, see example: <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/security/threat-protection/security-policy-settings/password-policy>

**Item #5.** Answer "Yes" if your business assigns a unique user name and private password to each of your employees, your subcontractors, your volunteers, your trainees and any other persons under your direct control who will use, disclose, create, receive, transmit or maintain Texas HHS Confidential Information.

**Item #6.** Answer "Yes" if your business locks the access after a certain number of failed attempts to login and after 15 minutes of user inactivity on all computing devices that access or store Texas HHS Confidential Information. If your business uses a Microsoft Windows system, refer to the Microsoft website on how to do this, see example: <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/security/threat-protection/security-policy-settings/account-lockout-policy>

**Item #7.** Answer "Yes" if your business secures, manages, and encrypts remote access, such as: using Virtual Private Network (VPN) software on your home computer to access Texas HHS Confidential Information that resides on a computer system at a business location or, if you use wireless, ensuring that the wireless is secured using a password code. If you do not access systems remotely or over wireless, answer "Yes."

**Item #8.** Answer "Yes" if your business updates the computer security settings for all your computers and electronic systems that access or store Texas HHS Confidential Information to prevent hacking or breaches (e.g., non-essential features or services have been removed or disabled to reduce the threat of breach and to limit opportunities for hackers or intruders to access your system). For example, Microsoft's Windows security checklist: <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/security/threat-protection/security-policy-settings/how-to-configure-security-policy-settings>

**Item #9.** Answer "Yes" if your business secures physical access to computer, paper, or other systems containing Texas HHS Confidential Information from unauthorized personnel and theft (e.g., door locks, cable locks, laptops are stored in the trunk of the car instead of the passenger area, etc.). If you are the only employee and use these practices for your business, answer "Yes."

**Item #10.** Answer "Yes" if your business uses encryption products to protect Texas HHS Confidential Information that is transmitted over a public network (e.g., the Internet, WIFI, etc.) or that is stored on a computer system that is physically or electronically accessible to the public (FIPS 140-2 validated encryption is required for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) data, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) data, Internal Revenue Service Federal Tax Information (IRS FTI) data, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data.) For more information regarding FIPS 140-2 encryption products, please refer to: <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips>).

**Item #11.** Answer "Yes" if your business stores Texas HHS Confidential Information on encrypted end-user electronic devices (e.g., laptops, USBs, tablets, smartphones, external hard drives, desktops, etc.) and can produce evidence of the encryption, such as, a screen shot or a system report (FIPS 140-2 encryption is required for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) data, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) data, Internal Revenue Service Federal Tax Information (IRS FTI) data, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data). For more information regarding FIPS 140-2 validated encryption products, please refer to: <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips>).

If you do not utilize end-user electronic devices for storing Texas HHS Confidential Information, answer "Yes."

**Item #12.** Answer "Yes" if your business requires employees, volunteers, trainees and other workforce members to sign a document that clearly outlines their responsibilities for protecting Texas HHS Confidential Information and associated systems containing Texas HHS Confidential Information before they can obtain access. If you are the only employee answer "Yes" if you have signed or are willing to sign the DUA, acknowledging your adherence to requirements and responsibilities.

**Item #13.** Answer "Yes" if your business is willing to perform a criminal background check on employees, subcontractors, volunteers, or trainees who access Texas HHS Confidential Information. If you are the only employee, answer "Yes" if you are willing to submit to a background check.

**Item #14.** Answer "Yes" if your business prohibits the access, creation, disclosure, reception, transmission, maintenance, and storage of Texas HHS Confidential Information on Cloud Services or social media sites if you use such services or sites, and there is a Texas HHS approved subcontractor agreement that includes compliance and liability clauses with the same requirements as the Applicant/Bidder. If you do not utilize Cloud Services or media sites for storing Texas HHS Confidential Information, answer "Yes."

**Item #15.** Answer "Yes" if your business keeps current on security updates/patches (including firmware, software and applications) for computing systems that use, disclose, access, create, transmit, maintain or store Texas HHS Confidential Information. If you use a Microsoft Windows system, refer to the Microsoft website on how to ensure your system is automatically updating, see example:

<https://portal.msrc.microsoft.com/en-us/>

**Item #16.** Answer "Yes" if your business's computing systems that use, disclose, access, create, transmit, maintain or store Texas HHS Confidential Information contain up-to-date anti-malware and antivirus protection. If you use a Microsoft Windows system, refer to the Microsoft website on how to ensure your system is automatically updating, see example:

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/security/threat-protection/>

**Item #17.** Answer "Yes" if your business reviews system security logs on computing systems that access or store Texas HHS Confidential Information for abnormal activity or security concerns on a regular basis. If you use a Microsoft Windows system, refer to the Microsoft website for ensuring your system is logging security events, see example:

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/security/threat-protection/auditing/basic-security-audit-policies>

**Item #18.** Answer "Yes" if your business disposal processes for Texas HHS Confidential Information ensures that Texas HHS Confidential Information is destroyed so that it is unreadable or undecipherable. Simply deleting data or formatting the hard drive is not enough; ensure you use products that perform a secure disk wipe. Please see NIST SP 800-88 R1, *Guidelines for Media Sanitization* and the applicable laws and regulations for the information type for further guidance.

**Item #19.** Answer "Yes" if your business ensures that all public facing websites and mobile applications containing HHS Confidential Information meet security testing standards set forth within the Texas Government Code (TGC), Section 2054.516

## SECTION D. SIGNATURE AND SUBMISSION

**Click** on the signature area to digitally sign the document. Email the form as an attachment to the appropriate Texas HHS Contract Manager.

## Exhibit D

View Burden Statement

OMB Number: 4040-0007  
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

### ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

**PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.**

**NOTE:** Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee-3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

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Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
19. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
<div style="border: 1px solid red; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid red; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
<div style="border: 1px solid red; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid red; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>

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**Health and Human Services Commission**

**Exhibit E FACE PAGE**

CONTRACTOR INFORMATION	
1) LEGAL BUSINESS NAME:	
2) MAILING Address Information (include mailing address, street, city, county, state and 9-digit zip code): <span style="float: right;">Check if address change <input type="checkbox"/></span>	
3) PAYEE Name and Mailing Address, including 9-digit zip code (if different from above): <span style="float: right;">Check if address change <input type="checkbox"/></span>	
4) DUNS Number (9-digit) required if receiving federal funds:	
5) Federal Tax ID No. (9-digit), State of Texas Comptroller Vendor ID Number (14-digit) or Social Security Number (9-digit):  <i>*The Contractor acknowledges, understands and agrees that the Contractor's choice to use a social security number as the vendor identification number for the contract, may result in the social security number being made public via state open records requests.</i>	
6) TYPE OF ENTITY (check all that apply): <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 33%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> City  <input type="checkbox"/> County  <input type="checkbox"/> Other Political Subdivision  <input type="checkbox"/> State Agency  <input type="checkbox"/> Indian Tribe </div> <div style="width: 33%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Organization*  <input type="checkbox"/> For Profit Organization*  <input type="checkbox"/> HUB Certified  <input type="checkbox"/> Community-Based Organization  <input type="checkbox"/> Minority Organization  <input type="checkbox"/> Faith Based (Nonprofit Org) </div> <div style="width: 33%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Individual  <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Qualified Health Centers  <input type="checkbox"/> State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning  <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital  <input type="checkbox"/> Private  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ </div> </div> <i>*If incorporated, provide 10-digit charter number assigned by Secretary of State: _____</i>	
7) PROPOSED BUDGET PERIOD:	Start Date: _____ End Date: _____
8) COUNTIES SERVED BY PROJECT:	
9) AMOUNT OF FUNDING REQUESTED:	11) PROJECT CONTACT PERSON  Name: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____
10) PROJECTED EXPENDITURES  Does Contractor's projected federal expenditures exceed \$500,000, or its projected state expenditures exceed \$500,000, for Contractor's <u>current fiscal year</u> (excluding amount requested in line 9 above)? **  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>  <i>**Projected expenditures should include anticipated expenditures under all federal grants including "pass through" federal funds from all state agencies, or all anticipated expenditures under state grants, as applicable.</i>	
13) AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE <span style="float: right;">Check if change <input type="checkbox"/></span>  Name: _____ Title: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____	12) FINANCIAL OFFICER  Name: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____
	14) SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
	15) DATE



**Health and Human Services (HHS)**  
**Uniform Terms and Conditions - Vendor**  
**Version 3.3**

Effective: July 2022

Responsible Office: Chief Counsel

Health and Human Services  
Uniform Terms and Conditions – Vendor V.3.3  
Effective: July 2022

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## ARTICLE I. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETIVE PROVISIONS

### 1.1 DEFINITIONS

As used in this Contract, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms and conditions have the meanings assigned below:

“[Amendment](#)” means a written agreement, signed by the Parties, which documents changes to the Contract other than those permitted by Work Orders.

“[Attachment](#)” means documents, terms, conditions, or information added to this Contract following the Signature Document or included by reference and made a part of this Contract.

“[Contract](#)” means the Signature Document, these Uniform Terms and Conditions, along with any Attachments, and any Amendments, purchase orders, or Work Orders that may be issued by the System Agency, to be incorporated by reference for all purposes.

“[Contractor](#)” means the Party selected to provide the goods or Services to the State under this Contract.

“[Deliverable](#)” means a Work Product(s), including all reports and project documentation, prepared, developed, or procured by Contractor as part of the Services under the Contract for the use or benefit of the System Agency or the State of Texas.

“[Effective Date](#)” means the date agreed to by the Parties as the date on which the Contract takes effect.

“[Federal Fiscal Year](#)” means the period beginning October 1 and ending September 30 each year, which is the annual accounting period for the United States government.

“[GAAP](#)” means Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

“[GASB](#)” means the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

“[Goods](#)” means supplies, materials, or equipment.

“[Health and Human Services Commission](#)” or “[HHSC](#)” means the administrative agency established under Chapter 531, Texas Government Code, or its designee.

“[Health and Human Services](#)” or “[HHS](#)” includes the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), in addition to the Health and Human Services Commission.

“[HUB](#)” means Historically Underutilized Business, as defined by Chapter 2161 of the Texas Government Code.

“[Intellectual Property Rights](#)” means the worldwide proprietary rights or interests, including patent, copyright, trade secret, and trademark rights, as such rights may be evidenced by or embodied in:

- i. any idea, design, concept, personality right, method, process, technique, apparatus, invention, discovery, or improvement;

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- ii. any work of authorship, including any compilation, computer code, website or web page design, literary work, pictorial work, or graphic work;
- iii. any trademark, service mark, trade dress, trade name, branding, or other indicia of source or origin;
- iv. domain name registrations; and
- v. any other proprietary or similar rights. The Intellectual Property Rights of a Party include all worldwide proprietary rights or interests that the Party may have acquired by assignment, by exclusive license, or by license with the right to grant sublicenses.

“[Parties](#)” means the System Agency and Contractor, collectively.

“[Party](#)” means either the System Agency or Contractor, individually.

“[Project](#)” means the goods or Services described in the Signature Document or a Work Order of this Contract.

“[Scope of Work](#)” means the description of Services and Deliverables specified in the Contract and as may be amended.

“[Services](#)” means the tasks, functions, and responsibilities assigned and delegated to Contractor under the Contract.

“[Signature Document](#)” means the document executed by both Parties that specifically sets forth all of the documents that constitute the Contract.

“[Solicitation](#)” means the document issued by the System Agency (including any published addenda, exhibits, and Attachments) under which the goods or Services provided under the Contract were initially requested, which is incorporated by reference for all purposes in its entirety.

“[Solicitation Response](#)” means Contractor’s full and complete response (including any Attachments and addenda) to the Solicitation, which is incorporated by reference for all purposes in its entirety.

“[State Fiscal Year](#)” means the period beginning September 1 and ending August 31 each year, which is the annual accounting period for the State of Texas.

“[State of Texas Textravel](#)” means the State Travel Management Program through the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts website and Texas Administrative Code, Title 34, Part 1, Chapter 5, Subchapter C, Section 5.22, relative to travel reimbursements under this Contract, if any.

“[Subcontract](#)” means any written agreement between Contractor and a third party to fulfill the requirements of the Contract. All Subcontracts are required to be in writing.

“[Subcontractor](#)” means any individual or entity that enters a contract with the Contractor to perform part or all of the obligations of Contractor under this Contract.

“[System Agency](#)” means HHSC or any of the agencies of the State of Texas that are overseen by HHSC under authority granted under state law and the officers, employees, authorized representatives, and designees of those agencies. These agencies include: HHSC and the Department of State Health Services.

“[Third Party IP](#)” means the Intellectual Property Rights of any third party that is not a party to this Contract, and that is not a Subcontractor.

“[Work](#)” means all Services to be performed, goods to be delivered, and any appurtenant actions performed, and items produced, conceived, or developed, including Deliverables.

“[Work Order](#)” means an individually negotiated document that is executed by both Parties and which authorizes a Project, if any, in an indefinite quantity Contract.

“[Work Product](#)” means any and all works, including work papers, notes, materials, approaches, designs, specifications, systems, innovations, improvements, inventions, software, programs, source code, documentation, training materials, audio or audiovisual recordings, methodologies, concepts, studies, reports, whether finished or unfinished, and whether or not included in the Deliverables, that are developed, produced, generated, or provided by Contractor in connection with Contractor’s performance of its duties under the Contract or through use of any funding provided under this Contract.

## **1.2 INTERPRETIVE PROVISIONS**

- A. The meanings of defined terms include the singular and plural forms.
- B. The words “hereof,” “herein,” “hereunder,” and similar words refer to this Contract as a whole and not to any particular provision, section, Attachment, or schedule of this Contract unless otherwise specified.
- C. The term “including” is not limiting and means “including without limitation” and, unless otherwise expressly provided in this Contract, (i) references to contracts (including this Contract) and other contractual instruments shall be deemed to include all subsequent Amendments and other modifications, but only to the extent that such Amendments and other modifications are not prohibited by the terms of this Contract, and (ii) references to any statute or regulation are to be construed as including all statutory and regulatory provisions consolidating, amending, replacing, supplementing, or interpreting the statute or regulation.
- D. Any references to “sections,” “appendices,” or “attachments” are references to sections, appendices, or attachments of the Contract.
- E. Any references to agreements, contracts, statutes, or administrative rules or regulations in the Contract are references to these documents as amended, modified, or supplemented from time to time during the term of the Contract.
- F. The captions and headings of this Contract are for convenience of reference only and do not affect the interpretation of this Contract.
- G. All Attachments, including those incorporated by reference, and any Amendments are considered part of the terms of this Contract.
- H. This Contract may use several different limitations, regulations, or policies to regulate the same or similar matters. All such limitations, regulations, and policies are cumulative, and each will be performed in accordance with its terms.
- I. Unless otherwise expressly provided, reference to any action of the System Agency or by the System Agency by way of consent, approval, or waiver will be deemed modified by the phrase “in its sole discretion.”
- J. Time is of the essence in this Contract.

## **ARTICLE II. PAYMENT PROVISIONS**

### **2.1 PROMPT PAYMENT**

Payment shall be made in accordance with Chapter 2251 of the Texas Government Code, commonly known as the Texas Prompt Payment Act. Chapter 2251 of the Texas Government Code shall govern remittance of payment and remedies for late payment and non-payment.

### **2.2 ANCILLARY AND TRAVEL EXPENSES**

- A. Except as otherwise provided in the Contract, no ancillary expenses incurred by the Contractor in connection with its provision of the Services or Deliverables will be reimbursed by the System Agency. Ancillary expenses include, but are not limited to costs associated with transportation, delivery, and insurance for each Deliverable.
- B. When the reimbursement of travel expenses is authorized by the Contract, all such expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with the rates set by the State of Texas *Travel* available at the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts State Travel Management Program website.

### **2.3 NO QUANTITY GUARANTEES**

The System Agency makes no guarantee of volume or usage of work under this Contract. All Work requested may be on an irregular and as needed basis throughout the Contract term.

### **2.4 TAXES**

Purchases made for State of Texas use are exempt from the State Sales Tax and Federal Excise Tax. Contractor represents and warrants that it shall pay all taxes or similar amounts resulting from the Contract, including, but not limited to, any federal, State, or local income, sales or excise taxes of Contractor or its employees. System Agency shall not be liable for any taxes resulting from the contract.

## **ARTICLE III. STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING**

### **3.1 EXCESS OBLIGATIONS PROHIBITED**

The Contract is subject to termination or cancellation, without penalty to the System Agency, either in whole or in part, subject to the availability of state funds. System Agency is a state agency whose authority and appropriations are subject to actions of the Texas Legislature. If System Agency becomes subject to a legislative change, revocation of statutory authority, or lack of appropriated funds that would render either System Agency's or Contractor's delivery or performance under the Contract impossible or unnecessary, the Contract will be terminated or cancelled and be deemed null and void. In the event of a termination or cancellation under this Section, System Agency will not be liable to Contractor for any damages that are caused or associated with such termination, or cancellation, and System Agency will not be required to give prior notice.

### **3.2 NO DEBT AGAINST THE STATE**

This Contract will not be construed as creating any debt by or on behalf of the State of Texas.

### **3.3 DEBT AND DELINQUENCIES**

Contractor agrees that any payments due under the Contract shall be directly applied towards eliminating any debt or delinquency it has to the State of Texas including, but not limited to, delinquent taxes, delinquent student loan payments, and delinquent child support.

### **3.4 REFUNDS AND OVERPAYMENTS**

- A. At its sole discretion, the System Agency may:
  - i. withhold all or part of any payments to Contractor to offset overpayments, unallowable or ineligible costs made to the Contractor, or if any required financial status report(s) is not submitted by the due date(s); or,
  - ii. require Contractor to promptly refund or credit - within thirty (30) calendar days of written notice - any funds erroneously paid by System Agency which are not expressly authorized under the Contract.
- B. "Overpayments," as used in this Section, include payments:
  - i. made by the System Agency that exceed the maximum allowable rates;
  - ii. that are not allowed under applicable laws, rules, or regulations; or,
  - iii. that are otherwise inconsistent with this Contract, including any unapproved expenditures. Contractor understands and agrees that it will be liable to the System Agency for any costs disallowed pursuant to financial and compliance audit(s) of funds received under this Contract. Contractor further understands and agrees that reimbursement of such disallowed costs shall be paid by Contractor from funds which were not provided or otherwise made available to Contractor under this Contract.

## **ARTICLE IV. WARRANTY, AFFIRMATIONS, ASSURANCES, AND CERTIFICATIONS**

### **4.1 WARRANTY**

Contractor warrants that all Work under this Contract shall be completed in a manner consistent with standards under the terms of this Contract, in the applicable trade, profession, or industry; shall conform to or exceed the specifications set forth in the Contract; and all Deliverables shall be fit for ordinary use, of good quality, and with no material defects. If System Agency, in its sole discretion, determines Contractor has failed to complete Work timely or to perform satisfactorily under conditions required by this Contract, the System Agency may require Contractor, at its sole expense, to:

- i. Repair or replace all defective or damaged Work;
- ii. Refund any payment Contractor received from System Agency for all defective or damaged Work and, in conjunction therewith, require Contractor to accept the return of such Work; and,
- iii. Take necessary action to ensure that Contractor's future performance and Work conform to the Contract requirements.

### **4.2 GENERAL AFFIRMATIONS**

Contractor certifies that, to the extent General Affirmations are incorporated into the Contract under the Signature Document, the Contractor has reviewed the General Affirmations and that Contractor is in compliance with all requirements.

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#### **4.3 FEDERAL ASSURANCES**

Contractor certifies that, to the extent federal assurances are incorporated into the Contract under the Signature Document, the Contractor has reviewed the federal assurances and that Contractor is in compliance with all requirements.

#### **4.4 FEDERAL CERTIFICATIONS**

Contractor certifies that, to the extent federal certifications are incorporated into the Contract under the Signature Document, the Contractor has reviewed the federal certifications and that Contractor is in compliance with all requirements. In addition, Contractor certifies that it is and shall remain in compliance with all applicable federal laws, rules, and regulations, as they may pertain to this Contract.

### **ARTICLE V. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

#### **5.1 OWNERSHIP OF WORK PRODUCT**

- A. All right, title, and interest in the Work Product, including all Intellectual Property Rights therein, is exclusively owned by System Agency. Contractor and Contractor's employees will have no rights in or ownership of the Work Product or any other property of System Agency.
- B. Any and all Work Product that is copyrightable under United States copyright law is deemed to be "work made for hire" owned by System Agency, as provided by Title 17 of the United States Code. To the extent that Work Product does not qualify as a "work made for hire" under applicable federal law, Contractor hereby irrevocably assigns and transfers to System Agency, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title, and interest in and to the Work Product, including any and all Intellectual Property Rights embodied therein or associated therewith, and in and to all works based upon, derived from, or incorporating the Work Product, and in and to all income, royalties, damages, claims and payments now or hereafter due or payable with respect thereto, and in and to all causes of action, either in law or in equity for past, present or future infringement based on the copyrights, and in and to all rights corresponding to the foregoing.
- C. Contractor agrees to execute all papers and to perform such other acts as System Agency may deem necessary to secure for System Agency or its designee the rights herein assigned.
- D. In the event that Contractor has any rights in and to the Work Product that cannot be assigned to System Agency, Contractor hereby grants to System Agency an exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free, transferable, irrevocable, and perpetual license, with the right to sublicense, to reproduce, distribute, modify, create derivative works of, publicly perform and publicly display, make, have made, use, sell and offer for sale the Work Product and any products developed by practicing such rights.
- E. The foregoing does not apply to Incorporated Pre-existing Works or Third-Party IP that are incorporated in the Work Product by Contractor. Contractor shall provide System Agency access during normal business hours to all Vendor materials, premises, and computer files containing the Work Product.

## 5.2 CONTRACTOR'S PRE-EXISTING WORKS

- A. To the extent that Contractor incorporates into the Work Product any works of Contractor that were created by Contractor or that Contractor acquired rights in prior to the Effective Date of this Contract ("**Incorporated Pre-existing Works**"), Contractor retains ownership of such Incorporated Pre-existing Works.
- B. Contractor hereby grants to System Agency an irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive, royalty-free, transferable, worldwide right and license, with the right to sublicense, to use, reproduce, modify, copy, create derivative works of, publish, publicly perform and display, sell, offer to sell, make and have made, the Incorporated Pre-existing Works, in any medium, with or without the associated Work Product.
- C. Contractor represents, warrants, and covenants to System Agency that Contractor has all necessary right and authority to grant the foregoing license in the Incorporated Pre-existing Works to System Agency.

## 5.3 THIRD PARTY IP

- A. To the extent that any Third Party IP is included or incorporated in the Work Product by Contractor, Contractor hereby grants to System Agency, or shall obtain from the applicable third party for System Agency's benefit, the irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free right and license, for System Agency's internal business purposes only,
  - i. to use, reproduce, display, perform, distribute copies of, and prepare derivative works based upon such Third-Party IP and any derivative works thereof embodied in or delivered to System Agency in conjunction with the Work Product, and
  - ii. to authorize others to do any or all of the foregoing.
- B. Contractor shall obtain System Agency's advance written approval prior to incorporating any Third-Party IP into the Work Product, and Contractor shall notify System Agency on delivery of the Work Product if such materials include any Third Party IP.
- C. Contractor shall provide System Agency all supporting documentation demonstrating Contractor's compliance with this **Section 5.3**, including without limitation documentation indicating a third party's written approval for Contractor to use any Third Party IP that may be incorporated in the Work Product.

## 5.4 AGREEMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES AND SUBCONTRACTORS

Contractor shall have written, binding agreements with its employees and subcontractors that include provisions sufficient to give effect to and enable Contractor's compliance with Contractor's obligations under this **Article V**.

## 5.5 DELIVERY UPON TERMINATION OR EXPIRATION

No later than the first calendar day after the termination or expiration of the Contract or upon System Agency's request, Contractor shall deliver to System Agency all completed, or partially completed, Work Product, including any Incorporated Pre-existing Works, and any and all versions thereof. Contractor's failure to timely deliver such Work Product is a material breach of the Contract. Contractor will not retain any copies of the Work Product or any documentation or other products or results of Contractor's activities under the Contract without the prior written consent of System Agency.

## 5.6 SURVIVAL

The provisions and obligations of this **Article V** survive any termination or expiration of the Contract.

## 5.7 SYSTEM AGENCY DATA

- A. As between the Parties, all data and information acquired, accessed, or made available to Contractor by, through, or on behalf of System Agency or System Agency contractors, including all electronic data generated, processed, transmitted, or stored by Contractor in the course of providing data processing services in connection with Contractor's performance hereunder (the "**System Agency Data**"), is owned solely by System Agency.
- B. Contractor has no right or license to use, analyze, aggregate, transmit, create derivatives of, copy, disclose, or process the System Agency Data except as required for Contractor to fulfill its obligations under the Contract or as authorized in advance in writing by System Agency.
- C. For the avoidance of doubt, Contractor is expressly prohibited from using, and from permitting any third party to use, System Agency Data for marketing, research, or other non-governmental or commercial purposes, without the prior written consent of System Agency.
- D. Contractor shall make System Agency Data available to System Agency, including to System Agency's designated vendors, as directed in writing by System Agency. The foregoing shall be at no cost to System Agency.
- E. Furthermore, the proprietary nature of Contractor's systems that process, store, collect, and/or transmit the System Agency Data shall not excuse Contractor's performance of its obligations hereunder.

## ARTICLE VI. PROPERTY

### 6.1 USE OF STATE PROPERTY

- A. Contractor is prohibited from using State Property for any purpose other than performing Services authorized under the Contract.
- B. State Property includes, but is not limited to, System Agency's office space, identification badges, System Agency information technology equipment and networks (e.g., laptops, portable printers, cell phones, iPads or tablets, external hard drives, data storage devices, any System Agency-issued software, and the System Agency Virtual Private Network (VPN client)), and any other resources of System Agency.
- C. Contractor shall not remove State Property from the continental United States. In addition, Contractor may not use any computing device to access System Agency's network or e-mail while outside of the continental United States.
- D. Contractor shall not perform any maintenance services on State Property unless the Contract expressly authorizes such Services.
- E. During the time that State Property is in the possession of Contractor, Contractor shall be responsible for:
  - i. all repair and replacement charges incurred by State Agency that are associated with loss of State Property or damage beyond normal wear and tear, and

- ii. all charges attributable to Contractor's use of State Property that exceeds the Contract scope. Contractor shall fully reimburse such charges to System Agency within ten (10) calendar days of Contractor's receipt of System Agency's notice of amount due. Use of State Property for a purpose not authorized by the Contract shall constitute breach of contract and may result in termination of the Contract and the pursuit of other remedies available to System Agency under contract, at law, or in equity.

## **6.2 DAMAGE TO GOVERNMENT PROPERTY**

- A. In the event of loss, destruction, or damage to any System Agency or State of Texas owned, leased, or occupied property or equipment by Contractor or Contractor's employees, agents, Subcontractors, and suppliers, Contractor shall be liable to System Agency and the State of Texas for the full cost of repair, reconstruction, or replacement of the lost, destroyed, or damaged property.
- B. Contractor shall notify System Agency of the loss, destruction, or damage of equipment or property within one (1) business day. Contractor shall reimburse System Agency and the State of Texas for such property damage within 10 calendar days after Contractor's receipt of System Agency's notice of amount due.

## **6.3 PROPERTY RIGHTS UPON TERMINATION OR EXPIRATION OF CONTRACT**

In the event the Contract is terminated for any reason, or upon its expiration State Property remains the property of the System Agency and must be returned to the System Agency by the end date of the Contract or upon System Agency's request.

# **ARTICLE VII. WORK ORDERS**

## **7.1 WORK ORDERS**

If the Contract is for indefinite quantities of Services, as specified in the Signature Document, all Work will be performed in accordance with properly executed Work Orders.

## **7.2 PROPOSALS**

For Work Order contracts, the Contractor shall submit to System Agency separate proposals, including pricing and a project plan, for each Project.

## **7.3 RESPONSIBILITY**

For each approved Project, the Contractor shall be responsible for all Work assigned under the Work Order. Multiple Work Orders may be issued during the term of this Contract, all of which will be in writing and signed by the Parties. Each Work Order will include a scope of Services; a list of tasks required; a time schedule; a list of Deliverables, if any; a detailed Project budget; and any other information or special conditions as may be necessary for the Work assigned.

## **7.4 TERMINATION**

If this Work Order is in effect on the day the Contract would otherwise expire, the Contract will remain in effect until this Work Order is terminated or expires; and the Contract and this Work Order may be amended after such termination or expiration to

extend the performance period or add ancillary deliverables or services, only to the extent necessary.

## **ARTICLE VIII. RECORD RETENTION, AUDIT, AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

### **8.1 RECORD MAINTENANCE AND RETENTION**

- A. Contractor shall keep and maintain under GAAP or GASB, as applicable, full, true, and complete records necessary to fully disclose to the System Agency, the Texas State Auditor's Office, the United States Government, and their authorized representatives sufficient information to determine compliance with the terms and conditions of this Contract and all state and federal rules, regulations, and statutes.
- B. Contractor shall maintain and retain legible copies of this Contract and all records relating to the performance of the Contract including supporting fiscal documents adequate to ensure that claims for contract funds are in accordance with applicable State of Texas requirements. These records shall be maintained and retained by Contractor for a minimum of seven (7) years after the Contract expiration date or seven (7) years after the completion of all audit, claim, litigation, or dispute matters involving the Contract are resolved, whichever is later.

### **8.2 AGENCY'S RIGHT TO AUDIT**

- A. Contractor shall make available at reasonable times and upon reasonable notice, and for reasonable periods, work papers, reports, books, records, supporting documents kept current by Contractor pertaining to the Contract for purposes of inspecting, monitoring, auditing, or evaluating by System Agency and the State of Texas.
- B. In addition to any right of access arising by operation of law, Contractor and any of Contractor's affiliate or subsidiary organizations, or Subcontractors shall permit the System Agency or any of its duly authorized representatives, as well as duly authorized federal, state or local authorities, unrestricted access to and the right to examine any site where business is conducted or Services are performed, and all records, which includes but is not limited to financial, client and patient records, books, papers or documents related to this Contract. If the Contract includes federal funds, federal agencies that shall have a right of access to records as described in this section include: the federal agency providing the funds, the Comptroller General of the United States, the General Accounting Office, the Office of the Inspector General, and any of their authorized representatives. In addition, agencies of the State of Texas that shall have a right of access to records as described in this section include: the System Agency, HHSC, HHSC's contracted examiners, the State Auditor's Office, the Texas Attorney General's Office, and any successor agencies. Each of these entities may be a duly authorized authority.
- C. If deemed necessary by the System Agency or any duly authorized authority, for the purpose of investigation or hearing, Contractor shall produce original documents related to this Contract.
- D. The System Agency and any duly authorized authority shall have the right to audit billings both before and after payment, and all documentation that substantiates the billings.

- E. Contractor shall include this provision concerning the right of access to, and examination of, sites and information related to this Contract in any Subcontract it awards.

### **8.3 RESPONSE/COMPLIANCE WITH AUDIT OR INSPECTION FINDINGS**

- A. Contractor must act to ensure its and its Subcontractors' compliance with all corrections necessary to address any finding of noncompliance with any law, regulation, audit requirement, or generally accepted accounting principle, or any other deficiency identified in any audit, review, or inspection of the Contract and the Services and Deliverables provided. Any such correction will be at Contractor's or its Subcontractor's sole expense. Whether Contractor's action corrects the noncompliance shall be solely the decision of the System Agency.
- B. As part of the Services, Contractor must provide to System Agency upon request a copy of those portions of Contractor's and its Subcontractors' internal audit reports relating to the Services and Deliverables provided to the State under the Contract.

### **8.4 STATE AUDITOR'S RIGHT TO AUDIT**

- A. The state auditor may conduct an audit or investigation of any entity receiving funds from the state directly under the Contract or indirectly through a subcontract under the Contract. The acceptance of funds directly under the Contract or indirectly through a subcontract under the Contract acts as acceptance of the authority of the state auditor, under the direction of the legislative audit committee, to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds. Under the direction of the legislative audit committee, an entity that is the subject of an audit or investigation by the state auditor must provide the state auditor with access to any information the state auditor considers relevant to the investigation or audit.
- B. The Contractor shall comply with any rules and procedures of the state auditor in the implementation and enforcement of Section 2262.154 of the Texas Government Code.

### **8.5 CONFIDENTIALITY**

Contractor shall maintain as confidential and shall not disclose to third parties without System Agency's prior written consent, any System Agency information including but not limited to System Agency Data, System Agency's business activities, practices, systems, conditions and services. This section will survive termination or expiration of this Contract. The obligations of Contractor under this section will survive termination or expiration of this Contract. This requirement must be included in all subcontracts awarded by Contractor.

## **ARTICLE IX. CONTRACT REMEDIES AND EARLY TERMINATION**

### **9.1 CONTRACT REMEDIES**

To ensure Contractor's full performance of the Contract and compliance with applicable law, the System Agency reserves the right to hold Contractor accountable for breach of contract or substandard performance and may take remedial or corrective actions, including, but not limited to:

- i. suspending all or part of the Contract;
- ii. requiring the Contractor to take specific actions in order to remain in compliance with the Contract;

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- iii. recouping payments made by the System Agency to the Contractor found to be in error;
- iv. suspending, limiting, or placing conditions on the Contractor's continued performance of Work; or
- v. imposing any other remedies, sanctions, or penalties authorized under this Contract or permitted by federal or state law.

## **9.2 TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE**

The System Agency may terminate the Contract, in whole or in part, at any time when, in its sole discretion, the System Agency determines that termination is in the best interests of the State of Texas. The termination will be effective on the date specified in the System Agency's notice of termination.

## **9.3 TERMINATION FOR CAUSE**

Except as otherwise provided by the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, or any successor law, the System Agency may terminate the Contract, in whole or in part, upon either of the following conditions:

### **i. Material Breach**

The System Agency will have the right to terminate the Contract in whole or in part if the System Agency determines, in its sole discretion, that Contractor has materially breached the Contract or has failed to adhere to any laws, ordinances, rules, regulations or orders of any public authority having jurisdiction and such violation prevents or substantially impairs performance of Contractor's duties under the Contract. Contractor's misrepresentation in any aspect of Contractor's Solicitation Response, if any, or Contractor's addition to the System for Award Management (SAM) exclusion list will also constitute a material breach of the Contract.

### **ii. Failure to Maintain Financial Viability**

The System Agency may terminate the Contract if, in its sole discretion, the System Agency has a good faith belief that Contractor no longer maintains the financial viability required to complete the Work, or otherwise fully perform its responsibilities under the Contract.

## **9.4 CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR SYSTEM AGENCY'S TERMINATION COSTS**

If the System Agency terminates the Contract for cause, the Contractor shall be responsible to the System Agency for all costs incurred by the System Agency and the State of Texas to replace the Contractor. These costs include, but are not limited to, the costs of procuring a substitute vendor and the cost of any claim or litigation attributable to Contractor's failure to perform any Work in accordance with the terms of the Contract.

## **ARTICLE X. INDEMNITY**

### **10.1 GENERAL INDEMNITY**

**A. CONTRACTOR SHALL DEFEND, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE STATE OF TEXAS AND SYSTEM AGENCY, AND/OR THEIR OFFICERS, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, REPRESENTATIVES, CONTRACTORS, ASSIGNEES, AND/OR DESIGNEES FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, ACTIONS, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, OR SUITS, AND ALL**

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RELATED COSTS, ATTORNEY FEES, AND EXPENSES ARISING OUT OF OR RESULTING FROM ANY ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF CONTRACTOR OR ITS AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, SUBCONTRACTORS, ORDER FULFILLERS, OR SUPPLIERS OF SUBCONTRACTORS IN THE EXECUTION OR PERFORMANCE OF THE CONTRACT AND ANY PURCHASE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE CONTRACT.

- B. THIS PARAGRAPH IS NOT INTENDED TO AND WILL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE CONTRACTOR TO INDEMNIFY OR HOLD HARMLESS THE STATE OR THE SYSTEM AGENCY FOR ANY CLAIMS OR LIABILITIES RESULTING FROM THE NEGLIGENT ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF THE SYSTEM AGENCY OR ITS EMPLOYEES.
- C. For the avoidance of doubt, System Agency shall not indemnify Contractor or any other entity under the Contract.

#### **10.2 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

CONTRACTOR SHALL DEFEND, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE SYSTEM AGENCY AND THE STATE OF TEXAS FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, VIOLATIONS, MISAPPROPRIATIONS, OR INFRINGEMENT OF ANY PATENT, TRADEMARK, COPYRIGHT, TRADE SECRET, OR OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND/OR OTHER INTANGIBLE PROPERTY, PUBLICITY OR PRIVACY RIGHTS, AND/OR IN CONNECTION WITH OR ARISING FROM:

- i THE PERFORMANCE OR ACTIONS OF CONTRACTOR PURSUANT TO THIS CONTRACT;
- ii ANY DELIVERABLE, WORK PRODUCT, CONFIGURED SERVICE OR OTHER SERVICE PROVIDED HEREUNDER; AND/OR
- iii SYSTEM AGENCY'S AND/OR CONTRACTOR'S USE OF OR ACQUISITION OF ANY REQUESTED SERVICES OR OTHER ITEMS PROVIDED TO SYSTEM AGENCY BY CONTRACTOR OR OTHERWISE TO WHICH SYSTEM AGENCY HAS ACCESS AS A RESULT OF CONTRACTOR'S PERFORMANCE UNDER THE CONTRACT.

#### **10.3 ADDITIONAL INDEMNITY PROVISIONS**

- A. CONTRACTOR AND SYSTEM AGENCY AGREE TO FURNISH TIMELY WRITTEN NOTICE TO EACH OTHER OF ANY INDEMNITY CLAIM. CONTRACTOR SHALL BE LIABLE TO PAY ALL COSTS OF DEFENSE, INCLUDING ATTORNEYS' FEES.
- B. THE DEFENSE SHALL BE COORDINATED BY THE CONTRACTOR WITH THE OFFICE OF THE TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL WHEN TEXAS STATE AGENCIES ARE NAMED DEFENDANTS IN ANY LAWSUIT AND CONTRACTOR MAY NOT AGREE TO ANY SETTLEMENT WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE CONCURRENCE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL.
- C. CONTRACTOR SHALL REIMBURSE SYSTEM AGENCY AND THE STATE OF TEXAS FOR ANY CLAIMS, DAMAGES, COSTS, EXPENSES OR OTHER AMOUNTS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ATTORNEYS'

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**FEES AND COURT COSTS, ARISING FROM ANY SUCH CLAIM. IF THE SYSTEM AGENCY DETERMINES THAT A CONFLICT EXISTS BETWEEN ITS INTERESTS AND THOSE OF CONTRACTOR OR IF SYSTEM AGENCY IS REQUIRED BY APPLICABLE LAW TO SELECT SEPARATE COUNSEL, SYSTEM AGENCY WILL BE PERMITTED TO SELECT SEPARATE COUNSEL AND CONTRACTOR SHALL PAY ALL REASONABLE COSTS OF SYSTEM AGENCY'S COUNSEL.**

## **ARTICLE XI. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **11.1 AMENDMENT**

The Contract may only be amended by an Amendment executed by both Parties.

### **11.2 INSURANCE**

- A. Unless otherwise specified in this Contract, Contractor shall acquire and maintain, for the duration of this Contract, insurance coverage necessary to ensure proper fulfillment of this Contract and potential liabilities thereunder with financially sound and reputable insurers licensed by the Texas Department of Insurance, in the type and amount customarily carried within the industry as determined by the System Agency. Contractor shall provide evidence of insurance as required under this Contract, including a schedule of coverage or underwriter's schedules establishing to the satisfaction of the System Agency the nature and extent of coverage granted by each such policy, upon request by the System Agency. In the event that any policy is determined by the System Agency to be deficient to comply with the terms of this Contract, Contractor shall secure such additional policies or coverage as the System Agency may reasonably request or that are required by law or regulation. If coverage expires during the term of this Contract, Contractor must produce renewal certificates for each type of coverage.
- B. These and all other insurance requirements under the Contract apply to both Contractor and its Subcontractors, if any. Contractor is responsible for ensuring its Subcontractors' compliance with all requirements.

### **11.3 LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY**

- A. The authority granted to Contractor by the System Agency is limited to the terms of the Contract.
- B. Contractor shall not have any authority to act for or on behalf of the System Agency or the State of Texas except as expressly provided for in the Contract; no other authority, power, or use is granted or implied. Contractor may not incur any debt, obligation, expense, or liability of any kind on behalf of System Agency or the State of Texas.
- C. Contractor may not rely upon implied authority and is not granted authority under the Contract to:
  - i. Make public policy on behalf of the System Agency;
  - ii. Promulgate, amend, or disregard administrative regulations or program policy decisions made by State and federal agencies responsible for administration of a System Agency program; or
  - iii. Unilaterally communicate or negotiate with any federal or state agency or the Texas Legislature on behalf of the System Agency regarding System Agency

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programs or the Contract. However, upon System Agency request and with reasonable notice from System Agency to the Contractor, the Contractor shall assist the System Agency in communications and negotiations regarding the Work under the Contract with state and federal governments.

#### **11.4 LEGAL OBLIGATIONS**

Contractor shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and regulations, including all federal and state accessibility laws relating to direct and indirect use of information and communication technology. Contractor shall be deemed to have knowledge of all applicable laws and regulations and be deemed to understand them.

#### **11.5 CHANGE IN LAWS AND COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS**

Contractor shall comply with all laws, regulations, requirements and guidelines applicable to a vendor providing services and products required by the Contract to the State of Texas, as these laws, regulations, requirements and guidelines currently exist and as amended throughout the term of the Contract. System Agency reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to unilaterally amend the Contract to incorporate any modifications necessary for System Agency's compliance, as an agency of the State of Texas, with all applicable state and federal laws, regulations, requirements and guidelines.

#### **11.6 E-VERIFY PROGRAM**

Contractor certifies that for Contracts for Services, Contractor shall utilize the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system during the term of the Contract to determine the eligibility of:

- i. all persons employed by Contractor to perform duties within Texas; and
- ii. all persons, including subcontractors, assigned by the Contractor to perform Work pursuant to the Contract within the United States of America.

#### **11.7 PERMITTING AND LICENSURE**

At Contractor's sole expense, Contractor shall procure and maintain for the duration of this Contract any state, county, city, or federal license, authorization, insurance, waiver, permit, qualification or certification required by statute, ordinance, law, or regulation to be held by Contractor to provide the goods or Services required by this Contract.

Contractor shall be responsible for payment of all taxes, assessments, fees, premiums, permits, and licenses required by law. Contractor shall be responsible for payment of any such government obligations not paid by its Subcontractors during performance of this Contract.

#### **11.8 SUBCONTRACTORS**

Contractor may not subcontract any or all of the Work and/or obligations under the Contract without prior written approval of the System Agency. Subcontracts, if any, entered into by the Contractor shall be in writing and be subject to the requirements of the Contract. Should Contractor Subcontract any of the services required in the Contract, Contractor expressly understands and acknowledges that in entering into such Subcontract(s), System Agency is in no manner liable to any subcontractor(s) of Contractor. In no event shall this provision relieve Contractor of the responsibility for

ensuring that the services performed under all Subcontracts are rendered in compliance with the Contract.

#### **11.9 INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**

Contractor and Contractor's employees, representatives, agents, Subcontractors, suppliers, and third-party service providers shall serve as independent contractors in providing the services under the Contract. Neither Contractor nor System Agency is an agent of the other and neither may make any commitments on the other party's behalf. Contractor shall have no claim against System Agency for vacation pay, sick leave, retirement benefits, social security, worker's compensation, health or disability benefits, unemployment insurance benefits, or employee benefits of any kind. The Contract shall not create any joint venture, partnership, agency, or employment relationship between Contractor and System Agency.

#### **11.10 GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE**

This Contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to the conflicts of law provisions. The venue of any suit arising under the Contract is fixed in any court of competent jurisdiction of Travis County, Texas, unless the specific venue is otherwise identified in a statute which directly names or otherwise identifies its applicability to the System Agency.

#### **11.11 SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of the Contract is held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable by a court of law or equity, such construction will not affect the legality, validity or enforceability of any other provision or provisions of this Contract. It is the intent and agreement of the Parties this Contract shall be deemed amended by modifying such provision to the extent necessary to render it valid, legal and enforceable while preserving its intent or, if such modification is not possible, by substituting another provision that is valid, legal and enforceable and that achieves the same objective. All other provisions of this Contract will continue in full force and effect.

#### **11.12 SURVIVABILITY**

Expiration or termination of the Contract for any reason does not release Contractor from any liability or obligation set forth in the Contract that is expressly stated to survive any such expiration or termination, that by its nature would be intended to be applicable following any such expiration or termination, or that is necessary to fulfill the essential purpose of the Contract, including without limitation the provisions regarding warranty, indemnification, confidentiality, and rights and remedies upon termination.

#### **11.13 FORCE MAJEURE**

Neither Contractor nor System Agency shall be liable to the other for any delay in, or failure of performance of, any requirement included in the Contract caused by force majeure. The existence of such causes of delay or failure shall extend the period of performance until after the causes of delay or failure have been removed provided the non-performing party exercises all reasonable due diligence to perform. Force majeure is defined as acts of God, war, fires, explosions, hurricanes, floods, failure of transportation, or other causes that are beyond the reasonable control of either party and that by exercise of due foresight such party could not reasonably have been expected to

avoid, and which, by the exercise of all reasonable due diligence, such party is unable to overcome.

#### **11.14 DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

- A. The dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260 of the Texas Government Code must be used to attempt to resolve any dispute arising under the Contract. If the Contractor's claim for breach of contract cannot be resolved informally with the System Agency, the claim shall be submitted to the negotiation process provided in Chapter 2260. To initiate the process, the Contractor shall submit written notice, as required by Chapter 2260, to the individual identified in the Contract for receipt of notices. Any informal resolution efforts shall in no way modify the requirements or toll the timing of the formal written notice of a claim for breach of contract required under §2260.051 of the Texas Government Code. Compliance by the Contractor with Chapter 2260 is a condition precedent to the filing of a contested case proceeding under Chapter 2260.
- B. The contested case process provided in Chapter 2260 is the Contractor's sole and exclusive process for seeking a remedy for an alleged breach of contract by the System Agency if the Parties are unable to resolve their disputes as described above.
- C. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Contract to the contrary, unless otherwise requested or approved in writing by the System Agency, the Contractor shall continue performance and shall not be excused from performance during the period of any breach of contract claim or while the dispute is pending. However, the Contractor may suspend performance during the pendency of such claim or dispute if the Contractor has complied with all provisions of Section 2251.051, Texas Government Code, and such suspension of performance is expressly applicable and authorized under that law.

#### **11.15 NO IMPLIED WAIVER OF PROVISIONS**

The failure of the System Agency to object to or to take affirmative action with respect to any conduct of the Contractor which is in violation or breach of the terms of the Contract shall not be construed as a waiver of the violation or breach, or of any future violation or breach.

#### **11.16 MEDIA RELEASES**

- A. Contractor shall not use System Agency's name, logo, or other likeness in any press release, marketing material, or other announcement without System Agency's prior written approval. System Agency does not endorse any vendor, commodity, or service. Contractor is not authorized to make or participate in any media releases or public announcements pertaining to this Contract or the Services to which they relate without System Agency's prior written consent, and then only in accordance with explicit written instruction from System Agency.
- B. Contractor may publish, at its sole expense, results of Contractor performance under the Contract with the System Agency's prior review and approval, which the System Agency may exercise at its sole discretion. Any publication (written, visual, or sound) will acknowledge the support received from the System Agency and any Federal agency, as appropriate.

#### **11.17 NO MARKETING ACTIVITIES**

Contractor is prohibited from using the Work for any Contractor or third-party marketing, advertising, or promotional activities, without the prior written consent of System Agency. The foregoing prohibition includes, without limitation, the placement of banners, pop-up ads, or other advertisements promoting Contractor's or a third party's products, services, workshops, trainings, or other commercial offerings on any website portal or internet-based service or software application hosted or managed by Contractor as part of the Work.

#### **11.18 PROHIBITION ON NON-COMPETE RESTRICTIONS**

Contractor shall not require any employees or Subcontractors to agree to any conditions, such as non-compete clauses or other contractual arrangements that would limit or restrict such persons or entities from employment or contracting with the State of Texas.

#### **11.19 SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY**

Nothing in the Contract shall be construed as a waiver of the System Agency's or the State's sovereign immunity. This Contract shall not constitute or be construed as a waiver of any of the privileges, rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities available to the System Agency or the State of Texas. The failure to enforce, or any delay in the enforcement of, any privileges, rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities available to the System Agency or the State of Texas under the Contract or under applicable law shall not constitute a waiver of such privileges, rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities or be considered as a basis for estoppel. System Agency does not waive any privileges, rights, defenses, or immunities available to System Agency by entering into the Contract or by its conduct prior to or subsequent to entering into the Contract.

#### **11.20 ENTIRE CONTRACT AND MODIFICATION**

This Contract constitutes the entire agreement of the Parties and is intended as a complete and exclusive statement of the promises, representations, negotiations, discussions, and other agreements that may have been made in connection with the subject matter hereof. Any additional or conflicting terms in any future document incorporated into the Contract will be harmonized with this Contract to the extent possible.

#### **11.21 COUNTERPARTS**

This Contract may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which will be an original, and all such counterparts will together constitute but one and the same Contract.

#### **11.22 CIVIL RIGHTS**

- A. Contractor agrees to comply with state and federal anti-discrimination laws, including:
- i. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq.);
  - ii. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. §794);
  - iii. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.);
  - iv. Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107);
  - v. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1688);
  - vi. Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. §2011 et seq.); and
  - vii. The System Agency's administrative rules, as set forth in the Texas Administrative Code, to the extent applicable to this Contract.

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- B. Contractor agrees to comply with all amendments to the above-referenced laws, and all requirements imposed by the regulations issued pursuant to these laws. These laws provide in part that no persons in the United States may, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political beliefs, or religion, be excluded from participation in or denied any aid, care, service or other benefits provided by Federal or State funding, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination.
- C. Contractor agrees to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and its implementing regulations at 45 C.F.R. Part 80 or 7 C.F.R. Part 15, prohibiting a contractor from adopting and implementing policies and procedures that exclude or have the effect of excluding or limiting the participation of clients in its programs, benefits, or activities on the basis of national origin. State and federal civil rights laws require contractors to provide alternative methods for ensuring access to services for applicants and recipients who cannot express themselves fluently in English. Contractor agrees to take reasonable steps to provide services and information, both orally and in writing, in appropriate languages other than English, in order to ensure that persons with limited English proficiency are effectively informed and can have meaningful access to programs, benefits, and activities.
- D. Contractor agrees to post applicable civil rights posters in areas open to the public informing clients of their civil rights and including contact information for the HHS Civil Rights Office. The posters are available on the HHS website at: <https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/your-rights/civil-rights-office/civil-rights-posters>
- E. Contractor agrees to comply with Executive Order 13279, and its implementing regulations at 45 C.F.R. Part 87 or 7 C.F.R. Part 16. These provide in part that any organization that participates in programs funded by direct financial assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture or the United States Department of Health and Human Services shall not discriminate against a program beneficiary or prospective program beneficiary on the basis of religion or religious belief.
- F. Upon request, Contractor shall provide HHSC's Civil Rights Office with copies of the Contractor's civil rights policies and procedures.
- G. Contractor must notify HHSC's Civil Rights Office of any complaints of discrimination received relating to its performance under this Contract. This notice must be delivered no more than ten (10) calendar days after receipt of a complaint. Notice provided pursuant to this section must be directed to:  
HHSC Civil Rights Office  
701 W. 51st Street, Mail Code W206  
Austin, Texas 78751  
Phone Toll Free: (888) 388-6332  
Phone: (512) 438-4313  
Fax: (512) 438-5885  
Email: [HHSCivilRightsOffice@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:HHSCivilRightsOffice@hhsc.state.tx.us)

#### **11.23 ENTERPRISE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT STANDARDS**

Contractor shall conform to HHS standards for data management as described by the policies of the HHS Office of Data, Analytics, and Performance. These include, but are not limited to, standards for documentation and communication of data models, metadata, and other data definition methods that are required by HHS for ongoing data governance, strategic portfolio analysis, interoperability planning, and valuation of HHS System data assets.

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#### **11.24 DISCLOSURE OF LITIGATION**

- A. The Contractor must disclose in writing to the contract manager assigned to this Contract any material civil or criminal litigation or indictment either threatened or pending involving the Contractor. “Threatened litigation” as used herein shall include governmental investigations and civil investigative demands. “Litigation” as used herein shall include administrative enforcement actions brought by governmental agencies. The Contractor must also disclose any material litigation threatened or pending involving Subcontractors, consultants, and/or lobbyists. For purposes of this section, “material” refers, but is not limited, to any action or pending action that a reasonable person knowledgeable in the applicable industry would consider relevant to the Work under the Contract or any development such a person would want to be aware of in order to stay fully apprised of the total mix of information relevant to the Work, together with any litigation threatened or pending that may result in a substantial change in the Contractor’s financial condition.
- B. This is a continuing disclosure requirement; any litigation commencing after Contract Award must be disclosed in a written statement to the assigned contract manager within seven calendar days of its occurrence.

#### **11.25 NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES**

The Contract is made solely and specifically among and for the benefit of the Parties named herein and their respective successors and assigns, and no other person shall have any right, interest, or claims hereunder or be entitled to any benefits pursuant to or on account of the Contract as a third-party beneficiary or otherwise.

#### **11.26 BINDING EFFECT**

The Contract shall inure to the benefit of, be binding upon, and be enforceable against, each Party and their respective permitted successors, assigns, transferees, and delegates.