

# SEALED BID

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR

### Cycle IV Public Use File Expert Determination

#### Expected RFP Schedule Summary:

DATE ISSUED	06/29/2016
QUESTIONS DUE	07/05/2016
WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS	07/11/2017
PROPOSALS DUE	07/18/2016 2PM
DATE AND TIME OF BID OPENING	07/18/2016 3PM
LOCATION OF BID OPENING	Green Mountain Care Board 89 Main Street City Center, 3rd Floor Montpelier VT 05620
SELECTION NOTIFICATION	07/25/2016
WORK START DATE	08/15/2016

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/publication/rfps-contracts-grants/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@vermont.gov](mailto:Janet.Richard@vermont.gov)

## 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@vermont.gov](mailto:Janet.Richard@vermont.gov)**

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 with Janet Richard, Administrative Support Coordinator.

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.**

## **Contents**

<b>Cycle IV Public Use File Expert Determination.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1. Overview and General Information .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Schedule of Events.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. Scope of Work .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. Method of Award .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5. Instructions for Bid Preparation .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6. Bid Submission .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7. General Terms and Conditions .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ATTACHMENT C: STANDARD STATE PROVISIONS FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>12. Federal Requirements Pertaining to Grants and Subrecipient Agreements: .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>16. Taxes Due to the State:.....</b>	<b>17</b>

## 1. Overview and General Information

The Green Mountain Care Board is a five-member board created by the Vermont Legislature in Act 48 of 2011. As directed by the Legislature in § 9410 of Title 18 and as implemented by Regulation H-2008-01, the Board collects data from the payers of health care claims, including insurers, Medicaid, and Medicare<sup>1</sup>, as a part of the all-payer claims database, known in Vermont as Vermont Healthcare Claims Uniform Reporting and Evaluation System (VHCURES). By and through its contractor, the Board regularly collects medical and pharmacy claims data and eligibility data, from both private and public payers; in turn, the Board creates datasets or “extracts” for researchers, government, and industry to examine critical issues in health care and health care costs. These comprehensive, longitudinal (i.e., tracking individual persons and their sequences of care), multi-payer datasets provide research and policy opportunities for improving the health care delivery system.

The creation, privacy assessment, and release of a Public Use Health Care Claims File (Public Use File) fuels the prerogative of health pricing transparency and accuracy. A Public Use File—a dataset that can be accessed by anyone without a data use agreement or other relationship in privity with the state—supports broader, more accessible, and more transparent use of health care data. Broadening access to VHCURES encourages data validation and research use, which may in turn benefit regulatory programs including health insurance rate review. A sustainable Public Use File should allow data access in ways that could yield new transparency in pricing and utilization of care.

Designing and releasing a Public Use File provides immediate access to claims data to interested researchers, experts, analysts, consumers, and the health care industry. In order to distribute a Public Use File, it is critical that Vermont ensure that the data in the file effectively safeguards privacy and complies with state and federal privacy law.

The Board is soliciting Proposals from qualified vendors to evaluate, design, and develop a VHCURES Public Use File, including conducting an “Expert Determination” to certify that the Public Use File complies with the security and privacy standards set forth in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule.

CMS has identified guidance for compliant de-identification of Protected Health Information (PHI) in accordance with the Privacy Rule. Per §164.514(b) of HIPAA. The “Expert Determination” requires: “(1) A person with appropriate knowledge of and experience with generally accepted statistical and scientific principles and methods for rendering information not individually identifiable: (i) Applying such principles and methods, determines that the risk is very small that the information could be used, alone or in combination with other reasonably available information, by an anticipated recipient to identify an individual who is a subject of the information; and (ii) Documents the methods and results of the analysis that justify such determination.” Securing an “Expert Determination” to assess and evaluate the development and implementation of the Public Use File ensures compliance with HIPAA and necessary standards for privacy and security for PHI.

Among the benefits of a Public Use File is increased transparency of health care costs and trends, particularly in the review and assessment of health insurance rates.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the current Data Use Agreement between the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Board will not include Medicare data in any Public Use File.

## RFP Background

The Board seeks an Expert Determination consistent with the HIPAA Privacy Rule. Per §164.514(b) of HIPAA. An Expert Determination requires knowledge and experience with generally accepted statistical and scientific principles and methods to render information not individually identifiable. The contractor must provide guidance and direction on creating an extract consistent with applicable state and privacy law. The contractor must collaborate with the database administrator (an existing contractor) to design an appropriate and prudently de-identified Public Use File extract and replicable extract approach. The contractor must promptly review the proposed Public Use File and verify that the Public Use File and approach will comply with current and reasonably prospective law and current and reasonably prospective privacy and security standards.

## 2. Schedule of Events

### 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 July 5, 2016. Questions may be e-mailed to or sent through the mail to: **Janet Richard, 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://gmcboard.vermont.gov/publication/rfps-contracts-grants/rfp>. 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.

## 3. Scope of Work

### I. PROGRAM SUMMARY

- a. This contract will satisfy necessary compliance with HIPAA's Privacy Rule so that the Board may release a VHCURES Public Use File subsequent to "an expert determination." Per §164.514(b) of HIPAA, the "Expert Determination" method for de-identification is defined as follows: "A person with appropriate knowledge of and experience with generally accepted statistical and scientific principles and methods for rendering information not individually identifiable: (i) Applying such principles and methods, determines that the risk is very small that the information could be used, alone or in combination with other reasonably available information, by an anticipated recipient to identify an individual who is a subject of the information; and (ii) Documents the methods and results of the analysis that justify such determination."
- b. The Contractor will adhere to the current "Expert Determination" guidance of the U.S. Department for Health and Human Services, set forth in "Guidance Regarding Methods for De-identification of Protected Health Information in Accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule."<sup>2</sup>
- c. The Contractor will evaluate the extent to which the health information of VHCURES can (or cannot) be identified by the anticipated recipients. The Contractor will provide this written evaluation to the Board.
- d. The Contractor will provide written guidance to the Board on which statistical or scientific methods can be applied to the health information to mitigate the anticipated risk, taking practical

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<sup>2</sup> Guidance Regarding Methods for De-identification of Protected Health Information in Accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule, available at <http://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/special-topics/de-identification/index.html>.

considerations and limitations into account. This guidance will also evaluate the methods employed by other states to create similarly public files extracted from those states' APCDs. The Contractor will design such a method for creating a Public Use File in conjunction with the Board and its VHCURES database administrator.

- e. The Contractor shall then execute such an application method as deemed acceptable by the Board, working with the Board's existing database administrator or data aggregation vendor, as applicable, to achieve the result of a Public Use File.
- f. The Contractor shall evaluate the identifiability of the resulting health information to confirm that the risk is no more than very small when disclosed to the anticipated recipients, and certify this evaluation.

## **II. PROGRAM GOALS**

- a. The Contractor will advise and inform the Board on the application—if any—of the Privacy Rule to the Board's VHCURES activities and responsibilities.
- b. The Contractor will perform an "Expert Determination" as defined by §164.514(b) of HIPAA to determine the appropriate form of the Public Use File.
- c. The Board or its designee will regularly produce updated Public Use Files consistent with applicable state and federal law, in a manner certified by the Contractor.

## **III. OUTCOMES EXPECTED FROM CONTRACTOR'S PERFORMANCE**

- a. The Contractor will provide guidance and direction to ensure the viable creation of a Public Use File
- b. The Contractor will provide a review of the current VHCURES program and administration for privacy and security purposes.
- c. The Contractor will provide reliable guidance for the continued use of the Public Use File in future iterations consistent with the initial proposed release.

## **IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONTRACTOR**

- a. The Contractor will meet with pertinent Board staff and stakeholders (as identified by the Board) to examine Board priorities and goals for the Public Use File.
- b. The Contractor will review and evaluate the current VHCURES access and dataset quality for authorized users, in order to provide a baseline for evaluating the access and dataset quality appropriate for the Public Use File. The Contractor will provide this written report to the Board and present on findings during an open public meeting of the Board's Data Governance Council.
- c. The Contractor will propose draft directions and guidance for developing an effective Public Use File. These directions and guidance will include, but will not be limited to, comparative review of proposed VHCURES Public Use File with other state APCD Public Use Files.

## **V. ROLE OF the Board**

- a. The GMCB will designate an individual as the manager of the contract resulting from this RFP. That individual will serve as the point-of-contact for the Contractor. Performance instructions shall be communicated by the contract manager and all deliverables shall be sent to the contract manager.
- b. That designated manager will review Contractor reports and provide feedback to the Contractor.
- c. The designated manager will facilitate access to VHCURES for the Contractor, so that the Contractor may examine the VHCURES data set.
- d. The GMCB will authorize and publish the Public Use File following the Expert Determination.

## **VI. EVALUATION**

- a. The performance of this contract will be evaluated by Green Mountain Care Board or its designees (including Board staff). The evaluation will occur at a mutually agreed-upon mid-point to the performance of the work, and after the work is completed.

## **VII. REPORTS**

- a. Weekly Status Reports.
- b. Preliminary Report-- Contractor will review and evaluate the current VHCURES access and dataset quality for authorized users, in order to provide a baseline for evaluating the access and dataset quality appropriate for the Public Use File. The Contractor will provide this written report to the Board and present on findings during an open public meeting of the Board's Data Governance Council.
- c. Pre-Release Report—Contractor will report on the proposed Public Use File, following the work described above, prior to the release of the Public Use File.
- d. Final Report—Must disclose Expert Determination methodology and its application to further and sustained use of the Public Use File. This report must focus on the sustainability of the Public Use File. The Contractor will provide this written report to the Board and present on findings during an open public meeting of the Board's Data Governance Council.

### **Failure to Comply with Contractual Requirements**

While the GMCB seeks a Contractor with which it can work in close collaboration and partnership, it shall take action should the Contractor fail to adhere to the terms of any agreement resulting from this RFP. Such measures may include requiring immediate corrective action by the Contractor and/or the imposition of liquidated damages in an amount determined by the GMCB based on the circumstances.

### **4. Method of Award**

Awards will be made in the best interest of the State of Vermont. The GMCB 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 state staff.

### **Evaluation Factors**

- Understanding of Work
- Approach and Methodology
- Proposed Staff Education, Experience and References
- Wage Requirements – fixed price and hourly labor cost, if using subcontractors to perform functions of the scope, base rate and prime contractor markup must be transparent.
- Availability and Flexibility - Work schedule restrictions (e.g., part-time, full-time, maximum days per week, maximum hours per week months per year)
- 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. Instructions for Bid Preparation

### General Instructions

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's understanding of the required tasks and responsibilities, nor the uniqueness of the bidder's performance capabilities.**

### 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 Green Mountain Care Board prior to the bid opening.
- ELECTRONIC: Electronic bids are required in addition to the hard copy bids.
- FAX BIDS: FAXED bids will not be accepted.

### Specific RFP Response

Vendors must describe their experience for completing similar work as outlined in Section 3- Scope of Work. 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, including rates, qualifications, detailed description of work to be performed. Any and all subcontracts used to complete the work outlined in this RFP must be made available to the State upon request, including financial details.

**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:

- The location of the bidder's headquarters and office(s);
- If applicable, the following information about the bidder 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;
- A description of the bidder's background and experience in calculating savings and generating quality measures using data provided by multiple payers and providers. 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;
- Documentation as the bidder believes sufficient to show proof of the bidder's financial capacity to undertake the responsibilities required under this contract;
- Confirmation that the bidder is free of actual or apparent conflict of interest; and
- Evidence of professional liability insurance coverage 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. The cost proposal may be structured as fixed price or as time and materials. There is a 10% limit on indirect costs allowed under this RFP. This RFP is funded through a federal Rate Review Grant.

The aforementioned cost proposal shall be submitted with fully loaded rates, inclusive of travel-related costs and all other business related expense.

## **6. Bid Submission**

**DUE DATE:** The closing date for the receipt of bids is July 18, 2016 by **2:00 PM**.

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:

**“Cycle IV Public Use File Expert Determination”**

**Bid 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 copy should be included for portions of submittal that is not proprietary.**

### **Submission Checklist**

- Hard *Copies* (5)
- Original Unbound *Master* (1)
- 1 CD or emailed electronic copy of the bid
- Cover Letter
- Experience & Qualifications
- References
- Cost Proposal
- Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants
- Offshore/outsource form
- Certificate of Compliance
- Workers' Compensation; State Contracts Compliance Requirement; Self Reporting
- Workers' Compensation; State Contracts Compliance Requirement; Subcontractor Reporting

### **Attachments**

The following attachments are current as of the dates indicated on each document. Many of the attachments are still pending final approval and are subject to modification.

- Attachment C: Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants
- Attachment D: Other Contract Provisions
- Certificate of Compliance
- Workers' Compensation; State Contracts Compliance Requirement; Self Reporting
- Workers' Compensation; State Contracts Compliance Requirement; Subcontractor Reporting
- Offshore Outsourcing Questionnaire

## **7. General Terms and Conditions**

### **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Cancellation**

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 arising from this RFP may be amended by mutual agreement of the parties.

## **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

## **Insurance**

In addition to the insurance coverage's 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.

## **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 [www.sec.state.vt.us/tutor/dobiz/forms/fcregist.htm](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 [www.state.vt.us/tax/pdf.word.excel/forms/business/s-1&instr.pdf](http://www.state.vt.us/tax/pdf.word.excel/forms/business/s-1&instr.pdf)

## **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.

## **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.

**ATTACHMENT C: STANDARD STATE PROVISIONS  
FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS  
REVISED JULY 1, 2016**

**1. 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.

“Agreement” shall mean the specific contract or grant to which this form is attached.

**2. 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.

**3. Governing Law, Jurisdiction and Venue; No Waiver of Jury Trial:** This Agreement will be governed by the laws of the State of Vermont. Any action or proceeding brought by either the State or the Party in connection with this Agreement shall be brought and enforced in the Superior Court of the State of Vermont, Civil Division, Washington Unit. The Party irrevocably submits to the jurisdiction of this court for any action or proceeding regarding this Agreement. The Party agrees that it must first exhaust any applicable administrative remedies with respect to any cause of action that it may have against the State with regard to its performance under the Agreement.

Party agrees that the State shall not be required to submit to binding arbitration or waive its right to a jury trial.

**4. Sovereign Immunity:** The State reserves all immunities, defenses, rights or actions arising out of the State’s sovereign status or under the Eleventh Amendment to the United States Constitution. No waiver of the State’s immunities, defenses, rights or actions shall be implied or otherwise deemed to exist by reason of the State’s entry into this Agreement.

**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:** The Party will act in an independent capacity and not as officers or employees of the State.

**7. Defense and Indemnity:** The Party shall defend the State and its officers and employees against all third party claims or suits arising in whole or in part from any act or omission of the Party or of any agent of the Party in connection with the performance of this Agreement. 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. The State retains the right to participate at its own expense in the defense of any claim. The State shall have the right to approve all proposed settlements of such claims or suits. In the event the State withholds approval to settle any such claim, then the Party shall proceed with the defense of the claim but under those circumstances, the Party’s indemnification obligations shall be limited to the amount of the proposed settlement initially rejected by the State.

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 in connection with the performance of this Agreement.

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 or an agent of the Party in connection with the performance of this Agreement.

The Party agrees that in no event shall the terms of this Agreement nor any document required by the Party in connection with its performance under this Agreement obligate the State to defend or indemnify the Party or otherwise be liable for the expenses or reimbursement, including attorneys' fees, collection costs or other costs of the Party except to the extent awarded by a court of competent jurisdiction.

**8. 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. Vermont will accept an out-of-state employer's workers' compensation coverage while operating in Vermont provided that the insurance carrier is licensed to write insurance in Vermont and an amendatory endorsement is added to the policy adding Vermont for coverage purposes. Otherwise, the party shall secure a Vermont workers' compensation policy, if necessary to comply with Vermont law.

*General Liability and Property Damage:* With respect to all operations performed under this Agreement, 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 Each Occurrence

\$2,000,000 General Aggregate

\$1,000,000 Products/Completed Operations Aggregate

\$1,000,000 Personal & Advertising Injury

*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 \$500,000 combined single limit. If performance of this Agreement involves construction, or the transport of persons or hazardous materials, limits of coverage shall not be less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit.

*Additional Insured.* The General Liability and Property Damage coverages required for performance of this Agreement shall include the State of Vermont and its agencies, departments, officers and employees as Additional Insureds. If performance of this Agreement involves construction, or the transport of persons or hazardous materials, then the required Automotive Liability coverage shall include the State of Vermont and its agencies, departments, officers and employees as Additional Insureds. Coverage shall be primary and non-contributory with any other insurance and self-insurance.

*Notice of Cancellation or Change.* There shall be no cancellation, change, potential exhaustion of aggregate limits or non-renewal of insurance coverage(s) without thirty (30) days written prior written notice to the State.

**9. Reliance by the State on Representations:** All payments by the State under this Agreement will be made in reliance upon the accuracy of all representations made by the Party in accordance with the Contract, including but not limited to bills, invoices, progress reports and other proofs of work.

**10. False Claims Act:** The Party acknowledges that it is subject to the Vermont False Claims Act as set forth in 32 V.S.A. § 630 *et seq.* If the Party violates the Vermont False Claims Act it shall be liable to the State for civil penalties, treble damages and the costs of the investigation and prosecution of such violation, including attorney's fees, except as the same may be reduced by a court of competent jurisdiction. The Party's liability to the State under the False Claims Act shall not be limited notwithstanding any agreement of the State to otherwise limit Party's liability.

**11. Whistleblower Protections:** The Party shall not discriminate or retaliate against one of its employees or agents for disclosing information concerning a violation of law, fraud, waste, abuse of authority or acts threatening health or safety, including but not limited to allegations concerning the False Claims Act. Further, the Party shall not require such employees or agents to forego monetary awards as a result of such disclosures, nor should they be required to report misconduct to the Party or its agents prior to reporting to any governmental entity and/or the public.

**12. Federal Requirements Pertaining to Grants and Subrecipient Agreements:**

- A. 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.
- B.** 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.
- C. Internal Controls:** In the case that this Agreement is a Grant 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).
- D. Mandatory Disclosures:** In the case that this Agreement is a Grant 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.

**13. 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 the performance of this agreement. Records produced or acquired

in a machine readable 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.

**14. Fair Employment Practices and Americans with Disabilities Act:** Party agrees to comply with the requirement of 21 V.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.

**15. 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.

**16. 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.

**17. Taxation of Purchases:** All State purchases must be invoiced tax free. An exemption certificate will be furnished upon request with respect to otherwise taxable items.

**18. Child Support:** (Only 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.

**19. 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 shall be responsible and

liable to the State for all acts or omissions of subcontractors and any other person performing work under this Agreement pursuant to an agreement with Party or any subcontractor.

In the case this Agreement is a contract with a total cost in excess of \$250,000, the Party shall provide to the State a list of all proposed subcontractors and subcontractors' subcontractors, together with the identity of those subcontractors' workers compensation insurance providers, and additional required or requested information, as applicable, in accordance with Section 32 of The Vermont Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Act No. 54).

Party shall include the following provisions of this Attachment C in all subcontracts for work performed solely for the State of Vermont and subcontracts for work performed in the State of Vermont: Section 10 ("False Claims Act"); Section 11 ("Whistleblower Protections"); Section 14 ("Fair Employment Practices and Americans with Disabilities Act"); Section 16 ("Taxes Due the State"); Section 18 ("Child Support"); Section 20 ("No Gifts or Gratuities"); Section 22 ("Certification Regarding Debarment"); Section 23 ("Certification Regarding Use of State Funds"); Section 31 ("State Facilities"); and Section 32 ("Location of State Data").

**20. 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.

**21. Copies:** Party shall use reasonable best efforts to ensure that all written reports prepared under this Agreement are printed using both sides of the paper.

**22. 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>

**23. 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.

**24. Conflict of Interest:** Party shall fully disclose, in writing, any conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest.

**25. Confidentiality:** Party acknowledges and agrees that this Agreement and any and all information obtained by the State from the Party in connection with this Agreement are subject to the State of Vermont Access to Public Records Act, 1 V.S.A. § 315 et seq.

**26. Force Majeure:** Neither the State nor the Party shall be liable to the other for any failure or delay of performance of any obligations under this Agreement to the extent such failure or delay shall have been wholly or principally caused by acts or events beyond its reasonable control rendering performance illegal or impossible (excluding strikes or lock-outs) ("Force Majeure"). Where Force Majeure is asserted, the nonperforming party must prove that it made all reasonable efforts to remove, eliminate or minimize such cause of delay or damages, diligently pursued performance of its obligations under this Agreement, substantially fulfilled all non-excused obligations, and timely notified the other party of the likelihood or actual occurrence of an event described in this paragraph.

**27. Marketing:** Party shall not refer to the State in any publicity materials, information pamphlets, press releases, research reports, advertising, sales promotions, trade shows, or marketing materials or similar communications to third parties except with the prior written consent of the State.

**28. Termination:** In addition to any right of the State to terminate for convenience, the State may terminate this Agreement as follows:

**A. Non-Appropriation:** 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.

**B. Termination for Cause:** Either party may terminate this Agreement if a party materially breaches its obligations under this Agreement, and such breach is not cured within thirty (30) days after delivery of the non-breaching party's notice or such longer time as the non-breaching party may specify in the notice.

**C. No Implied Waiver of Remedies:** A party's delay or failure to exercise any right, power or remedy under this Agreement shall not impair any such right, power or remedy, or be construed as a waiver of any such right, power or remedy. All waivers must be in writing.

**29. Continuity of Performance:** In the event of a dispute between the Party and the State, each party will continue to perform its obligations under this Agreement during the resolution of the dispute until this Agreement is terminated in accordance with its terms.

**30. Termination Assistance:** Upon nearing the end of the final term or termination of this Agreement, without respect to cause, the Party shall take all reasonable and prudent measures to facilitate any transition required by the State. All State property, tangible and intangible, shall be returned to the State upon demand at no additional cost to the State in a format acceptable to the State.

**31. State Facilities:** If the State makes space available to the Party in any State facility during the term of this Agreement for purposes of the Party's performance under this Agreement, the Party shall only use the space in accordance with all policies and procedures governing access to and use of State facilities which shall be made available upon request. State facilities will be made available to Party on an "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis, with no warranties whatsoever.

**32. Location of State Data:** No State data received, obtained, or generated by the Party in connection with performance under this Agreement shall be processed, transmitted, stored, or transferred by any means outside continental United States, except with the express written permission of the State.

(End of Standard Provisions)

## **ATTACHMENT D OTHER PROVISIONS**

### **1. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE; CONTRACTOR DOCUMENTATION**

The parties specifically agree that any language or provisions contained in a Contractor Document is of no force and effect if such language or provisions conflict with the terms of Attachment C or Attachment D to this Contract. Further, in no event shall any Contractor Document: (a) require indemnification by the State of the Contractor; (b) waive the State's right to a jury trial; (c) establish jurisdiction in any venue other than the Superior Court of the State of Vermont, Civil Division, Washington Unit; (d) designate a governing law other than the laws of the State of Vermont; (e) constitute an implied or deemed waiver of the immunities, defenses, rights or actions arising out of State's sovereign status or under the Eleventh Amendment to the United States Constitution; or (f) limit the time within which an action may be brought hereunder.

For purposes of this Attachment D, "Contractor Document" shall mean one or more document, agreement or other instrument required by the Contractor in connection with the performance of the services set forth in Attachment A hereto, regardless of format, including any other paper or "shrinkwrap," "clickwrap," or other electronic version thereof.

Notwithstanding any other provision or other unilateral license terms which may be issued by Contractor after the effective date of this Contract, and irrespective of whether any such provisions have been proposed prior to or after the issuance of an order for the products and services being purchased by the State, as applicable, the components of which are licensed under the Contractor Documents, or the fact that such other agreement may be affixed to or accompany the products and services being purchased by the State, as applicable, upon delivery ("shrink wrap"), the terms and conditions set forth herein shall supersede and govern licensing and delivery of all products and services hereunder.

### **2. TERM OF CONTRACTOR'S DOCUMENTS**

Contractor acknowledges and agrees that, to the extent a Contractor Document provides for alternate term or termination provisions, including automatic renewals, such sections shall be waived and shall have no force and effect. All Contractor Documents shall run concurrently with the term of this Contract; provided, however, to the extent the State has purchased a perpetual license to use the Contractor's software, hardware or other services, such license shall remain in place unless expressly terminated in accordance with the terms of this Contract.

### **3. OWNERSHIP AND LICENSE IN DELIVERABLES**

**3.1 Contractor Intellectual Property.** Contractor shall retain all right, title and interest in and to all Contractor Intellectual Property that Contractor delivers to the State in accordance with Attachment A of this Contract. "Contractor Intellectual Property" means any intellectual property, tangible or intangible, that is owned by Contractor and contained in or necessary for the use of the items that Contractor is required to deliver to the State under this Contract, including Work Product ("Deliverables"). Should the State require a license for the use of Contractor Intellectual Property in connection with the development or use of the Deliverables, the Contractor shall grant the State a royalty-free license for such development and use. For the avoidance of doubt, Work Product shall not be deemed to include Contractor Intellectual Property, provided the State shall be granted an irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive royalty-free license to any such Contractor Intellectual Property that is incorporated into Work Product.

**3.2 State Intellectual Property; State Intellectual Property; User Name.** The State shall retain all right, title and interest in and to (i) all content and all property, data and information furnished by or on behalf of the State or any agency, commission or board thereof, and to all information that is created under this Contract, including, but not limited to, all data that is generated under this Contract as a result of the use by Contractor, the State or any third party of any technology systems or knowledge bases that are developed for the State and used by Contractor hereunder, and all other rights, tangible or intangible; and (ii) all State trademarks, trade names, logos and other State identifiers, Internet uniform resource locators, State user name or names, Internet addresses and e-mail addresses obtained or developed pursuant to this Contract (collectively, “State Intellectual Property”).

Contractor may not use State Intellectual Property for any purpose other than as specified in this Contract. Upon expiration or termination of this Contract, Contractor shall return or destroy all State Intellectual Property and all copies thereof, and Contractor shall have no further right or license to such State Intellectual Property.

Contractor acquires no rights or licenses, including, without limitation, intellectual property rights or licenses, to use State Intellectual Property for its own purposes. In no event shall the Contractor claim any security interest in State Intellectual Property.

**3.3 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 law 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 ideas, inventions, improvements, modifications, discoveries, development, customization, configuration, methodologies or processes, designs, models, drawings, photographs, reports, formulas, algorithms, patterns, devices, compilations, databases, computer programs, work of authorship, specifications, operating instructions, procedures manuals or other documentation, technique, know-how, secret, or intellectual property right whatsoever or any interest therein (whether patentable or not patentable or registerable under copyright or similar statutes or subject to analogous protection), that is specifically made, conceived, discovered or reduced to practice by Contractor, either solely or jointly with others, pursuant to this Contract. Work Product does not include Contractor Intellectual Property or third party intellectual property.

To the extent delivered under this Contract, upon full payment to Contractor in accordance with Attachment B, and subject to the terms and conditions contained herein, Contractor hereby (i) assigns to State all rights in and to all Deliverables, except to the extent they include any Contractor Intellectual Property; and (ii) grants to State a perpetual, non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free license to use for State’s internal business purposes, any Contractor Intellectual Property included in the Deliverables in connection with its use of the Deliverables and, subject to the State’s obligations with respect to Confidential Information, authorize others to do the same on the State’s behalf. Except for the foregoing license grant, Contractor or its licensors retain all rights in and to all Contractor Intellectual Property.

The Contractor shall not sell or copyright a Deliverable 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 Intellectual Property or Contractor Intellectual Property developed outside of this Contract with no assistance from State.

#### **4. CONFIDENTIALITY AND NON-DISCLOSURE; SECURITY BREACH REPORTING**

**4.1 Confidentiality of Contractor Information.** The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that this Contract and any and all Contractor information obtained by the State in connection with this Contract are subject to the State of Vermont Access to Public Records Act, 1 V.S.A. § 315 et seq. The State will not disclose information for which a reasonable claim of exemption can be made pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c), including, but not limited to, trade secrets, proprietary information or financial information, including any formulae, plan, pattern, process, tool, mechanism, compound, procedure, production data, or compilation of information which is not patented, which is known only to the Contractor, and which gives the Contractor an opportunity to obtain business advantage over competitors who do not know it or use it.

The State shall immediately notify Contractor of any request made under the Access to Public Records Act, or any request or demand by any court, governmental agency or other person asserting a demand or request for Contractor information. Contractor may, in its discretion, seek an appropriate protective order, or otherwise defend any right it may have to maintain the confidentiality of such information under applicable State law within three business days of the State's receipt of any such request. Contractor agrees that it will not make any claim against the State if the State makes available to the public any information in accordance with the Access to Public Records Act or in response to a binding order from a court or governmental body or agency compelling its production. Contractor shall indemnify the State for any costs or expenses incurred by the State, including, but not limited to, attorneys' fees awarded in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 320, in connection with any action brought in connection with Contractor's attempts to prevent or unreasonably delay public disclosure of Contractor's information if a final decision of a court of competent jurisdiction determines that the State improperly withheld such information and that the improper withholding was based on Contractor's attempts to prevent public disclosure of Contractor's information.

The State agrees that (a) it will use the Contractor information only as may be necessary in the course of performing duties, receiving services or exercising rights under this Contract; (b) it will provide at a minimum the same care to avoid disclosure or unauthorized use of Contractor information as it provides to protect its own similar confidential and proprietary information; (c) except as required by the Access to Records Act, it will not disclose such information orally or in writing to any third party unless that third party is subject to a written confidentiality agreement that contains restrictions and safeguards at least as restrictive as those contained in this Contract; (d) it will take all reasonable precautions to protect the Contractor's information; and (e) it will not otherwise appropriate such information to its own use or to the use of any other person or entity.

Contractor may affix an appropriate legend to Contractor information that is provided under this Contract to reflect the Contractor's determination that any such information is a trade secret, proprietary information or financial information at time of delivery or disclosure.

**4.2 Confidentiality of State Information.** In performance of this Contract, and any exhibit or schedule hereunder, the Party acknowledges that certain State Data (as defined below), to which the Contractor may have access may contain individual federal tax information, personal protected health information and other individually identifiable information protected by State or federal law. Before receiving or controlling State Data, the Contractor will have an information security policy that protects its systems and processes and media that may contain State Data from internal and external security threats and State Data from unauthorized disclosure, and will have provided a copy of such policy to the State. State Data shall not be stored, accessed from, or transferred to any location outside the United States.

Unless otherwise instructed by the State, Contractor agrees to keep confidential all information received and collected by Contractor in connection with this Contract ("State Data"). The Contractor agrees not to publish, reproduce, or otherwise divulge any State Data 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 Data in the Contractor's possession to only those employees on its staff who must have the information on a "need to know" basis. The Contractor shall use State Data only for the purposes of and in accordance with this Contract. The Contractor shall provide at a minimum the same care to avoid disclosure or unauthorized use of State Data as it provides to protect its own similar confidential and proprietary information.

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 Data 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.

**4.3 Security of State Information.** The Contractor represents and warrants that it has implemented and it shall maintain during the term of this Contract the highest industry standard administrative, technical, and physical safeguards and controls consistent with NIST *Special Publication 800-53* (version 4 or higher) and *Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 200* and designed to (i) ensure the security and confidentiality of State Data; (ii) protect against any anticipated security threats or hazards to the security or integrity of the State Data; and (iii) protect against unauthorized access to or use of State Data. Such measures shall include at a minimum: (1) access controls on information systems, including controls to authenticate and permit access to State Data only to authorized individuals and controls to prevent the Contractor employees from providing State Data 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 Data while in transit from the Contractor networks to external networks; (4) measures to store in a secure fashion all State Data 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 Data; (6) measures to ensure that the State Data 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 Data 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.

**4.4 Back-Up Policies:** The Contractor's back-up policies have been made available to the State upon execution of this Contract under separate cover. The Contractor shall provide the State with not less than thirty (30) days advance written notice of any material amendment or modification of such policies.

**4.5 Security Breaches; Security Breach Reporting.** To the extent the Contractor or its subcontractors, affiliates or agents handles, collects, stores, disseminates or otherwise deals with State Data, the Contractor acknowledges that in the performance of its obligations under this Contract, it will be a "data collector" pursuant to Chapter 62 of Title 9 of the Vermont Statutes (9 V.S.A. §2430(3)). The Contractor shall have policies and procedures in place for the effective management of Security Breaches, as defined below.

In addition to the requirements set forth in any applicable Business Associate Agreement as may be attached to this Contract, in the event of any actual security breach or reasonable belief of an actual security breach the Contractor either suffers or learns of that either compromises or could compromise State Data (including, as applicable, PII, PHI or ePHI) in any format or media, whether encrypted or unencrypted (for example, but not limited to: physical trespass on a secure facility; intrusion or hacking or other brute force attack on any State environment; loss or theft of a PC, laptop, desktop, tablet,

smartphone, removable data storage device or other portable device; loss or theft of printed materials; or failure of security policies) (collectively, a “Security Breach”), the Contractor shall immediately determine the nature and extent of the Security Breach, contain the incident by stopping the unauthorized practice, recover records, shut down the system that was breached, revoke access and/or correct weaknesses in physical security. Contractor shall analyze and document the incident and provide the required notices, as set forth below.

In accordance with Section 9 V.S.A. §2435(b)(3), the Contractor shall notify the Office of the Attorney General, or in the case of a Security Breach by a data collector regulated by the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation (“DFR”), DFR, within fourteen (14) business days of the Contractor’s discovery of the Security Breach. The notice shall provide a preliminary description of the breach. The foregoing notice requirement shall be included in the subcontracts of any of Contractor’s subcontractors, affiliates or agents which may be “data collectors” hereunder. Except to the extent delayed upon request of law enforcement in accordance with 9 V.S.A. §2435(b)(4), within thirty days of the Security Breach or when the Contractor provides notice to consumers pursuant to this Contract, whichever is sooner, the Contractor shall report to the State: (i) the nature of the Security Breach; (ii) the State Data used or disclosed; (iii) who made the unauthorized use or received the unauthorized disclosure; (iv) what the Contractor has done or shall do to mitigate any deleterious effect of the unauthorized use or disclosure; and (v) what corrective action the Contractor has taken or shall take to prevent future similar unauthorized use or disclosure. The Contractor shall provide such other information, including a written report, as reasonably requested by the State.

The Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable laws, as such laws may be amended from time to time (including, but not limited to, Chapter 62 of Title 9 of the Vermont Statutes and all applicable State and federal laws, rules or regulations) that require notification in the event of unauthorized release of personally-identifiable information or other event requiring notification. Further, the Contractor agrees to fully cooperate with the State, assume responsibility for such notice if the State determines it to be appropriate under the circumstances of any particular Security Breach, and assume all costs associated with a Security Breach, including but not limited to, notice, outside investigation and services (including mailing, call center, forensics, counsel and/or crisis management), and/or credit monitoring, in the sole determination of the State.

In addition to any other indemnification obligations in this Contract, the Contractor shall fully indemnify and save harmless the State from any costs, loss or damage to the State resulting from a Security Breach or the unauthorized disclosure of State Data by the Contractor, its officers, agents, employees, and subcontractors.

## **5. SUBCONTRACTORS**

Contractor shall be responsible for directing and supervising each of its subcontractors and any other person performing any of the Work under an agreement with Contractor. Contractor has provided to the State a list of all subcontractors and subcontractors’ subcontractors, together with the identity of those subcontractors’ workers compensation insurance providers. Contractor shall be responsible and liable to the State for all acts or omissions of subcontractors and any other person performing any of the Services under an agreement with Contractor or any subcontractor.

## **6. CONTRACTOR’S REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES**

**6.1 General Representations and Warranties.** The Contractor represents, warrants and covenants that:

- (i) The Contractor has all requisite power and authority to execute, deliver, and perform its obligations under this Contract and the execution, delivery and performance of this Contract by the Contractor has been duly authorized by the Contractor.
- (ii) There is no pending litigation, arbitrated matter or other dispute to which the Contractor is a party which, if decided unfavorably to the Contractor, would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on the Contractor's ability to fulfill its obligations under this Contract.
- (iii) The Contractor will comply with all laws applicable to its performance of the services and otherwise to the Contractor in connection with its obligations under this Contract.
- (iv) The Contractor (a) owns, or has the right to use under valid and enforceable agreements, all intellectual property rights reasonably necessary for and related to delivery of the services and provision of the Deliverables as set forth in this Contract; (b) shall be responsible for and have full authority to license all proprietary and/or third party software modules, including algorithms and protocols, that Contractor incorporates into its product; and (c) none of the Deliverables or other materials or technology provided by the Contractor to the State will infringe upon or misappropriate the intellectual property rights of any third party.
- (v) The Contractor has adequate resources to fulfill its obligations under this Contract.
- (vi) Neither Contractor nor Contractor's subcontractors has past state or federal violations, convictions, or suspensions relating to miscoding of employees in NCCI job codes for purposes of differentiating between independent contractors and employees.

**6.2 Contractor's Performance Warranties.** Contractor represents and warrants to the State that:

- (i) All Deliverables will be free from material errors and shall perform in accordance with the specifications therefor.
- (ii) Each and all of the services shall be performed in a timely, diligent, professional, and workpersonlike manner, in accordance with the highest professional or technical standards applicable to such services, by qualified persons with the technical skills, training and experience to perform such services in the planned environment. At its own expense and without limiting any other rights or remedies of the State hereunder, the Contractor shall re-perform any services that the State has determined to be unsatisfactory in its reasonable discretion; the State shall have no obligation to pay for services it has determined to be unsatisfactory..
- (iii) All Deliverables supplied by the Contractor to the State shall be transferred free and clear of any and all restrictions on the conditions of transfer, modification, licensing, sublicensing and free and clear of any and all lines, claims, mortgages, security interests, liabilities and encumbrances or any kind.
- (iv) Any time software is delivered to the State, whether delivered via electronic media or the internet, no portion of such software or the media upon which it is stored or delivered will have any type of software routine or other element which is designed to facilitate unauthorized access to or intrusion upon; or unrequested disabling or erasure of; or unauthorized interference with the operation of any hardware, software, data or peripheral equipment of or utilized by the State. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Contractor assumes no responsibility for the State's negligence or failure to protect data from viruses, or any unintended modification, destruction or disclosure.

**6.3 Limitation on Disclaimer.** The express warranties set forth in this Contract shall be in lieu of all other warranties, express or implied.

**6.4 Effect of Breach of Warranty.** If, at any time during the term of this Contract, software or the results of Contractor's work fail to perform according to any warranty of Contractor under this Contract, the State shall promptly notify Contractor in writing of such alleged nonconformance, and Contractor shall provide at no additional cost of any kind to the State, the maintenance required.

## **7. INDEMNIFICATION**

The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that the laws and the public policy of the State of Vermont prohibit the State from agreeing to indemnify contractors and other parties. The Contractor agrees that, to the extent a Contractor Document expressly provides for or implies indemnification of the Contractor and/or other third parties by the State, such sections shall be waived and shall have no force and effect with respect to the State.

## **8. PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY AND CYBER LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE**

In addition to the insurance required in Attachment C to this Contract, before commencing work on this Contract and throughout the term of this Contract, Contractor agrees to procure and maintain (a) Technology Professional Liability insurance for any and all services performed under this Contract, with minimum third party coverage of \$ 1,000,000.00 per claim, \$ 1,000,000.00 aggregate; and (b) first party Breach Notification Coverage of not less than \$500,000.00. Contractor agrees to procure and maintain appropriate insurance, with defined minimum coverage set forth in the Contract that may exceed the coverage stated in this paragraph at the time of the Request for Proposals, in the event that the Contractor requires access to the claims data.

Before commencing work on this Contract the Contractor must provide certificates of insurance to show that the foregoing minimum coverages are in effect.

With respect to the first party Breach Notification Coverage, Contractor shall name the State of Vermont and its officers and employees as additional insureds for liability arising out of this Agreement.

## **9. SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY**

The Contractor acknowledges that the State reserves all immunities, defenses, rights or actions arising out of the State's sovereign status or under the Eleventh Amendment to the United States Constitution. No waiver of any such immunities, defenses, rights or actions shall be implied or otherwise deemed to exist by reason of the State's entry into this Contract.

## **10. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

**10.1 Governing Law; Jurisdiction.** The Contractor agrees that this Contract, including any Contractor Document, shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Vermont and that any action or proceeding brought by either the State or the Contractor in connection with this Contract shall be brought and enforced in the Superior Court of the State of Vermont, Civil Division, Washington Unit. The Contractor irrevocably submits to the jurisdiction of such court in respect of any such action or proceeding. The State shall not be liable for attorneys' fees in any proceeding.

**10.2 Contractor Default.** The Contractor shall be in default under this Contract if Contractor commits any material breach of any covenant, warranty, obligation or certification under this Contract, fails to perform the Services in conformance with the specifications and warranties provided in this Contract, or clearly manifests an intent not to perform future obligations under this Contract, and such breach or default is not cured, or such manifestation of an intent not to perform is not corrected by reasonable written assurances of performance within thirty (30) days after delivery of the State's notice period, or such longer period as the State may specify in such notice.

**10.3 State Default.** State shall be in default under this Contract if State commits any material breach or default of any covenant, warranty, or obligation under this Contract and State fails to cure such failure within thirty (30) business days after delivery of Contractor's notice or such longer period as Contractor may specify in such notice.

**10.4 Trial by Jury.** The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that public policy prohibits the State from agreeing to arbitration and/or from waiving any right to a trial by jury. Therefore, Contractor further acknowledges and agrees that, to the extent a Contractor Document expressly provides for arbitration or waiver of the State's right to a jury trial of the Contractor and/or other third parties by the State, such sections shall be waived and shall have no force and effect with respect to the State.

**10.5 Trade Secret, Patent, and Copyright Infringement.** The State shall not be deemed to waive any of its rights or remedies at law or in equity in the event of Contractor's trade secret, patent and/or copyright infringement.

**10.6 Limits on Actions Prohibited.** The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that 12 V.S.A. § 465 renders null and void any contractual provision which limits the time in which an action may be brought under the contract, or waives the statute of limitations.

**10.7 Continuity of Performance.** In the event of a dispute between the Contractor and the State, each party will continue to perform its obligations under this Contract during the resolution of such dispute unless and until this Contract is terminated in accordance with its terms.

## **11. REMEDIES FOR DEFAULT**

In the event either party is in default under this Contract, the non-defaulting party may, at its option, pursue any or all of the remedies available to it under this Contract, including termination for cause, and at law or in equity.

## **12. TERMINATION**

**12.1 Termination Assistance.** Upon nearing the end of the final term of this Contract, and without respect to either the cause or time of such termination, the Contractor shall take all reasonable and prudent measures to facilitate the transition to a successor provider, to the extent required by the State. The primary activities in this turnover are focused on transition planning to ensure operational readiness for the State and/or successor provider. This includes both a knowledge transfer period, and the turnover of the solution and supporting services to the State and/or successor provider. The State shall sign-off on each defined transition milestone to ensure that all transition Deliverables (set forth below), and exit criteria are fully executed based on agreed upon Contract terms. Upon the sooner of a date specified in a notice of termination from either party, or within 90 days of Contract expiration, the Contractor shall:

**Deliverable 1** - Develop a System Turnover Plan at no additional cost to the State. The Solution Turnover Plan shall include, at minimum:

- Proposed approach to Turnover.
- Tasks and subtasks for Turnover.
- Schedule for Turnover.
- Entrance and exit criteria.
- Readiness walkthrough process.
- Documentation update procedures during Turnover.
- Description of Contractor coordination activities that will occur during the Turnover Phase that will be implemented to ensure continued functionality of the Solution and services as deemed appropriate by the State.

**Deliverable 2** - Develop a Solution Requirements Statement at no additional cost that would be required by the State and/or successor provider to fully take over the Solution, technical, and business functions outlined in the Contract. The Statement shall also include an estimate of the number, type, and salary of personnel required to perform the other functions of the project work, implemented solution, and all supporting services. The Statement shall be separated by type of activity of the personnel. The Statement shall include all facilities and any other resources required to operate the Solution, including, but not limited to:

- Telecommunications networks.
- Office space.
- Hardware.
- Software.
- Other technology.

The Statement shall be based on the Contractor's experience in the operation of the Solution and shall include actual Contractor resources devoted to operations activities.

**Deliverable 3** - Develop and submit a Transition Plan including, at minimum:

- Proposed approach to transition.
- Proposed approach for conducting a knowledge transfer from the Contractor to the State or successor provider.
- Proposed approach for consolidating applicable sections from the Contractor's Turnover Plan into the transition planning activity.
- Tasks and activities for transition.

- Personnel and level of effort in hours.
- Completion date.
- Transition Milestones.
- Entrance and exit criteria.
- Schedule for transition.
- Production program and documentation update procedures during transition.
- Readiness walkthrough.
- Parallel test procedures.
- Provider training.
- Interface testing.

The Contractor shall execute the Transition Plan and activities at no additional cost. The Contractor agrees, after receipt of a notice of termination, and except as otherwise directed by the State, the Contractor shall:

1. Stop work under the Contract on the date, and to the extent, specified in the notice;
2. Immediately deliver to the State all State Data and historical project records in a form acceptable to the State, and copies of all subcontracts and all third party contracts executed in connection with the performance of the Services;
3. Place no further orders or subcontracts for Services, except as may be necessary for completion of such portion of the work under the Contract that is not terminated as specified in writing by the State;
4. Assign, to the extent applicable or as the State may require, all subcontracts and all third party contracts executed in connection with the performance of the Services to the State or a successor provider, as the State may require;
5. Perform, as the State may require, such knowledge transfer and other services as are required to allow the Services to continue without interruption or adverse effect and to facilitate orderly migration and transfer of the services to the successor provider;
6. Complete performance of such part of the work as shall not have been terminated; and
7. Take such action as may be necessary, or as the State may direct, for the protection and preservation of the property related to this Contract which is in the possession of the Contractor and in which the State has or may acquire an interest and to transfer that property to the State or a successor provider.

Contractor acknowledges that, if it were to breach, or threaten to breach, its obligation to provide the State with the foregoing assistance, the State would be immediately and irreparably harmed and monetary compensation would not be measurable or adequate. In such circumstances, the State shall be entitled to obtain such injunctive, declaratory or other equitable relief as the State deems

necessary to prevent such breach or threatened breach, without the requirement of posting any bond and Contractor waives any right it may have to allege or plead or prove that the State is not entitled to injunctive, declaratory or other equitable relief. If the court should find that Contractor has breached (or attempted or threatened to breach) any such obligations, Contractor agrees that without any additional findings of irreparable injury or other conditions to injunctive or any equitable relief, Contractor will not oppose the entry of an order compelling its performance and restraining Contractor from any further breaches (or attempted or threatened breaches).

**12.2 Contractor Bankruptcy.** Contractor acknowledges that if Contractor, as a debtor in possession, or a trustee in bankruptcy in a case under Section 365(n) of Title 11, United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), rejects this Contract, the State may elect to retain its rights under this Contract as provided in Section 365(n) of the Bankruptcy Code. Upon written request of the State to Contractor or the Bankruptcy Trustee, Contractor or such Bankruptcy Trustee shall not interfere with the rights of the State as provided in this Contract, including the right to obtain the State Intellectual Property.

### **13. ACCESS TO STATE DATA; RETURN OF PROPERTY**

**13.1 Access to State Data.** Within ten (10) business days of a request by State, the Contractor will make available to State a complete and secure (i.e. encrypted and appropriately authenticated) download file of State Intellectual Property and State Data in a format acceptable to State including all schema and transformation definitions and/or delimited text files with documented, detailed schema definitions along with attachments in their native format. *Provided, however,* in the event the Contractor ceases conducting business in the normal course, becomes insolvent, makes a general assignment for the benefit of creditors, suffers or permits the appointment of a receiver for its business or assets or avails itself of or becomes subject to any proceeding under the Federal Bankruptcy Act or any statute of any state relating to insolvency or the protection of rights of creditors, the Contractor shall immediately return all State Intellectual Property and State Data to State control; including, but not limited to, making all necessary access to applicable remote systems available to the State for purposes of downloading all State Data.

**13.2 Return of Property.** Upon termination of this Contract for any reason whatsoever, Contractor shall immediately deliver to State all State Intellectual Property and State Data (including without limitation any Deliverables for which State has made payment in whole or in part), that are in the possession or under the control of Contractor in whatever stage of development and form of recordation such State property is expressed or embodied at that time.

The Contractor's policies regarding the retrieval of data upon the termination of services have been made available to the State upon execution of this Contract under separate cover. The Contractor shall provide the State with not less than thirty (30) days advance written notice of any material amendment or modification of such policies.

### **14. STATE FACILITIES**

During the term of this Contract, the State may make available to Contractor space in any State

facility applicable to the Services, subject to the conditions that Contractor: (i) shall only use such space solely and exclusively for and in support of the Services; (ii) shall not use State facilities to provide goods or services to or for the benefit of any third party; (iii) shall comply with the leases, security, use and rules and agreements applicable to the State facilities; (iv) shall not use State facilities for any unlawful purpose; (v) shall comply with all policies and procedures governing access to and use of State facilities that are provided

to Contractor in writing; (vi) instruct Contractor personnel not to photograph or record, duplicate, disclose, transmit or communicate any State information, materials, data or other items, tangible or intangible, obtained or available as a result of permitted use of State facilities; and (vii) return such space to the State in the same condition it was in at the commencement of this Contract, ordinary wear and tear excepted. State facilities will be made available to Contractor on an "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis, with no warranties whatsoever.

## 15. AUDIT

**15.1 Audit Rights.** Contractor will maintain and cause its permitted contractors to maintain a complete audit trail of all transactions and activities, financial and non- financial, in connection with this Contract. Contractor will provide to the State, its internal or external auditors, clients, inspectors, regulators and other designated representatives, at reasonable times (and in the case of State or federal regulators, at any time required by such regulators) access to Contractor personnel and to any and all Contractor facilities or where the required information, data and records are maintained, for the purpose of performing audits and inspections (including unannounced and random audits) of Contractor and/or Contractor personnel and/or any or all of the records, data and information applicable to this Contract. At a minimum, such audits, inspections and access shall be conducted to the extent permitted or required by any laws applicable to the State or Contractor (or such higher or more rigorous standards, if any, as State or Contractor applies to its own similar businesses, operations or activities), to (i) verify the accuracy of charges and invoices; (ii) verify the integrity of State Data and examine the systems that process, store, maintain, support and transmit that data; (iii) examine and verify Contractor's and/or its permitted contractors' operations and security procedures and controls; (iv) examine and verify Contractor's and/or its permitted contractors' disaster recovery planning and testing, business resumption and continuity planning and testing, contingency arrangements and insurance coverage; and (v) examine Contractor's and/or its permitted contractors' performance of the Services including audits of: (1) practices and procedures; (2) systems, communications and information technology; (3) general controls and physical and data/information security practices and procedures; (4) quality initiatives and quality assurance, (5) contingency and continuity planning, disaster recovery and back-up procedures for processes, resources and data; (6) Contractor's and/or its permitted contractors' efficiency and costs in performing Services; (7) compliance with the terms of this Contract and applicable laws, and (9) any other matters reasonably requested by the State. Contractor shall provide and cause its permitted contractors to provide full cooperation to such auditors, inspectors, regulators and representatives in connection with audit functions and with regard to examinations by regulatory authorities, including the installation and operation of audit software.

**15.2 Software Licensee Compliance Report.** In lieu of any requirement that may be in a Contractor Document that the State provide the Contractor with access to its system for the purpose of determining State compliance with the terms of the Contractor Document, upon request and not more frequently than annually, the State will provide Contractor with a certified report concerning the State's use of any software licensed for State use pursuant this Contract. The parties agree that any non- compliance indicated by the report shall not constitute infringement of the licensor's intellectual property rights, and that settlement payment mutually agreeable to the parties shall be the exclusive remedy for any such non-compliance.

**15.3 Operations Security.** The Contractor shall cause an SSAE 16 SOC 2 Type 2 audit report to be conducted annually. The audit results and the Contractor's plan for addressing or resolution of the audit results shall be shared with the State within sixty (60) days of the Contractor's receipt of the audit results. Further, on an annual basis, within 90 days of the end of the Contractor's fiscal year, the Contractor shall transmit its annual audited financial statements to the State.

## 16. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Contractor agrees that during the term of this Contract, its performance shall be solely in the best interest of the State. Contractor will not perform services for any person or entity which has also contracted with the State of Vermont in connection with the same project, without express written consent of the State. Contractor shall fully disclose, in writing, any such conflicts of interest, including the nature and extent of the work to be performed for any other person or entity so that the State may be fully informed prior to giving any consent. Contractor agrees that the failure to disclose any such conflicts shall be deemed an event of default under this Contract, and this Contract may be terminable immediately.

## **17. MISCELLANEOUS**

**17.1 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 Contract.



**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 bidders comply with the following provisions and requirements.

Bidder 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:** Bidder 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature (Bid Not Valid Unless Signed)\*

(Type or Print)

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

**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.

### Offshore Outsourcing Questionnaire

Vendors must indicate whether or not any services are or will be performed in a country other than the United States. Indicate N/A if not applicable.

**Services:**

Proposed Service to be Outsourced	Bid Total	Offshore Dollars	Represents what % of total Contract 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 if provided Onshore	Bid Total if provided in Vermont	Cost Impact	Onshore Work Location	Subcontractor

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Name of Bidder: