

**SEALED BID**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR**  
**Evaluation of Models for Internet Consumer Health Care**  
**Cost and Quality Information**

**Expected RFP Schedule Summary:**

DATE ISSUED	4/17/15
QUESTIONS DUE	4/28/15
WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS	5/1/15
BIDDERS' CONFERENCE CALL	5/5/15
WRITTEN RESPONSES TO BIDDERS' CALL	5/8/15
PROPOSALS DUE	5/21/15
DATE AND TIME OF BID OPENING	5/21/15 3pm EST
LOCATION OF BID OPENING	Green Mountain Care Board 89 Main Street City Center, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Montpelier VT 05620
SELECTION NOTIFICATION	6/12/15
WORK START DATE	7/3/15
FINAL DELIVERABLE DUE	9/28/15
CONTRACT END DATE	10/1/15

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL NOTIFICATIONS, RELEASES, AND AMENDMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS RFP WILL BE POSTED AT:

<http://www.vermontbidsystem.com/>  
<http://gmcboard.vermont.gov/RFP>

**CONTACT AGENT:** Janet Richard  
**MAILING ADDRESS:** Green Mountain Care Board  
89 Main Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620  
**TELEPHONE:** (802) 828-2901  
**E-MAIL:** Janet.Richard@state.vt.us

**SEALED BID INSTRUCTIONS**

All bids must be sealed and must be addressed to the Green Mountain Care Board, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05620. BID ENVELOPES MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED 'SEALED BID' AND SHOW THE REQUISITION NUMBER AND/OR BID TITLE, OPENING DATE AND NAME OF BIDDER. **ALL BID SUBMISSIONS MUST CONTAIN AN ORIGINAL AND FIVE (5) COMPLETE COPIES**

**and one electronic copy, which may be submitted on a CD or to the following email address: [Janet.Richard@state.vt.us](mailto:Janet.Richard@state.vt.us). If there are CONFIDENTIAL aspects to the bid submission, please provide (1) redacted hard copy WITH JUSTIFICATION to why the material is CONFIDENTIAL, as well as (1) redacted electronic copy.**

All bidders are hereby notified that sealed bids must be in the office of the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) by the bid due date and time. Bidders are cautioned that it is their responsibility to originate the sending of bids in sufficient time to insure receipt by the GMCB on or before the bid due date. Hand carried bids shall be delivered to a representative of the GMCB on or before the bid due date and stamped in by the GMCB representative to indicate the date and time of receipt. Bids not in possession of the GMCB by the due date and time will not be considered.

The GMCB may change the date and/or time of bid openings. If a change is made, the GMCB will make a reasonable effort to inform all bidders.

All bids will be opened publicly. Any interested party may attend bid openings. Bid results may be requested in writing and are available once an award has been made.

From the issue date of this RFP until a Contractor is selected and the selection is announced, bidders are prohibited from communicating with any GMCB staff regarding this procurement, except:

- Janet Richard, Green Mountain Care Board

The GMCB shall reserve the right to reject the proposal if this provision is violated.

**FAXED BIDS: FAXED bids will NOT be accepted.**

**ELECTRONIC BIDS: ELECTRONIC bids are required in addition to the hard copies.**

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## **1.0 Overview and General Information**

### **1.1 Overview**

The Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) is soliciting Proposals from qualified vendors to evaluate potential models for providing consumers with information via the internet about the cost and quality of health care services available within the geographical region in which Vermonters purchase care. The evaluation will include a comprehensive review and assessment of the models used in Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, as well as in other states that may make available medical price transparency tools or models for consumers, including but not limited to Colorado, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Virginia. In addition, the vendor will critically evaluate price transparency platforms developed for use by the private sector (for- and non-profit) which may, where instructive and appropriate, include review of widely used or highly regarded platforms (*e.g.*, HCCI's "guroo"), as well as any platforms developed and implemented by health insurers doing business in Vermont. The vendor will review and assess existing literature on the cost, efficacy and utilization of price transparency tools. In addition, the vendor will assess the feasibility of implementing the models and tools examined for use in Vermont. Such assessment will include, but not be limited to: examination of projected consumer utilization; required financial and human resources (including costs for start-up and for ongoing operations); funding mechanisms; the availability, accuracy and timeliness of data sources; consumer satisfaction; customer support; and projected return on investment.

Based on the successful vendor's analysis and evaluation, the vendor will provide the GMCB with a written Report summarizing its findings (including best practices), and with recommendations for the State, and will assist the GMCB with the preparation of a report due to the Vermont legislature no later than October 1, 2015.

### **1.2 RFP Background**

The GMCB was created by the Vermont Legislature in Act 48 of 2011. It is an independent group of five Vermonters who, with their staff, are charged with ensuring that changes in the health system improve quality while stabilizing costs. The Legislature assigned the GMCB three main areas of responsibility: regulation, innovation, and evaluation. The GMCB regulates health insurance rates, hospital budgets and major hospital expenditures. The Board innovates by testing new ways to pay for and deliver health care as part of its role in building a new health care system. Finally, the board evaluates innovation projects, proposals for what benefits should be included in Vermont's

evolving health system, proposals for funding the new system, and the effect of the new health care system on Vermont's economy.

A key tenet of GMCB's work is that it is transparent. The GMCB's weekly board meetings and its rate review, certificate of need, and hospital budget hearings are held in public. In addition, the GMCB routinely seeks stakeholder and public input and comment on all important decisional matters within its jurisdiction. Through each of these avenues, the GMCB seeks to empower consumers to make informed health care choices by ensuring that they have access to timely, relevant, and comprehensible information about the health care system in Vermont.

The work proposed in this RFP is intended to further that mission by analyzing and exploring methods used by other states, and by Vermont health insurers and by other entities and vendors, to provide cost and quality information via the internet to Vermont consumers of health care services.

## **2.0 Schedule of Events**

### **2.1 Questions and Answers**

Any Vendor requiring clarification of any section of this RFP or wishing to comment or take exception to any requirements or other portion of this RFP must submit specific questions in writing no later than **April 28, 2015**. Questions may be e-mailed to: [Janet.Richard@state.vt.us](mailto:Janet.Richard@state.vt.us) or sent through the mail to: **Janet Richard, Administrative Services Coordinator, Green Mountain Care Board, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05620**. At the close of the question period a copy of all questions or comments and the State's responses will be posted on the State's web site <http://bgs.vermont.gov/purchasing/bids> and on the GMCB website. Every effort will be made to have these available as soon after the question period ends, contingent on the number and complexity of the questions. **There will be a bidders conference call on May 5, 2015 at 2 PM EST. The conference call number is: 1-866-951-1151 the conference room number is: 9565654.**

## **3.0 Scope of Work**

### **3.1 Deliverables**

This RFP seeks a vendor who can assist the GMCB in preparing a report for legislative review that includes the assessment of multiple options for providing Vermont consumers of health care services with internet access to comparative health care cost and quality information. The vendor shall perform the specific tasks set forth in Section 1.1 of this RFP, which is incorporated herein by reference. The

vendor will provide its findings and recommendations to the GMCB in the form of a final written report that summarizes and analyzes the varied methods used by other states or by health insurers or health service vendors, and the efficacy and viability of each of the methods reviewed.

The successful vendor will present a *draft* of its final written report no later than September 11, 2015. Intermittent status check-ins will be performed either in-person or by phone-conference approximately on an as-needed-basis, beginning July 3, 2015 and the *final* project deliverable due on September 28, 2015. The contract shall end on October 1, 2015.

### ***Timeline for the Work:***

The work is to begin July 3, 2015 and end October 1, 2015. The state is required to submit a final report to the House Committee on Health Care, the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance, and the Health Reform Oversight Committee on or before October 1, 2015. Bidders should provide a timeline for the work described in this RFP, noting appropriate internal deadlines to fulfill this obligation. The GMCB expects work to begin on July 3, 2015, with a draft report due no later than September 11, 2015 and a final report will be due on September 28, 2015.

## **4.0 Method of Award**

Awards will be made in the best interest of the State of Vermont. The State may award one or more contracts and reserves the right to make additional awards to other compliant Vendors at any time during the first year of the contract if such award is deemed to be in the best interest of the State.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals that meet the specifications of this RFP, and that are received in this office by the appointed deadline, will be evaluated by a review committee composed of GMCB staff.

#### **Evaluation Factors**

- Understanding of Work
- Approach and Methodology
- Licenses or certifications

- Proposed Staff Education, Experience and References
- Wage requirements – hourly labor cost
- Availability and Flexibility - Work schedule restrictions (part-time, full-time, maximum days per week, maximum hours per week months per year, etc.)
- Presentation: Proposed staff experience and references, communication and organizational skills and other pertinent topics.

**Procedural Instructions:**

If the procedural instructions are not followed, the proposal shall be considered non-responsive. Non-responsive proposals will be eliminated from further evaluation.

**5.0 Instructions for Bid Preparation**

**5.1** The bid is the GMCB’s primary vehicle for obtaining essential information upon which contract award decisions are based. Instructions contained in the RFP must be met in order to qualify for consideration for award. Bids that do not meet or comply with all instructions may be considered non-responsive and may be discarded. **Mere reiterations of RFP-stated services are discouraged as they do not provide insight into the bidder understanding of the required tasks and responsibilities, nor the uniqueness of the bidder’s performance capabilities.**

**5.2 Bid Submission delivery methods:**

- U.S. MAIL: Vendors are cautioned that it is their responsibility to originate the mailing of bids in sufficient time to ensure bids are received and time stamped by the Office of Purchasing and Contracting prior to the time of the bid opening.
- EXPRESS DELIVERY: If bids are being sent via an express delivery service, be certain that the RFP designation is clearly shown on the outside of the delivery envelope or box. Express delivery packages will not be considered received by the State until the express delivery package has been received and time stamped by the Office of Purchasing & Contracting.
- HAND DELIVERY: Hand carried bids shall be delivered to a representative of the Office of Purchasing & Contracting prior to the bid opening.

- ELECTRONIC: Electronic bids will be accepted in addition to the hard copy bids.
- FAX BIDS: FAXED bids will not be accepted.

### 5.3 Specific RFP Response

Vendors must describe their experience for completing similar work as outlined in Section 3- Scope of Work as well as describe their qualifications for meeting the Professional Service Requirements in Section 4. Additionally, Vendors must provide information specific to the personnel (including any subcontractors) assigned to accomplish the work called for in this RFP. Vendors must provide a narrative description of the personnel who will actually work on the contract and provide their title and resume.

**References:** Provide the names, addresses, and phone numbers of at least three companies or State Agencies that the individual you are proposing has performed similar work within the last 3 years. You must include contact names who can talk knowledgeably about performance and deliverables. The State reserves the right to contact any references provided by the Vendor. The State invites Vendors to provide letters of reference from previous clients.

**Technical Bid:** This section must describe the bidder's approach and plans for accomplishing the work outlined in the Scope of Work and Contractor Responsibilities section of this RFP. These plans and approaches must be described in sufficient detail to permit the GMCB to fully evaluate them. Further, the bidder must describe the effort and skills necessary to complete the project. The section must contain at least the following information:

A brief introduction outlining the bidder's overall technical approach to complete the requirements. The narrative must demonstrate to the GMCB an understanding of the process that is to be implemented, and persuade the GMCB that the bidder understands the nature of the required work, and the level of effort required.

A description of how the work will be accomplished. Simple statements that a task will be completed or a reiteration of the RFP are not helpful. **Section 3** of this RFP (**Scope of Work**) shows the interface between the GMCB's responsibilities and the Contractor's



responsibilities. Using Section 3 as a guide, the bidder must describe how it will fulfill these responsibilities.

A summary of the problems that the bidder might reasonably expect and its solution to those anticipated problems must be provided.

Enough information must be provided so that the GMCB is assured that the Contractor will be prepared to establish fully effective and efficient operations on the contract's effective start date.

The bidder must supply detailed information concerning any subcontractors proposed to be used during the performance of the responsibilities under the contract.

**Organizational Experience:** This section of the bid must contain pertinent information relating to the bidder's organization, personnel, and experience, including references together with a contact name and telephone number that will substantiate the bidder's qualifications and performance record. The bid must contain at least the following:

- Location of the bidder's headquarters and offices.

- If applicable, the bidder must provide the following information about itself and any parent corporation and all subsidiaries and affiliates: (1) an organizational chart by ownership of all affiliated entities; (2) the names and addresses of owners/partners/shareholders of each entity; and (3) the names and addresses of members of the governing board of each entity.

- The bid must include a description of the bidder's background and experience in healthcare, and general understanding of the health care system and health insurance in Vermont. Documentation that clearly shows the bidder's experience in performing similar projects must be included. Bidders must include a list of references that reflect this experience.

- The bidder must offer such documentation as it believes sufficient to show proof of the bidder's financial capacity to undertake the responsibilities required under this contract.

- The bidder must be free of actual or apparent conflict of interest.

-The bidder shall procure and maintain professional liability insurance for any and all services performed under the contract, with minimum coverage of \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

**Cost Bid:** The bidder should offer a cost proposal, distinct from the technical proposal, to provide **one hourly rate for each staff class identified in the proposal.** A blended rate, whereby a proposal identifies one hourly rate for all categories of services, is not acceptable. The GMCB will also not accept a range of hourly compensation for the same staff level or function. Any contract written will require receipts for all expenses other than vehicle mileage or will use per diem rates specified in the “General Service Administration (GSA) Per Diem 2000 study” for lodging, meals and incidentals. Vehicle mileage will be reimbursed at a rate determined at the time the contract is executed. The Contractor must bill the GMCB for work performed at least once a month.

Cost bids must be related to the functions and responsibilities outlined in Section 4.

## **6.0 BID SUBMISSION**

**6.1 DUE DATE:** The closing date for the receipt of bids is **at 3:00 p.m. EST on 5/21/15.**

The bid opening will be held at 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT (3<sup>rd</sup> floor) at the date and time listed on page one and is open to the public.

**All bids** shall be submitted in a sealed package and must be clearly marked as follows:

### **Evaluation of Models for Internet Consumer Health Care Cost and Quality Information**

**6.2 Confidentiality:**

All submittals will be subject to the State’s Access to Public Records Law, 1 VSA§ 315 et seq. Subsequent to award of this RFP, all or part of any submittal will be released to any person or firm who requests it. Vendors shall specify in their cover letter if they desire that any portion of their submittal be treated as proprietary and not releasable as public information. **A redacted hard copy and electronic copy should be included for portions of submittal that is proprietary.**

### **6.3 Submission Checklist**

Hard *Copies* (5)

Original Unbound *Master* (1)

Redacted Hardcopy (1)

1 CD or emailed electronic copy of the bid along with a redacted electronic copy

Cover Letter, including vendor contact information: physical and electronic address

Experience & Qualifications

References

Cost Proposal

Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants

Offshore/outsourcing form

Certificate of Compliance

Workers' Compensation; State Contracts Compliance Requirement; Self Reporting

Workers' Compensation; State Contracts Compliance Requirement; Subcontractor

Reporting

### **6.4 Attachments:**

Attachment A: Certificate of Compliance

Attachment B: Offshore Outsourcing Questionnaire

Attachment C: Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants (Sept 2, 2014)

Workers' Compensation; State Contracts Compliance Requirement; Self Reporting

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Attachment D: Sample Contract

Attachment E: Other Contract Provisions

Attachment F: Organizational Chart

## **7.0 General Terms and Conditions**

### **7.1 Statement of Rights**

The State of Vermont reserves the right to obtain clarification or additional information necessary to properly evaluate a proposal. Vendors may be asked to give a verbal presentation of their proposal after submission. Failure of Vendor to respond to a request for additional information or clarification could result in rejection of that Vendor's proposal. To secure a project that is deemed to be in the best interest of the State, the State reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids, in whole or in part, with or without cause, and to waive technicalities in submissions. The State also reserves the right to make purchases outside of the awarded Contracts where it is deemed in the best interest of the State.

### **7.2 Non-Disclosure Agreement**

Contractors will be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement in a form acceptable to the State if there is not already one on file.

### **7.3 Location of Work**

As a general rule, project work will be done offsite. The Contractor will be required to work on-site on occasion to Montpelier, VT, where space will be provided, however travel to other State facilities may be needed and the vendor will be responsible for such travel using its own mode of transportation. Occasional exceptions to this rule may be established by mutual agreement between the Contractor and the State.

Where applicable, the State will provide a project facility with desks, telephone, LAN connections, and printers. If specific laptop computers or other mobile peripheral devices are required by the Contractor then the Contractor must provide its own equipment and will be given the appropriate support by the State. Contractors will be provided support by the State in setting up any accounts or connections required (i.e. State email system, network connectivity, network printing etc.) and vendors will have access to State phones for use in project related business calls. The State will not pay Contractors' cell phone bills.

**7.4 CONTRACT TERMS:** The selected bidder(s) will sign a contract with the GMCB to provide the services named in the bid, at the price listed. A copy of the standard State contract is

attached. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE STATE WILL NOT ACCEPT THE VENDOR'S TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN LIEU OF THE STANDARD STATE CONTRACT PROVISIONS. Acknowledgment of Terms:

A statement from the Vendor and its legal counsel acknowledging all Customary State Contract Provisions and Purchasing and Contract Administration Terms and Conditions with any exceptions or additional provisions noted. (These will be considered when making an award).

The GMCB may cancel upon discovery that a bidder is in violation of any portion of the agreement, including an inability by the bidder to provide the services, and/or support offered in their bid. Contracts may be amended by mutual agreement of the parties. The contract may be cancelled by the GMCB by giving written notice at least 30 days in advance. The Contractor may cancel the contract by giving 120 days written notice in advance. If, during the term of the contract, the Contractor cannot provide the required services using the personnel identified in the bid, the Contractor will notify the GMCB and provide assurances that the substitute personnel will in no way diminish the capacity of the Contractor to perform.

#### **7.5 Work Product**

All Work Product shall belong exclusively to the State, with the State having the sole and exclusive right to apply for, obtain, register, hold and renew, in its own name and/or for its own benefit, all patents and copyrights, and all applications and registrations, renewals and continuations thereof and/or any and all other appropriate protection. To the extent exclusive title and/or complete and exclusive ownership rights in and to any Work Product may not originally vest in the State by operation of Laws or otherwise as contemplated hereunder, Contractor shall immediately upon request, unconditionally and irrevocably assign, transfer and convey to the State all right, title and interest therein.

“Work Product” means any tangible or intangible work product, creation, material, item or deliverable, documentation, information and/or other items created by Contractor, either solely or jointly with others, including by Contractor staffing that are specifically commissioned by the State under a Contract or other written agreement, and which are developed, conceived of, prepared, procured, generated or produced by Contractor. Work Product specifically excludes any tangible or

intangible work product, creation, material, item or deliverable, documentation, information, deliverables and/or other items which were proprietary to the Contractor prior to the date of contracting with the State. Work Product may include ideas, inventions, improvements, discoveries, methodologies or processes, or writings, designs, models, drawings, photographs, reports, formulas, algorithms, patterns, devices, compilations, databases, computer programs, specifications, operating instructions, procedures manuals, or other documentation, whether or not protectable under Title 17 of the U.S. Code and whether or not patentable or otherwise protectable under Title 35 of the U.S. Code, that are developed, conceived of, prepared, arise, procured, generated or produced in connection with a Contract with the State, whether as individual items or a combination of components and whether or not the Services or the intended Work Product itself are or is completed or the same are or is reduced to practice during the Term.

## **7.6 Confidentiality of State Information**

Contractor agrees to keep confidential all information received and collected by Contractor, or to which the Contractor may have access to or come in contact with in connection with a project. The Contractor agrees not to publish, reproduce, or otherwise divulge any such State information in whole or in part, in any manner or form or authorize or permit others to do so. Contractor will take reasonable measures as are necessary to restrict access to State Information in the Contractor's possession to those employees on his/her staff who must have the information on a "need to know" basis. The Contractor shall promptly notify the State of any request or demand by any court, governmental agency or other person asserting a demand or request for State information to which the Contractor or any third party hosting service of the Contractor may have access, so that the State may seek an appropriate protective order. In the Contract, the Contractor shall represent and warrant that it has implemented and it shall maintain during the term of any agreement the highest industry standard administrative, technical, and physical safeguards and controls consistent with NIST *Special Publication 800-53* and *Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 200* and designed to (i) ensure the security and confidentiality of State Information; (ii) protect against any anticipated security threats or hazards to the security or integrity of the State Information; and (iii) protect against unauthorized access to or use of State

Information. Such measures include at a minimum, as applicable: (1) access controls on information systems, including controls to authenticate and permit access to State Information only to authorized individuals and controls to prevent the Contractor employees from providing State Information to unauthorized individuals who may seek to obtain this information (whether through fraudulent means or otherwise); (2) industry-standard firewall protection; (3) encryption of electronic State Information while in transit from the Contractor networks to external networks; (4) measures to store in a secure fashion all State Information which shall include multiple levels of authentication; (5) dual control procedures, segregation of duties, and pre-employment criminal background checks for employees with responsibilities for or access to State Information; (6) measures to ensure that the State Information shall not be altered or corrupted without the prior written consent of the State; (7) measures to protect against destruction, loss or damage of State Information due to potential environmental hazards, such as fire and water damage; (8) staff training to implement the information security measures; and (9) monitoring of the security of any portions of the Contractor systems that are used in the provision of the services against intrusion on a twenty-four (24) hour a day basis.

#### **7.7 Performance Measures**

In accordance with current State of Vermont policy and procedures, the Contract may include Contractor performance measures. The specific performance measures will be determined during the Contract negotiation process.

#### **7.8 Taxes**

Most State purchases are not subject to federal or state sales or excise taxes and must be invoiced tax free. An exemption certificate will be furnished upon request covering taxable items. The Contractor agrees to pay all Vermont taxes which may be due as a result of this order. If taxes are to be applied to the purchase it will be so noted in the response.

#### **7.9 Amendments**

No changes, modifications, or amendments in the terms and conditions of a Contract shall be effective unless reduced to writing, numbered, and signed by the duly authorized representative of the State and Contractor.

### **7.10 Non Collusion**

The State of Vermont is conscious of and concerned about collusion. It should therefore be understood by all that in signing bid and contract documents they agree that the prices quoted have been arrived at without collusion and that no prior information concerning these prices has been received from or given to a competitive company. If there is sufficient evidence to warrant investigation of the bid/contract process by the Office of the Attorney General, all Vendors should understand that this paragraph might be used as a basis for litigation.

### **7.11 Insurance**

In addition to the insurance coverages required in Attachment C, ***Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants***, the Contractor shall carry Professional Liability insurance and data breach insurance in minimum coverage amounts of \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

### **7.12 Business Registration**

To be awarded a contract by the State of Vermont a Vendor must be (except an individual doing business in his/her own name) registered with the Vermont Secretary of State's office <http://www.sec.state.vt.us/tutor/dobiz/forms/fcregist.htm> and must obtain a Contractor's Business Account Number issued by the Vermont Department of Taxes <http://www.state.vt.us/tax/pdf.word.excel/forms/business/s-1&instr.pdf>

### **7.13 Contract Negotiation**

Upon completion of the evaluation process, the State may select one or more Vendors with which to negotiate a contract, based on the evaluation findings and other criteria deemed relevant for ensuring that the decision made is in the best interest of the State of Vermont. In the event the State is successful in negotiating with the Vendor, the State will issue a notice of award. In the event State is not successful in negotiating a contract with a selected Vendor, the State reserves the option of negotiating with another Vendor.



#### **7.14 Worker's Compensation; State Contracts Compliance Requirement**

The Department of Buildings and General Services in accordance with Act 54, Section 32 of the Acts of 2009 and for total projects costs exceeding \$250,000.00, requires Vendors comply with the following provisions and requirements.

- (a) (1) Vendor is required to self-report detailed information including information relating to past violations, convictions, suspensions, and any other information related to past performance and likely compliance with proper coding and classification of employees requested by the applicable agency.
- The Vendor is required to report information on any violations that occurred in the previous 12 months.
- (a) (2) Vendor is required to provide a list of subcontractors on the job along with lists of subcontractor's subcontractors and by whom those subcontractors are insured for workers' compensation purposes. Include additional pages if necessary. This is not a requirement for subcontractor's providing supplies only and no labor to the overall contract or project.

**In order for a Vendor's response to be considered valid, Vendors must complete and submit the following two (2) forms at time of bid:**

Workers' Compensation; State Contracts Compliance Requirement; Self Reporting

Workers' Compensation; State Contracts Compliance Requirement; Subcontractor Reporting

#### **7.15 Certificate of Compliance**

This form must be completed and submitted as part of the response for the proposal to be considered valid.

#### **7.16 Offshore Outsourcing Questionnaire**

This form must be completed and submitted as part of the proposal to be considered valid.

#### **7.17 Price Guarantee**

Contractor is required to maintain its price for a fixed period of time. Provide an hourly rate for future work should an extension of the Contractor's services be requested.

## **7.18 Terms and Conditions for Technology Contracts**

The State will reserve the right to terminate a Contract upon discovery that a Contractor is in violation of any portion of the Contract.

### **Vendors planning to submit a bid are advised of the following:**

1. All contracts are subject to review and approval by the Chief Information Officer, the Office of the Attorney General and the Secretary of Administration.
2. The Vendor should guarantee that its rate offerings, over the term of the Contract, are comparable to other customers of similar size and requirements. If offerings are rendered to a comparable customer which improve the pricing agreed to in the Contract, the Vendor agrees to apply those same discounts and offerings to the State of Vermont.
3. The State of Vermont has no legal authority to indemnify a Vendor, nor limit the liability of the Vendor from third party claims against the Vendor. These 2 conditions are not negotiable. Vendors who are not able to legally enter into a Contract under those conditions should not submit a bid.

### **Required Project Policies, Guidelines and Methodologies**

The Contractor shall be required to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, policies, standards, fingerprint supported background checks, and guidelines affecting State of Vermont IT projects, which may be created or changed periodically. It is the responsibility of the Contractor to insure adherence and to remain abreast of new or revised Laws, regulations, policies, standards and guidelines affecting project execution. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- The State's Enterprise Architecture Program
- The State Information Technology Security Policy and Standards
- The State Digital Imaging Guidelines
- The State File Formats Policy and Guidelines
- The State's Record Management Best Practice

The above policies and/or guidelines can all be found here: [http://dii.vermont.gov/Policy\\_Central](http://dii.vermont.gov/Policy_Central)



## Worker's Compensation; State Contracts Compliance Requirement

RFP/PROJECT:

DATE:

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION; STATE CONTRACTS COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT

#### Self Reporting Form 1 of 2

**This form must be completed in its entirety and submitted as part of the response for the proposal to be considered valid.**

The Department of Buildings and General Services in accordance with Act 54, Section 32 of the Acts of 2009 and for total projects costs exceeding \$250,000.00, requires Vendors comply with the following provisions and requirements.

Vendor is required to self report the following information relating to past violations, convictions, suspensions, and any other information related to past performance relative to coding and classification for worker's compensation. The state is requiring information on any violations that occurred in the previous 12 months.

Summary of Detailed Information	Date of Notification	Outcome

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION STATE CONTRACTS COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT:** Vendor hereby certifies that the company/individual is in compliance with the requirements as detailed in Act 54, Section 32 of the Acts of 2009.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Bid Not Valid Unless Signed)\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type or Print)

\*Form must be signed by individual authorized to sign on the Vendor's behalf.

RFP/PROJECT:

DATE:

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION; STATE CONTRACTS COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT**

**Subcontractor Reporting**

Form 2 of 2

**This form must be completed in its entirety and submitted as part of the response for the proposal to be considered valid.**

The Department of Buildings and General Services in accordance with Act 54, Section 32 of the Acts of 2009 and for total projects costs exceeding \$250,000.00 requires bidders to comply with the following provisions and requirements.

Bidder is required to provide a list of subcontractors on the job along with lists of subcontractor's subcontractors and by whom those subcontractors are insured for workers' compensation purposes. Include additional pages if necessary. This is not a requirement for subcontractor's providing supplies only and no labor to the overall contract or project.

Subcontractor	Insured By		Subcontractor's Sub	Insured By

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Bid Not Valid Unless Signed)\*

(Type or Print)

\*Form must be signed by individual authorized to sign on the bidder's behalf.

**Attachment B: Offshore Outsourcing Questionnaire**

Vendors must indicate whether or not any services are or will be outsourced under the terms of any agreement with the State of Vermont. Indicate N/A if not applicable. This is required by the State of Vermont but cannot be used as an evaluation criterion under Federal Law.

**Services:**

Proposed Service to be Outsourced	Bid Total or Contract Estimate	Represents what % of total Contract Dollars	Outsourced Dollars	Outsourced Work Location (Country)	Subcontractor

If any or all of the services are or will be outsourced offshore, Vendors are required to provide a cost estimate of what the cost would be to provide the same services onshore and/or in Vermont.

Proposed Service to be Outsourced	Bid Total or Contract Estimate if provided Onshore	Bid Total or Contract Estimate if provided in Vermont	Cost Impact	Onshore Work Location	Subcontractor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Bidder:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Bidder:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:



## **ATTACHMENT C: STANDARD STATE PROVISIONS FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS**

- 1. Entire Agreement:** This Agreement, whether in the form of a Contract, State Funded Grant, or Federally Funded Grant, represents the entire agreement between the parties on the subject matter. All prior agreements, representations, statements, negotiations, and understandings shall have no effect.
- 2. Applicable Law:** This Agreement will be governed by the laws of the State of Vermont.
- 3. Definitions:** For purposes of this Attachment, "Party" shall mean the Contractor, Grantee or Subrecipient, with whom the State of Vermont is executing this Agreement and consistent with the form of the Agreement.
- 4. Appropriations:** If this Agreement extends into more than one fiscal year of the State (July 1 to June 30), and if appropriations are insufficient to support this Agreement, the State may cancel at the end of the fiscal year, or otherwise upon the expiration of existing appropriation authority. In the case that this Agreement is a Grant that is funded in whole or in part by federal funds, and in the event federal funds become unavailable or reduced, the State may suspend or cancel this Grant immediately, and the State shall have no obligation to pay Subrecipient from State revenues.
- 5. No Employee Benefits For Party:** The Party understands that the State will not provide any individual retirement benefits, group life insurance, group health and dental insurance, vacation or sick leave, workers compensation or other benefits or services available to State employees, nor will the state withhold any state or federal taxes except as required under applicable tax laws, which shall be determined in advance of execution of the Agreement. The Party understands that all tax returns required by the Internal Revenue Code and the State of Vermont, including but not limited to income, withholding, sales and use, and rooms and meals, must be filed by the Party, and information as to Agreement income will be provided by the State of Vermont to the Internal Revenue Service and the Vermont Department of Taxes.
- 6. Independence, Liability:** The Party will act in an independent capacity and not as officers or employees of the State.

The Party shall defend the State and its officers and employees against all claims or suits arising in whole or in part from any act or omission of the Party or of any agent of the Party. The State shall notify the Party in the event of any such claim or suit, and the Party shall immediately retain counsel and otherwise provide a complete defense against the entire claim or suit.

After a final judgment or settlement the Party may request recoupment of specific defense costs and may file suit in Washington Superior Court requesting recoupment. The Party shall be entitled to recoup costs only upon a showing that such costs were entirely unrelated to the defense of any claim arising from an act or omission of the Party.

The Party shall indemnify the State and its officers and employees in the event that the State, its officers or employees become legally obligated to pay any damages or losses arising from any act or omission of the Party.

- 7. Insurance:** Before commencing work on this Agreement the Party must provide certificates of insurance to show that the following minimum coverages are in effect. It is the responsibility of the Party to maintain current certificates of insurance on file with the state through the term of the Agreement. No warranty is made that the coverages and limits listed herein are adequate to cover and protect the interests of the Party for the Party's operations.

These are solely minimums that have been established to protect the interests of the State.

Workers Compensation: With respect to all operations performed, the Party shall carry workers' compensation insurance in accordance with the laws of the State of Vermont.

General Liability and Property Damage: With respect to all operations performed under the contract, the Party shall carry general liability insurance having all major divisions of coverage including, but not limited to:

Premises - Operations  
Products and Completed Operations  
Personal Injury Liability  
Contractual Liability

The policy shall be on an occurrence form and limits shall not be less than:

\$1,000,000 Per Occurrence  
\$1,000,000 General Aggregate  
\$1,000,000 Products/Completed Operations Aggregate  
\$ 50,000 Fire/ Legal/Liability

Party shall name the State of Vermont and its officers and employees as additional insureds for liability arising out of this Agreement.

Automotive Liability: The Party shall carry automotive liability insurance covering all motor vehicles, including hired and non-owned coverage, used in connection with the Agreement. Limits of coverage shall not be less than: \$1,000,000 combined single limit.

Party shall name the State of Vermont and its officers and employees as additional insureds for liability arising out of this Agreement.

- 8. Reliance by the State on Representations:** All payments by the State under this Agreement will be made in reliance upon the accuracy of all prior representations by the Party, including but not limited to bills, invoices, progress reports and other proofs of work.
- 9. Requirement to Have a Single Audit:** In the case that this Agreement is a Grant that is funded in whole or in part by federal funds, the Subrecipient will complete the

Subrecipient Annual Report annually within 45 days after its fiscal year end, informing the State of Vermont whether or not a Single Audit is required for the prior fiscal year. If a Single

Audit is required, the Subrecipient will submit a copy of the audit report to the granting Party within 9 months. If a single audit is not required, only the Subrecipient Annual Report is required.

For fiscal years ending before December 25, 2015, a Single Audit is required if the subrecipient expends \$500,000 or more in federal assistance during its fiscal year and must be conducted in accordance with OMB Circular A-133. For fiscal years ending on or after December 25, 2015, a Single Audit is required if the subrecipient expends \$750,000 or more in federal assistance during its fiscal year and must be conducted in accordance with 2 CFR Chapter I, Chapter II, Part 200, Subpart F. The Subrecipient Annual Report is required to be submitted within 45 days, whether or not a Single Audit is required.

**10. Records Available for Audit:** The Party shall maintain all records pertaining to performance under this agreement. "Records" means any written or recorded information, regardless of physical form or characteristics, which is produced or acquired by the Party in electronic format shall be maintained in that format. The records described shall be made available at reasonable times during the period of the Agreement and for three years thereafter or for any period required by law for inspection by any authorized representatives of the State or Federal Government. If any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the three year period, the records shall be retained until all litigation, claims or audit findings involving the records have been resolved.

**11. Fair Employment Practices and Americans with Disabilities Act:** Party agrees to comply with the requirement of Title 21V.S.A. Chapter 5, Subchapter 6, relating to fair employment practices, to the full extent applicable. Party shall also ensure, to the full extent required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, that qualified individuals with disabilities receive equitable access to the services, programs, and activities provided by the Party under this Agreement. Party further agrees to include this provision in all subcontracts.

**12. Set Off:** The State may set off any sums which the Party owes the State against any sums due the Party under this Agreement; provided, however, that any set off of amounts due the State of Vermont as taxes shall be in accordance with the procedures more specifically provided hereinafter.

**13. Taxes Due to the State:**

- a. Party understands and acknowledges responsibility, if applicable, for compliance with State tax laws, including income tax withholding for employees performing services within the State, payment of use tax on property used within the State, corporate and/or personal income tax on income earned within the State.

- b. Party certifies under the pains and penalties of perjury that, as of the date the Agreement is signed, the Party is in good standing with respect to, or in full compliance with, a plan to pay any and all taxes due the State of Vermont.
- c. Party understands that final payment under this Agreement may be withheld if the Commissioner of Taxes determines that the Party is not in good standing with respect to or in full compliance with a plan to pay any and all taxes due to the State of Vermont.
- d. Party also understands the State may set off taxes (and related penalties, interest and fees) due to the State of Vermont, but only if the Party has failed to make an appeal within the time allowed by law, or an appeal has been taken and finally determined and the Party has no further legal recourse to contest the amounts due.

**14. Child Support:** (Applicable if the Party is a natural person, not a corporation or partnership.) Party states that, as of the date the Agreement is signed, he/she:

- a. is not under any obligation to pay child support; or
- b. is under such an obligation and is in good standing with respect to that obligation;
- or c. has agreed to a payment plan with the Vermont Office of Child Support Services and is in full compliance with that plan.

Party makes this statement with regard to support owed to any and all children residing in Vermont. In addition, if the Party is a resident of Vermont, Party makes this statement with regard to support owed to any and all children residing in any other state or territory of the United States.

**15. Sub-Agreements:** Party shall not assign, subcontract or subgrant the performance of this Agreement or any portion thereof to any other Party without the prior written approval of the State. Party also agrees to include in all subcontract or subgrant agreements a tax certification in accordance with paragraph 13 above.

**16. No Gifts or Gratuities:** Party shall not give title or possession of anything of substantial value (including property, currency, travel and/or education programs) to any officer or employee of the State during the term of this Agreement.

**17. Copies:** All written reports prepared under this Agreement will be printed using both sides of the paper.

**18. Certification Regarding Debarment:** Party certifies under pains and penalties of perjury that, as of the date that this Agreement is signed, neither Party nor Party's principals (officers, directors, owners, or partners) are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or excluded from participation in federal programs, or programs supported in whole or in part by federal funds.

Party further certifies under pains and penalties of perjury that, as of the date that this Agreement is signed, Party is not presently debarred, suspended, nor named on the State's debarment list at: <http://bgs.vermont.gov/purchasing/debarment>

- 19. Certification Regarding Use of State Funds:** In the case that Party is an employer and this Agreement is a State Funded Grant in excess of \$1,001, Party certifies that none of these State funds will be used to interfere with or restrain the exercise of Party's employee's rights with respect to unionization.
- 20. Internal Controls:** In the case that this Agreement is an award that is funded in whole or in part by Federal funds, in accordance with 2 CFR Part II, §200.303, the Party must establish and maintain effective internal control over the Federal award to provide reasonable assurance that the Party is managing the Federal award in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the award. These internal controls should be in compliance with guidance in "Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government" issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the "Internal Control Integrated Framework", issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).
- 21. Mandatory Disclosures:** In the case that this Agreement is an award funded in whole or in part by Federal funds, in accordance with 2CFR Part II, §200.113, Party must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the State, all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in the imposition of sanctions which may include disallowance of costs incurred, withholding of payments, termination of the Agreement, suspension/debarment, etc.
- 22. Conflict of Interest:** Party must disclose in writing any potential conflict of interest in accordance with Uniform Guidance §200.112, Bulletin 5 Section IX and Bulletin 3.5 Section IV.B.

(End of Standard Provisions)

**ATTACHMENT D**  
**Sample Contract**

STATE OF VERMONT  
STANDARD CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

Contract #:

1. **Parties.** This is a contract for services between the **State of Vermont, Green Mountain Care Board** (hereafter called “**State**”), and \_\_\_\_\_, (hereafter called “**Contractor**”) with principal place of business at \_\_\_\_\_. Contractor’s form of business organization is \_\_\_\_\_. It is the Contractor’s responsibility to contact the Vermont Department of Taxes to determine if, by law, the Contractor is required to have a Vermont Department of Taxes Business Account number.

2. **Subject Matter.** The subject matter of this contract is development of a data analytic plan. Detailed services to be provided by the Contractor are described in Attachment A.

3. **Maximum Amount.** In consideration of the services to be performed by Contractor, the State agrees to pay Contractor, in accordance with the payment provisions specified in Attachment B, a sum not to exceed \$ \_\_\_\_\_. The State does not guarantee the assignment of any minimum number of hours or any other work under the contract.

4. **Contract Term.** The period of Contractor’s performance shall begin on \_\_\_\_\_ and end on \_\_\_\_\_.

5. **Prior Approvals.** If approval by the Attorney General’s Office, Secretary of Administration or the CIO/Commissioner DII is required (under current law, bulletins, and interpretations), neither this contract nor any amendment to it is binding until it has been approved by any or all such persons.

- Approval by the Attorney General’s Office is required.
- Approval by the Secretary of Administration is not required.
- Approval by the CIO/Commissioner DII is not required.

6. **Amendment.** No changes, modifications, or amendments in the terms and conditions of this contract shall be effective unless reduced to writing, numbered and signed by the duly authorized representative of the State and Contractor.

7. **Cancellation.** This contract may be canceled by the State by giving written notice at least 30 days in advance. The Contractor may cancel this contract by giving 120 days written notice in advance.

8. **Attachments.** This contract consists of \_\_\_\_\_ pages including the following attachments which are incorporated herein:

Attachment A - Specifications of Work to be Performed

Attachment B - Payment Provisions  
Attachment C – Standard State Contract Provisions  
Attachment D - Other Provisions.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED PARTIES AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THIS CONTRACT.

By the State of Vermont:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

By the Contractor:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

### **PAYMENT PROVISIONS**

The maximum amount payable under this contract is not intended as any form of a guaranteed amount. The Contractor shall be paid for services actually performed, up to the maximum allowable amount specified in this contract. The payment schedule for services performed, and any additional reimbursements, are included in this Attachment. The following provisions specifying payment are:

1. The Contractor will be paid based on documentation and itemization of work performed and included in invoicing as required by 32 VSA §463. Contractor will submit an invoice on a monthly basis to the State for services provided. Each invoice must include a unique invoice number, dates of service, itemized billing which is documented to reflect itemized hours by assigned staff multiplied by hourly rates for agreed upon deliverables and Ad Hoc Assistance. The hourly rates of the assigned staff of the Contractor are:
2. Payments for subcontractors, if any, will only be made upon approval (See Attachment C, #15).
3. Payments to the Contractor relating to this contract as outlined in the scope by work will be rendered only after review and acceptance from the State's Deputy Executive Director.
4. The Contractor agrees to a 5% retainage of the total contract fee subject to review, approval, and acceptance of Contractor's final report by the State. The State shall determine retainage, including any withholding or proration, of the total contract fee by deciding whether the Contractor's performance has met, to the State's satisfaction, the

Contractor's requirements under Attachment A. Upon the state's acceptance of the final report, the Contractor shall submit a retainage statement to request any funds withheld.

4. Invoices shall be submitted to:

**Janet Richard  
Green Mountain Care Board  
89 Main Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620**

**ATTACHMENT E  
OTHER CONTRACT PROVISIONS**

**ATTACHMENT D  
OTHER CONTRACT PROVISIONS**

1. Confidentiality. Contractor agrees to keep information related to the State and all agencies and companies related to this contract confidential and agrees not to use any information obtained in relation to the services performed under this contract for any purpose other than as authorized by the State. Contractor agrees not to publish, reproduce, or otherwise divulge such information in whole or in part, in any manner or form or authorize or permit others to do so. Contractor will take reasonable measures as are necessary to restrict access to confidential information in the Contractor's possession to those employees who must have the information to perform their job. Contractor agrees to immediately notify, in writing, the State's authorized representative in the event Contractor determines or has reason to suspect a breach of this requirement.
2. Obligations Regarding Protected Information. Contractor shall assure compliance by the State and Contractor of any and all obligations the State or Contractor may have under HIPAA and any other applicable state or federal law regarding protected health, personal, or otherwise confidential information.
3. Security. Contractor shall maintain security and confidentiality policies and procedures consistent with industry standards with regard to the information obtained from regulated entities. Contractor shall have recovery procedures in place to handle replacement of data in the event of a disaster.
4. Conflicts of Interest. If the State determines that a conflict of interest, as defined by the State, exists between a regulated entity and a member or members of the Contractor's staff, the Contractor shall substitute similarly qualified individuals for the conflicted members. If the State determines that a conflict of interest, as determined by the State, exists between Contractor and a regulated entity, the State may immediately remove that



assignment from the Contractor, or may invoke its right to terminate this contract pursuant to paragraph 7 on page 1 of this contract. The State reserves the right to make the ultimate determination as to whether a conflict of interest exists.

5. Protection of Personal Information. Contractor agrees to establish and maintain policies and procedures designed to ensure compliance with 9 V.S.A. Chapter 62 (Protection of Personal Information) with respect to data collected in connection with Contractor's activities pursuant to the Contract.
6. Prior Approval of Workers. The state shall have the right to approve any personnel the Contractor proposes to assign to work requested by the State prior to the commencement of such work. If the proposed personnel of the Contractor are not acceptable to the State, the State may choose to withdraw the assignment of such work from the Contractor, and Contractor will assign personnel acceptable to the State.
7. Intellectual Property/Work Product Ownership. All data, technical information, materials first gathered, originated, developed, prepared, or obtained as a condition of this agreement and used in the performance of this agreement—including, but not limited to all reports, surveys, plans, charts, literature, brochures, mailings, recordings (video or audio), pictures, drawings, analyses, graphic representations, software computer programs and accompanying documentation and printouts, notes and memoranda, written procedures and documents, which are prepared for or obtained specifically for this agreement, or are a result of the services required under this grant—shall be considered “work for hire” and remain the property of the State of Vermont, regardless of the state of completion, unless otherwise specified in this agreement. Such items shall be delivered to the State of Vermont upon 30 days notice by the State. With respect to software computer programs and/or source codes first developed for the State, all the work shall be considered “work for hire,” i.e., the State, not the Contractor, shall have full and complete ownership of all software computer programs, documentation and/or source codes developed.

The Contractor shall not sell or copyright a work product or item produced under this agreement without explicit permission from the State. If the Contractor is operating a system or application on behalf of the State of Vermont, then the Contractor shall not make information entered into the system or application available for uses by any other party than the State of Vermont, without prior authorization by the State. Nothing herein shall entitle the State to pre-existing Contractor's materials.

8. Professional Liability Insurance Obligation. With respect to all operations performed under the contract, the Party shall carry professional liability insurance.

The policy limits shall not be less than:

\$2,000,000 Per Occurrence

\$5,000,000 Aggregate

Party shall provide a certificate of insurance to show that the above coverage and minimum limits are in effect before commencing work on this contract and shall ensure that it maintains a current such certificate of insurance on file with the State throughout the term of this contract.

9. Requirement to have a single audit. Attachment C, Section 9 does not apply to the Contractor as a for-profit subrecipient hereunder. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable federal procurement laws and regulations, as well as the provisions of this agreement and shall adhere to the Audit and Records requirements defined in FAR 52.215-2 (incorporated herein by reference) throughout the performance period of this contract.

(End of Other Contract Provisions)

DRAFT