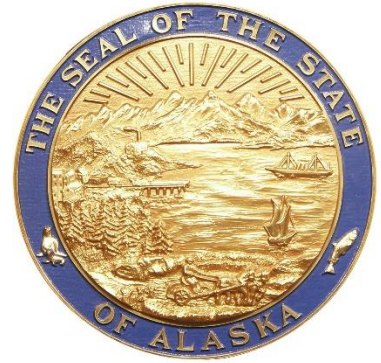


# STATE OF ALASKA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)



## Alaska Breast & Cervical Health (AK B+C) – Fairbanks Outreach

RFP 2024-1600-0032

ISSUED MAY 24, 2023

The Alaska Breast and Cervical Screening Assistance Program (AK B+C) is soliciting proposals for the professional services of a community outreach organization or individual contractor to support the program's efforts to educate the public on the importance of breast and cervical cancer screening, link people to the resources and barrier relief available through AK B+C and provide navigation for priority populations to help them successfully complete appropriate screening.

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### ISSUED BY:

Department of Health  
Division of Public Health  
Section of Women's, Children's & Family Health

### PRIMARY CONTACT:

Matt Meienberg, Procurement Officer  
Matt.Meienberg@alaska.gov

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### OFFERORS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO RETURN THIS FORM.

**Important Notice:** If you received this solicitation from the State of Alaska's "Online Public Notice" web site, you must register with the Procurement Officer listed in this document to receive notification of subsequent amendments. Failure to contact the Procurement Officer may result in the rejection of your offer.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION &amp; INSTRUCTIONS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
SEC. 1.01 PURPOSE OF THE RFP .....	4
SEC. 1.02 BUDGET .....	4
SEC. 1.03 DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS .....	4
SEC. 1.04 PRIOR EXPERIENCE .....	4
SEC. 1.05 REQUIRED REVIEW .....	4
SEC. 1.06 QUESTIONS PRIOR TO DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS .....	5
SEC. 1.07 RETURN INSTRUCTIONS .....	5
SEC. 1.08 ASSISTANCE TO OFFERORS WITH A DISABILITY .....	6
SEC. 1.09 AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSALS .....	6
SEC. 1.10 AMENDMENTS TO THE RFP .....	6
SEC. 1.11 RFP SCHEDULE .....	7
SEC. 1.12 PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE/TELECONFERENCE .....	7
SEC. 1.13 ALTERNATE PROPOSALS .....	7
SEC. 1.14 NEWS RELEASES .....	7
<b>SECTION 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>8</b>
SEC. 2.01 BACKGROUND INFORMATION .....	8
<b>SECTION 3. SCOPE OF WORK &amp; CONTRACT INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>9</b>
SEC. 3.01 SCOPE OF WORK .....	9
SEC. 3.02 CONTRACT TERM AND WORK SCHEDULE .....	9
SEC. 3.03 DELIVERABLES .....	10
SEC. 3.04 CONTRACT TYPE .....	11
SEC. 3.05 PROPOSED PAYMENT PROCEDURES .....	11
SEC. 3.06 CONTRACT PAYMENT .....	11
SEC. 3.07 LOCATION OF WORK .....	12
SEC. 3.08 SUBCONTRACTORS .....	12
SEC. 3.09 JOINT VENTURES .....	12
SEC. 3.10 RIGHT TO INSPECT PLACE OF BUSINESS .....	13
SEC. 3.11 CONTRACT PERSONNEL .....	13
SEC. 3.12 INSPECTION & MODIFICATION - REIMBURSEMENT FOR UNACCEPTABLE DELIVERABLES .....	13
SEC. 3.13 CONTRACT CHANGES - UNANTICIPATED AMENDMENTS .....	13
SEC. 3.14 NONDISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY .....	13
SEC. 3.15 INDEMNIFICATION .....	14
SEC. 3.16 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS .....	15
SEC. 3.17 TERMINATION FOR DEFAULT .....	15
<b>SECTION 4. PROPOSAL FORMAT AND CONTENT .....</b>	<b>16</b>
SEC. 4.01 RFP SUBMITTAL FORMS .....	16
SEC. 4.02 SPECIAL FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS .....	16
SEC. 4.03 OFFEROR INFORMATION AND CERTIFICATIONS (SUBMITTAL FORM A) .....	17
SEC. 4.04 EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS (SUBMITTAL FORM B) .....	17
SEC. 4.05 UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT (SUBMITTAL FORM C) .....	18
SEC. 4.06 METHODOLOGY USED FOR THE PROJECT (SUBMITTAL FORM D) .....	18
SEC. 4.07 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PROJECT (SUBMITTAL FORM E) .....	18
SEC. 4.08 SUBCONTRACTORS (SUBMITTAL FORM F) .....	18
SEC. 4.09 CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT (SUBMITTAL FORM G) .....	19
SEC. 4.10 COST PROPOSAL (SUBMITTAL FORM H) .....	19
<b>SECTION 5. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND CONTRACTOR SELECTION .....</b>	<b>20</b>
SEC. 5.01 SUMMARY OF EVALUATION PROCESS .....	20
SEC. 5.02 EVALUATION CRITERIA .....	20
SEC. 5.03 SCORING METHOD AND CALCULATION .....	21
SEC. 5.04 EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS .....	22
SEC. 5.05 UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT .....	22
SEC. 5.06 METHODOLOGY USED FOR THE PROJECT .....	23
SEC. 5.07 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PROJECT .....	23

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SEC. 5.08	CONTRACT COST (COST PROPOSAL) .....	23
SEC. 5.09	ALASKA OFFEROR PREFERENCE .....	24
<b>SECTION 6.</b>	<b>GENERAL PROCESS AND LEGAL INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>26</b>
SEC. 6.01	INFORMAL DEBRIEFING .....	26
SEC. 6.02	ALASKA BUSINESS LICENSE AND OTHER REQUIRED LICENSES .....	26
SEC. 6.03	SITE INSPECTION .....	26
SEC. 6.04	CLARIFICATION OF OFFERS .....	27
SEC. 6.05	DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFERORS .....	27
SEC. 6.06	EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS .....	27
SEC. 6.07	CONTRACT NEGOTIATION .....	27
SEC. 6.08	FAILURE TO NEGOTIATE .....	28
SEC. 6.09	OFFEROR NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION .....	28
SEC. 6.10	PROTEST .....	28
SEC. 6.11	APPLICATION OF PREFERENCES .....	29
SEC. 6.12	ALASKA BIDDER PREFERENCE .....	29
SEC. 6.13	ALASKA VETERAN PREFERENCE .....	30
SEC. 6.14	STANDARD CONTRACT PROVISIONS .....	30
SEC. 6.15	QUALIFIED OFFERORS .....	31
SEC. 6.16	PROPOSAL AS PART OF THE CONTRACT .....	31
SEC. 6.17	ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS .....	31
SEC. 6.18	HUMAN TRAFFICKING .....	31
SEC. 6.19	RIGHT OF REJECTION .....	31
SEC. 6.20	STATE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARATION COSTS .....	32
SEC. 6.21	DISCLOSURE OF PROPOSAL CONTENTS .....	32
SEC. 6.22	ASSIGNMENT .....	33
SEC. 6.23	DISPUTES .....	33
SEC. 6.24	SEVERABILITY .....	33
SEC. 6.25	SUPPLEMENTAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS .....	33
SEC. 6.26	SOLICITATION ADVERTISING .....	33
SEC. 6.27	FEDERALLY IMPOSED TARIFFS .....	33
<b>SECTION 7.</b>	<b>ATTACHMENTS .....</b>	<b>35</b>
SEC. 7.01	ATTACHMENTS .....	35
SEC. 7.02	ATTACHMENT – SAMPLE STANDARD AGREEMENT FORM (WITH APPENDICES) .....	36

## **SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION & INSTRUCTIONS**

### **SEC. 1.01 PURPOSE OF THE RFP**

The Alaska Breast and Cervical Screening Assistance Program (AK B+C) is soliciting proposals for the professional services of a community outreach organization or individual contractor to support the program's efforts to educate the public on the importance of breast and cervical cancer screening, link people to the resources and barrier relief available through AK B+C, and provide navigation for priority populations to help them successfully complete appropriate screening.

AK B+C is housed in the Department of Health, Division of Public Health, Section of Women's, Children's, and Family Health. The outcomes of this contract will strongly align with the Division of Public Health priorities of decreasing cervical cancer and increasing access to health care and will support the program's goal of reducing breast and cervical cancer morbidity and mortality.

### **SEC. 1.02 BUDGET**

Department of Health, Division of Public Health, estimates a budget of \$40,000.00 dollars per year, for each of ten (10) years. The total budget allocated for all years is \$400,000.00. Proposals priced at more than \$40,000.00 for each year of the term will be considered non-responsive.

### **SEC. 1.03 DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS**

Proposals must be received no later than 12 noon prevailing Alaska Standard Time on Monday, June 19, 2023, as indicated by postmark or email timestamp. Late proposals will not be accepted.

### **SEC. 1.04 PRIOR EXPERIENCE**

For offers to be considered responsive, offerors must meet these minimum prior experience requirements:

- A minimum of two (2) years of experience within the last five (5) years providing community outreach services to underserved Alaskans.
- A minimum of two (2) years of experience within the last five (5) years of utilization of HIPAA compliance protocols.

An offeror's failure to meet these minimum prior experience requirements will cause their proposal to be considered non-responsive and rejected.

### **SEC. 1.05 REQUIRED REVIEW**

Offerors should carefully review this solicitation for defects and questionable or objectionable material. Comments concerning defects and questionable or objectionable material should be made in writing and received by the procurement officer at least ten days before the deadline for receipt of proposals. This will allow

time for the issuance of any necessary amendments. It will also help prevent the opening of a defective proposal and exposure of offeror's proposals upon which award could not be made.

## **SEC. 1.06 QUESTIONS PRIOR TO DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS**

All questions must be in writing and directed to the procurement officer. The interested party must confirm telephone conversations in writing.

Two types of questions generally arise. One may be answered by directing the questioner to a specific section of the RFP. These questions may be answered over email. Other questions may offer additional information that will be issued to all interested parties via written amendment to the RFP. The procurement officer will make that decision.

To submit questions, please contact: Susan Jabal, Procurement Officer III, at [susan.jabal@alaska.gov](mailto:susan.jabal@alaska.gov).

Questions must be submitted by June 7, 2023.

## **SEC. 1.07 RETURN INSTRUCTIONS**

### **Email Submission**

The preferred method of response submission to this solicitation is via email, sent to the following address:  
[hss.procurement.proposal@alaska.gov](mailto:hss.procurement.proposal@alaska.gov)

The email submission must contain the RFP number in the subject line. In the body of the email, please indicate the Procurement Officer's name, the Offeror's name, the number of attachments, and the names of the attachments being submitted.

When submitting a proposal via email, the technical proposal (submittal forms) and cost proposal must be saved as separate, clearly labeled PDF documents, such as "Vendor A – Submittal Forms.pdf" and "Vendor A – Cost Proposal.pdf" (Vendor A is the name of the offeror). The maximum size of a single email (including all text and attachments) that can be received by the State is 20mb (megabytes). If the email containing the proposal exceeds this size, the proposal must be sent in multiple emails that are each less than 20 megabytes; each email must comply with the requirements above. Please also include an indication of multiple email submissions (1 of 2, 2 of 2, etc).

It is the offeror's responsibility to ensure that the Procurement Officer has received the proposal in full, prior to the deadline. The Procurement Officer will respond to the email to confirm receipt. If you do not receive a confirmation, it is your responsibility to contact the Procurement Officer to confirm. The State is not responsible for lost, unreadable, or corrupt emails, or missing attachments.

An offeror's failure to submit its proposal prior to the deadline will cause the proposal to be disqualified. Late proposals or amendments will not be opened or accepted for evaluation.

### **Paper Submission**

If submitted a proposal by mail, Offerors must submit one hard copy of their proposal to the procurement officer, in a sealed package. The cost proposal included with the package must be sealed separately from the rest of the proposal and must be clearly identified.

The sealed proposal package(s) must be addressed as follows:

Department of Health and Social Services  
Division of Finance and Management Services  
Attention: Susan Jabal, Procurement Officer  
RFP Number: 2024-0600-0032  
RFP Title: AK B+C Fairbanks Outreach

If mailing via US Mail, please use the following address:

PO Box 110650  
Juneau, AK 99811-0650

If utilizing a delivery service, please use the following address:

333 Willoughby – Suite 760  
Juneau, AK 99801

An offeror's failure to submit its proposal prior to the deadline will cause the proposal to be disqualified. Late proposals or amendments will not be opened or accepted for evaluation. Faxed proposals will not be accepted. Oral proposals will not be accepted.

## **SEC. 1.08 ASSISTANCE TO OFFERORS WITH A DISABILITY**

Offerors with a disability may receive accommodation regarding the means of communicating this RFP or participating in the procurement process. For more information, contact the procurement officer no later than ten days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals.

## **SEC. 1.09 AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSALS**

Amendments to or withdrawals of proposals will only be allowed if acceptable requests are received prior to the deadline that is set for receipt of proposals. No amendments or withdrawals will be accepted after the deadline unless they are in response to the state's request in accordance with 2 AAC 12.290.

## **SEC. 1.10 AMENDMENTS TO THE RFP**

If an amendment is issued before the deadline for receipt of proposals, the amendment will be posted on the State of Alaska Online Public Notice (OPN) website. The link to the posting of the amendment will be provided to all who were notified of the RFP and to those who have registered with the procurement officer after receiving the RFP from the OPN.

After receipt of proposals, if there is a need for any substantial clarification or material change in the RFP, an amendment will be issued. The amendment will incorporate the clarification or change, and a new date and time established for new or amended proposals. Evaluations may be adjusted as a result of receiving new or amended proposals.

### **SEC. 1.11 RFP SCHEDULE**

The RFP schedule set out herein represents the State of Alaska’s best estimate of the schedule that will be followed. If a component of this schedule, such as the deadline for receipt of proposals, is delayed, the rest of the schedule may be shifted by the same number of days.

- Issue RFP on May 24, 2023
- Deadline for receipt of questions on June 7, 2023
- Deadline for receipt of proposals on June 19, 2023
- Proposal Evaluation Committee complete evaluation by June 27, 2023
- State of Alaska issues Notice of Intent to Award a Contract by June 28, 2023
- State of Alaska issues contract award by July 10, 2023
- Contract begins August 1, 2023, or upon contract execution.

This RFP does not, by itself, obligate the state. The state's obligation will commence when the contract is approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Health, or the Commissioner's designee. Upon written notice to the contractor, the state may set a different starting date for the contract.

The state will not be responsible for any work done by the contractor, even work done in good faith, if it occurs prior to the contract start date set by the state.

### **SEC. 1.12 PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE/TELECONFERENCE**

A pre-proposal conference will not be held for this solicitation.

Interested parties may submit questions in writing per RFP Section 1.06.

### **SEC. 1.13 ALTERNATE PROPOSALS**

Offerors may only submit one proposal for evaluation. In accordance with 2 AAC 12.830 alternate proposals (proposals that offer something different than what is asked for) will be rejected.

### **SEC. 1.14 NEWS RELEASES**

News releases related to this RFP will not be made without prior approval of the project director.

## **SECTION 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **SEC. 2.01 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Alaska Breast and Cervical Screening Assistance Program (AK B+C), within the Division of Public Health – Section of Women’s Children’s and Family Health, has been operating in the state of Alaska since 1995 addressing barriers to breast and cervical cancer screening for underserved populations.

In addition to activities to improve access to healthcare on a systems level, AK B+C covers the out-of-pocket costs of breast and cervical cancer screening for women who meet age and income requirements. AK B+C contracts with health care providers all over Alaska who agree to participate in the program and be reimbursed for breast and cervical cancer screening services.

Fairbanks has been identified as a priority region for increased outreach efforts.

The Alaska Breast and Cervical Screening Assistance Program is part of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp/index.htm>).



## **SECTION 3. SCOPE OF WORK & CONTRACT INFORMATION**

### **SEC. 3.01 SCOPE OF WORK**

The Alaska Breast and Cervical Screening Assistance Program (AK B+C) is soliciting proposals for the professional services of a community outreach organization or individual contractor to support the program's efforts to educate the public on the importance of breast and cervical cancer screening, link people to the resources and barrier relief available through AK B+C and provide navigation for priority populations to help them successfully complete appropriate screening.

AK B+C is housed in the Department of Health, Division of Public Health, Section of Women's, Children's and Family Health. The outcomes of this contract will strongly align with the Division of Public Health priorities of decreasing cervical cancer and increasing access to health care and will support the program's goal of reducing breast and cervical cancer morbidity and mortality.

To address communities in Fairbanks, Alaska region, AK B+C is seeking a contractor to perform outreach and patient navigation. AK B+C will provide outreach materials and assist with high level community data for developing goals and priorities. The target population for outreach and patient navigation efforts are Alaskans ages 21 to 64 who are at or below 250% of the federal poverty level. The goal of this work is to increase breast and cervical cancer screening in the Fairbanks area through enrolling eligible people into the program and assisting with patient navigation when needed. In addition to assisting those without health insurance, people enrolled in the program can have health insurance and still qualify. AK B+C can help with copays and deductibles for those who qualify.

There are recommended strategies that AK B+C will share from the national Community Preventive Services Task Force (<https://www.thecommunityguide.org/>) such as small media to educate and motivate people to get screened, group and one-on-one education, efforts to reduce structural barriers (i.e.: transportation and language interpretation) that impede screening, and patient navigation.

The goals that will be measured are increased AK B+C enrollment in this region and, improved screening rates from these communities.

Support and monitoring of the outreach program and its work towards the goals will be through monthly check-ins with the AK B+C Outreach Manager and quarterly reports submitted by the contractor. In addition, there will be monthly virtual gatherings with the other outreach/patient navigation contractors throughout the state to share ideas and challenges. Outreach/patient navigation services are currently offered in Matsu, Kenai, and Anchorage.

### **SEC. 3.02 CONTRACT TERM AND WORK SCHEDULE**

The length of the contract will be as follows:

The initial contract will be for a five-year term starting from the date of award, with a five-year renewal option to be executed at the sole discretion of the State. The total term, if the renewal is executed, will be ten years.

Unless otherwise provided in this RFP, the State and the successful offeror/contractor agree: (1) that any extension of the contract excluding any exercised renewal options, will be considered as a month-to-month

extension, and all other terms and conditions shall remain in full force and effect and (2) the procurement officer will provide notice to the contractor of the intent to cancel such month-to-month extension at least 30 days before the desired date of cancellation. A month-to-month extension may only be executed by the procurement officer via a written contract amendment.

### **SEC. 3.03 DELIVERABLES**

In accordance with the scope of work above (Sec 3.01), the contractor will be required to provide the following deliverables:

1. Contractor will participate in an initial meeting with the Alaska Breast and Cervical Outreach Manager in the first two weeks of the contract to clarify any questions/details about the workplan, protocols for identifying the target population, protocols for patient and provider contacts, and the timeline.

Within two weeks of the initial meeting the contractor will provide a final project work plan including a detailed budget and projected enrollment targets.

2. Contractor will provide Patient Navigation services including but not limited to:
  - a. Identification and recruitment of people eligible for the Alaska Breast and Cervical Screening Assistance Program
  - b. Assessment of individual patient barriers to cancer screening, diagnostic services, and initiation of cancer treatment
  - c. Individualized education and support
  - d. Assistance with the Alaska Breast and Cervical Screening Assistance Program (AK B+C) enrollment process, including providing a list of all AK B+C providers in the area
  - e. Assistance with scheduling screening appointments with the patient's choice of AK B+C provider
  - f. Resolution of patient barriers (i.e., transportation, translation, or childcare)
  - g. Assistance, as needed, with scheduling follow-up appointments
  - h. Work with AK B+C staff to resolve billing and insurance issues
  - i. Patient tracking and follow-up to support patient progress in completing screening, diagnostic testing, or initiating cancer treatment
  - j. Collection of data to evaluate the primary outcomes of patient navigation – cancer screening and/or diagnostic testing, final diagnosis, or treatment initiation
3. Contractor will conduct outreach activities including but not limited to:
  - a. Educate Alaskans, particularly those in the priority populations, about breast and cervical cancer risk and screening recommendations utilizing the following evidence-based strategies:
    - i. Client reminders such as letters, postcards, emails, text messages, voicemail
    - ii. Group education conducted by health professionals or trained lay educators to provide accurate cancer screening information
    - iii. One-on-one education conducted by health professionals or trained lay educators about indications for, benefits of, and ways to overcome barriers to cancer screening with the goal of informing, encouraging, and motivating people to seek recommended screening
    - iv. Development and distribution of culturally- tailored small media materials to inform and motivate individuals to be screened
  - b. Increase awareness of AK B+C services and affiliated activities such as mobile mammography clinics.

- c. Contractor will conduct evidence-based strategies among AK B+C priority populations and enroll eligible people in the program.
4. For the duration of the contract, the contractor will be available to meet with the AK B+C Outreach Manager monthly – either in-person or over the phone.
5. Contractor will monitor the project and notify the AK B+C Outreach Manager of any concerns, as well as prepare and submit monthly invoices in accordance with the terms of the contract.
6. Contractor will share progress toward achieving work plan goals and projected enrollment targets in quarterly reports to the Outreach Manager.
7. A representative of the contracting agency will actively participate in monthly Outreach Coalition meetings – in person or virtual – organized by the AK B+C Outreach Manager, the Alaska Cancer Partnership Detection workgroup, and other relevant collaboratives.
8. All services conducted during this contract must adhere to HIPAA mandatory guidelines. Should a HIPAA violation occur, the contractor must notify the AK B+C Outreach Manager as described in the contract.

### **SEC. 3.04 CONTRACT TYPE**

This contract is a fixed firm rate contract.

### **SEC. 3.05 PROPOSED PAYMENT PROCEDURES**

The state will make payments based on a negotiated payment schedule. Each billing must consist of an invoice, and quarterly progress reports must be timely. No payment will be made until the quarterly progress report has been received, and the invoice has been approved by the project director.

### **SEC. 3.06 CONTRACT PAYMENT**

No payment will be made until the contract is approved by the Commissioner of the Department or the Commissioner's designee. Under no conditions will the state be liable for the payment of any interest charges associated with the cost of the contract. The state is not responsible for and will not pay local, state, or federal taxes. All costs associated with the contract must be stated in U.S. currency.

Payment for agreements under \$500,000 for the undisputed purchase of goods or services provided to a state agency, will be made within 30 days of the receipt of a proper billing or the delivery of the goods or services to the location(s) specified in the agreement, whichever is later. A late payment is subject to 1.5% interest per month on the unpaid balance. Interest will not be paid if there is a dispute or if there is an agreement that establishes a lower interest rate or precludes the charging of interest.

Any single contract payment of \$1 million or higher must be accepted by the contractor via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

## **SEC. 3.07 LOCATION OF WORK**

The location(s) the work is to be performed, completed, and managed is in Fairbanks, Alaska.

The State will not provide workspace for the contractor. The contractor must provide its own workspace.

The State does not anticipate travel as a part of this contract. If the contractor expects to travel in order to conduct the services of this contract, they must include all travel expenses in their proposed cost. No additional charges are billable to this contract.

### International Work

By signing their proposal, the offeror certifies that all services provided under this contract by the contractor and all subcontractors shall be performed in the United States. If the offeror cannot certify that all work will be performed in the United States, the offeror must contact the procurement officer in writing to request a waiver at least 10 days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals. The request must include a detailed description of the portion of work that will be performed outside the United States, where, by whom, and the reason the waiver is necessary. Failure to comply with these requirements may cause the state to reject the proposal as non-responsive or cancel the contract.

## **SEC. 3.08 SUBCONTRACTORS**

Subcontractors may be used to perform work under this contract. If an offeror intends to use subcontractors, the offeror must identify in the proposal the names of the subcontractors and the portions of the work the subcontractors will perform.

Subcontractor experience **will not** be considered in determining whether the offeror meets the requirements set forth in Section 1.04: Prior Experience.

If a proposal with subcontractors is selected, the offeror must provide the following information concerning each prospective subcontractor within five working days from the date of the state's request:

- complete name of the subcontractor;
- complete address of the subcontractor;
- type of work the subcontractor will be performing;
- percentage of work the subcontractor will be providing;
- evidence that the subcontractor holds a valid Alaska business license if they will be performing work within the state; and
- a written statement, signed by each proposed subcontractor that clearly verifies that the subcontractor is committed to render the services required by the contract.

An offeror's failure to provide this information, within the time set, may cause the state to consider their proposal non-responsive and reject it. The substitution of one subcontractor for another may be made only at the discretion and prior written approval of the project director.

## **SEC. 3.09 JOINT VENTURES**

Joint ventures will not be allowed.

### **SEC. 3.10 RIGHT TO INSPECT PLACE OF BUSINESS**

At reasonable times, the state may inspect those areas of the contractor's place of business that are related to the performance of a contract. If the state makes such an inspection, the contractor must provide reasonable assistance.

### **SEC. 3.11 CONTRACT PERSONNEL**

Any change of the project team members or subcontractors named in the proposal must be approved, in advance and in writing, by the project director and the procurement officer. Changes that are not approved by the state may be grounds for the state to terminate the contract.

### **SEC. 3.12 INSPECTION & MODIFICATION - REIMBURSEMENT FOR UNACCEPTABLE DELIVERABLES**

The contractor is responsible for the completion of all work set out in the contract. All work is subject to inspection, evaluation, and approval by the project director. The state may employ all reasonable means to ensure that the work is progressing and being performed in compliance with the contract. The project director or procurement officer may instruct the contractor to make corrections or modifications if needed in order to accomplish the contract's intent. The contractor will not unreasonably withhold such changes.

Substantial failure of the contractor to perform the contract may cause the state to terminate the contract. In this event, the state may require the contractor to reimburse monies paid (based on the identified portion of unacceptable work received) and may seek associated damages.

### **SEC. 3.13 CONTRACT CHANGES - UNANTICIPATED AMENDMENTS**

During the course of this contract, the contractor may be required to perform additional work. That work will be within the general scope of the initial contract. When additional work is required, the project director will provide the contractor a written description of the additional work and request the contractor to submit a firm time schedule for accomplishing the additional work and a firm price for the additional work. Cost and pricing data must be provided to justify the cost of such amendments per AS 36.30.400.

The contractor will not commence additional work until the procurement officer has secured any required state approvals necessary for the amendment and issued a written contract amendment, approved by the Commissioner of the Department or the Commissioner's designee.

### **SEC. 3.14 NONDISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

Contractor agrees that all confidential information shall be used only for purposes of providing the deliverables and performing the services specified herein and shall not disseminate or allow dissemination of confidential

information except as provided for in this section. The contractor shall hold as confidential and will use reasonable care (including both facility physical security and electronic security) to prevent unauthorized access by, storage, disclosure, publication, dissemination to and/or use by third parties of, the confidential information. “Reasonable care” means compliance by the contractor with all applicable federal and state law, including the Social Security Act and HIPAA. The contractor must promptly notify the state in writing if it becomes aware of any storage, disclosure, loss, unauthorized access to or use of the confidential information.

Confidential information, as used herein, means any data, files, software, information or materials (whether prepared by the state or its agents or advisors) in oral, electronic, tangible or intangible form and however stored, compiled or memorialized that is classified confidential as defined by State of Alaska classification and categorization guidelines provided by the state to the contractor or a contractor agent or otherwise made available to the contractor or a contractor agent in connection with this contract, or acquired, obtained or learned by the contractor or a contractor agent in the performance of this contract. Examples of confidential information include, but are not limited to: technology infrastructure, architecture, financial data, trade secrets, equipment specifications, user lists, passwords, research data, and technology data (infrastructure, architecture, operating systems, security tools, IP addresses, etc).

If confidential information is requested to be disclosed by the contractor pursuant to a request received by a third party and such disclosure of the confidential information is required under applicable state or federal law, regulation, governmental or regulatory authority, the contractor may disclose the confidential information after providing the state with written notice of the requested disclosure (to the extent such notice to the state is permitted by applicable law) and giving the state opportunity to review the request. If the contractor receives no objection from the state, it may release the confidential information within 30 days. Notice of the requested disclosure of confidential information by the contractor must be provided to the state within a reasonable time after the contractor’s receipt of notice of the requested disclosure and, upon request of the state, shall seek to obtain legal protection from the release of the confidential information.

The following information shall not be considered confidential information: information previously known to be public information when received from the other party; information freely available to the general public; information which now is or hereafter becomes publicly known by other than a breach of confidentiality hereof; or information which is disclosed by a party pursuant to subpoena or other legal process and which as a result becomes lawfully obtainable by the general public.

### **SEC. 3.15 INDEMNIFICATION**

The contractor shall indemnify, hold harmless, and defend the contracting agency from and against any claim of, or liability for error, omission, or negligent act of the contractor under this agreement. The contractor shall not be required to indemnify the contracting agency for a claim of, or liability for, the independent negligence of the contracting agency. If there is a claim of, or liability for, the joint negligent error or omission of the contractor and the independent negligence of the contracting agency, the indemnification and hold harmless obligation shall be apportioned on a comparative fault basis. “Contractor” and “contracting agency”, as used within this and the following article, include the employees, agents and other contractors who are directly responsible, respectively, to each. The term “independent negligence” is negligence other than in the contracting agency’s selection, administration, monitoring, or controlling of the contractor and in approving or accepting the contractor’s work.

## SEC. 3.16 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Without limiting contractor's indemnification, it is agreed that contractor shall purchase at its own expense, and maintain in force at all times during the performance of services under this agreement, the following policies of insurance. Where specific limits are shown, it is understood that they shall be the minimum acceptable limits. If the contractor's policy contains higher limits, the state shall be entitled to coverage to the extent of such higher limits.

Certificates of Insurance must be furnished to the procurement officer prior to beginning work and must provide for a notice of cancellation, non-renewal, or material change of conditions in accordance with policy provisions. Failure to furnish satisfactory evidence of insurance or lapse of the policy is a material breach of this contract and shall be grounds for termination of the contractor's services. All insurance policies shall comply with and be issued by insurers licensed to transact the business of insurance under AS 21.

**Workers' Compensation Insurance:** The contractor shall provide and maintain, for all employees engaged in work under this contract, coverage as required by AS 23.30.045, and where applicable, any other statutory obligations including but not limited to Federal U.S.L. & H. and Jones Act requirements. The policy must waive subrogation against the State.

**Commercial General Liability Insurance:** covering all business premises and operations used by the Contractor in the performance of services under this agreement with minimum coverage limits of \$300,000 combined single limit per claim.

**Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance:** covering all vehicles used by the contractor in the performance of services under this agreement with minimum coverage limits of \$300,000 combined single limit per claim.

## SEC. 3.17 TERMINATION FOR DEFAULT

If the project director determines that the contractor has refused to perform the work or has failed to perform the work with such diligence as to ensure its timely and accurate completion, the state may, by providing written notice to the contractor, terminate the contractor's right to proceed with part or all of the remaining work. This clause does not restrict the state's termination rights under the contract provisions (Appendix A of the Standard Agreement Template), attached in Section 7.02.

## SECTION 4. PROPOSAL FORMAT AND CONTENT

### SEC. 4.01 RFP SUBMITTAL FORMS

This RFP contains prescribed Submittal Forms, which must be completed by the offeror and submitted as part of their proposal. An electronic copy of the required forms is posted along with this RFP. The instructions for each of the forms are provided in the sections below.

Unless otherwise specified in this RFP, the Submittal Forms shall be the offeror's entire proposal. Do not include any marketing information in the proposal.

Any proposal that does not follow these requirements may be deemed non-responsive.

### SEC. 4.02 SPECIAL FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

The offeror must ensure that their proposal meets all special formatting requirements identified in this section.

**Documents and Text:** All attachment documents must be written in the English language, be single sided, and be single spaced with a minimum font size of 10. Pictures or graphics may be used if the offeror feels it is necessary to communicate their information, however, be aware of the below requirements for page limits.

**Page Limits:** Some Submittal Forms listed below have maximum page limit requirements. Offerors must not exceed the maximum page limits. Note, the page limit applies to the front side of a page only (for example, '1 Page' implies that the offeror can only provide a response on one side of a piece of paper). Any pages exceeding the maximum page limit will be discarded and will not be included in the evaluations (for example, the maximum page limit is 3 pages, but the Offeror submits 5 pages for that submittal form. Only pages 1-3 will be evaluated. Pages 4 and 5 would be discarded by the Procurement Officer before sending to the proposal evaluation committee for evaluation.).

Submittal Form	Maximum Page Limits
Submittal Form A – Offeror Information and Certifications	
<b>Submittal Form B – Experience and Qualifications</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Submittal Form C – Understanding of the Project</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Submittal Form D – Methodology Used for the Project</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Submittal Form E – Management Plan for the Project</b>	<b>3</b>
Submittal Form F – Subcontractors	
Submittal Form G – Certification Regarding Debarment	
Submittal Form H – Cost Proposal	

Any Submittal Form submitted as part of a proposal that is not compliant with the instructions above may be a basis for finding the entire proposal non-responsive and thus rejected.



### **SEC. 4.03 OFFEROR INFORMATION AND CERTIFICATIONS (SUBMITTAL FORM A)**

The offeror must complete and submit this Submittal Form. The form must be signed by an individual authorized to bind the offeror to the provisions of the RFP.

By signature on the form, the offeror certifies they comply with the following:

- a) the laws of the State of Alaska;
- b) the applicable portion of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964;
- c) the Equal Employment Opportunity Act and the regulations issued thereunder by the federal government;
- d) the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the regulations issued thereunder by the federal government;
- e) all terms and conditions set out in this RFP;
- f) a condition that the proposal submitted was independently arrived at, without collusion, under penalty of perjury; and
- g) that the offers will remain open and valid for at least 90 days.

If any offeror fails to comply with (a) through (g) of this paragraph, the state reserves the right to disregard the proposal, terminate the contract, or consider the contractor in default.

The Submittal Form also requests the following information:

- a) The complete name and address of offeror's firm along with the offeror's Tax ID.
- b) Contact Information for the person the state should contact regarding the proposal.
- c) Names of critical team members/personnel.
- d) Addenda acknowledgement.
- e) Conflict of interest statement.
- f) Federal requirements.
- g) Alaska preference qualifications.

An offeror's failure to address/respond/include these items may cause the proposal to be determined to be non-responsive and the proposal may be rejected.

### **SEC. 4.04 EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS (SUBMITTAL FORM B)**

In this submittal form, offerors must provide the following:

- Detail on the personnel assigned to accomplish the work called for in this RFP; illustrate the lines of authority; designate the individual responsible and accountable for the completion of each component and deliverable of the RFP.
- A narrative description of the organization of the project team and a personnel roster that identifies each person who will work on the contract along with their titles. Resumes for key personnel should be provided as a separate attachment to Submittal Form B.
- A description of ties and relationships with the Fairbanks community: people and organizations.
- A description of specific experience providing health care outreach and access support services, ideally with the AK B+C priority population (ages 21-64, limited income, barriers to health care access, etc.).
- A description of specific experience and compliance with HIPAA protocols for patient confidentiality.

The offeror shall not disclose their costs in this Submittal Form. Submission forms shall not exceed the limit of 4 pages (as described in Section 4.02).

#### **SEC. 4.05 UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT (SUBMITTAL FORM C)**

Offerors must provide comprehensive narrative statements that illustrate their understanding of the requirements of the project and the project schedule.

Offerors must describe their understanding of the Fairbanks community, the services of the AK B+C program, the collaborative organizations, the target population, and barriers to care.

The offeror shall not disclose their costs in this Submittal Form. Submission forms shall not exceed the limit of 3 pages (as described in Section 4.02).

#### **SEC. 4.06 METHODOLOGY USED FOR THE PROJECT (SUBMITTAL FORM D)**

Offerors must provide comprehensive narrative statements that set out the methodology they intend to employ and illustrate how the methodology will serve to accomplish the work and meet the state's project schedule.

Offerors must clearly describe how they will conduct comprehensive outreach services, and how they will help participants navigate the program through any obstacles they might encounter.

Offerors must describe how they will utilize best practices for community engagement, including collaborations with local organizations/community ties.

The offeror shall not disclose their costs in this Submittal Form. Submission forms shall not exceed the limit of 4 pages (as described in Section 4.02).

#### **SEC. 4.07 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PROJECT (SUBMITTAL FORM E)**

Offerors must provide comprehensive narrative statements that set out the management plan they intend to follow and illustrate how the plan will serve to accomplish the work and meet the state's project schedule.

Offerors must describe their capacity to conduct a rigorous outreach effort in the Fairbanks area, and how this effort will be managed to ensure its success, and how participants will be followed through the program. This should include how the offeror will utilize community ties towards reaching the target populations and helping them overcome barriers.

Offerors must describe how they will manage HIPAA compliance by all team members who work on this project.

The offeror shall not disclose their costs in this Submittal Form. Submission forms shall not exceed the limit of 3 pages (as described in Section 4.02).

#### **SEC. 4.08 SUBCONTRACTORS (SUBMITTAL FORM F)**

If using subcontractors, the offeror must complete and submit this Submittal Form.

#### **SEC. 4.09 CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT (SUBMITTAL FORM G)**

Per RFP Section 6.19, debarred contractors are not allowed. All offerors are required to complete the Certification Regarding Debarment form.

#### **SEC. 4.10 COST PROPOSAL (SUBMITTAL FORM H)**

Offerors must complete and submit this Submittal Form. Proposed costs must include all direct and indirect costs associated with the performance of the contract, including, but not limited to, total number of hours at various hourly rates, direct expenses, payroll, supplies, overhead assigned to each person working on the project, percentage of each person's time devoted to the project, and profit. The costs identified on the cost proposal are the total amount of costs to be paid by the state. No additional charges shall be allowed.

Submittal Form H must be completed and submitted as a separate document. No references to costs are allowed in the other submittal forms.

## SECTION 5. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND CONTRACTOR SELECTION

### SEC. 5.01 SUMMARY OF EVALUATION PROCESS

The state will use the following steps to evaluate and prioritize proposals:

- 1) Proposals will be assessed for overall responsiveness. Proposals deemed non-responsive will be eliminated from further consideration.
- 2) A proposal evaluation committee (PEC), made up of at least three state employees or public officials, will evaluate the technical portion of all responsive proposals.
- 3) The Submittal Forms, from each responsive proposal, will be sent to the PEC. No cost information will be shared or provided to the PEC.
- 4) The PEC will independently evaluate and score the documents based on the degree to which they meet the stated evaluation criteria (Section 5.02).
- 5) After independent scoring, the PEC will have a meeting, chaired by the procurement officer, where the PEC may have a group discussion prior to finalizing their scores.
- 6) The evaluators will submit their final individual scores to the procurement officer, who will then compile the scores and calculate awarded points as set out in Section 5.03.
- 7) The procurement officer will calculate scores for cost proposals as set out in Section 5.08 and add those scores to the awarded points along with factoring in any Alaska preferences.
- 8) The procurement officer may ask for best and final offers from offerors susceptible for award and revise the cost scores accordingly.
- 9) The state will then conduct any necessary negotiations with the highest scoring offeror and award a contract if the negotiations are successful.

### SEC. 5.02 EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on their overall value to state, considering both cost and non-cost factors as described below. Note: An evaluation may not be based on discrimination due to the race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, disability, or political affiliation of the offeror.

Overall Criteria	Weight
Responsiveness	Pass/Fail

Qualifications Criteria		Weight
Experience and Qualifications	(Submittal Form B)	150
Understanding of the Project	(Submittal Form C)	100
Methodology Used for the Project	(Submittal Form D)	150
Management Plan for the Project	(Submittal Form E)	100
Total		500

Cost Criteria		Weight
Cost Proposal	(Submittal Form F)	400
Total		400

Preference Criteria	Weight
Alaska Offeror Preference (if applicable)	100
Total	100

**TOTAL EVALUATION POINTS AVAILABLE: 1000**

## SEC. 5.03 SCORING METHOD AND CALCULATION

Each Proposal Evaluation Committee (PEC) member will individually evaluate and score each responsive proposal using the criteria set out in Sections 5.04 through 5.07 . Evaluators will begin with a score at the midpoint for each section; the score may either increase or decrease depending on the offeror’s response to each question for that section. As an example, if the offeror provided responses over and above the evaluation questions in a section, they would receive a higher score. However, if the Offeror’s response fails to address all questions of a section or demonstrates some lack of understanding or competency as it relates to a question for that section, the offeror would then receive a lower score.

After the PEC has scored, the scores for each section will be totaled and the following formula will be used to calculate the total amount of points awarded for each section:

Offeror Total Score  
\_\_\_\_\_ x Max Points = Points Awarded  
Highest Total Score Possible

**Example (Max Points for the Section = 100):**

	PEC Member 1 Score	PEC Member 2 Score	PEC Member 3 Score	PEC Member 4 Score	Combined Total Score	Points Awarded
<b>Offeror 1</b>	10	5	5	10	30	75
<b>Offeror 2</b>	5	5	5	5	20	50
<b>Offeror 3</b>	10	10	10	10	40	100

**Offeror 1** was awarded 75 points:

Offeror Total Score (30)  
\_\_\_\_\_ x Max Points (100) = Points Awarded (75)  
Highest Total Score Possible (40)

**Offeror 2** was awarded 50 points:

Offeror Total Score (20)  
\_\_\_\_\_ x Max Points (100) = Points Awarded (50)  
Highest Total Score Possible (40)

**Offeror 3** was awarded 100 points:

Offeror Total Score (40)

\_\_\_\_\_ x Max Points (100) = Points Awarded (100)  
Highest Total Score Possible (40)

## **SEC. 5.04 EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS**

This portion of the offeror's proposal will be evaluated against the following questions:

### **1) Questions regarding the personnel:**

- a) Do the individuals assigned to the project have experience building community connections and providing patient navigation services?
- b) Are resumes complete and do they demonstrate backgrounds that have existing connections to this community?
- c) Do the proposed personnel demonstrate the education and experience needed to provide the level of work of this RFP?

### **2) Questions regarding the firm and subcontractor (if used):**

- a) How well has the firm demonstrated experience in completing similar projects on time/within budget?
- b) How successful is the general history of the firm regarding timely and successful completion of projects?
- c) Does the offeror show experience working within a coalition to provide access to programs that fulfill community needs?
- d) If a subcontractor will perform work on the contract, how well do they measure up to the evaluation used for the offeror?

## **SEC. 5.05 UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT**

This portion of the offeror's proposal will be evaluated against the following questions:

- 1) How well has the offeror identified the needs of their community related to underserved populations, and ways to navigate individuals to needed services?
- 2) To what degree has the offeror demonstrated an understanding of creating community collaboration as a way to achieve a common goal?
- 3) How well has the offeror demonstrated a thorough understanding of engaging with their community for the purpose of connecting with underserved populations?
- 4) Has the offeror demonstrated an understanding of the target population and barriers they may have with receiving services?

## **SEC. 5.06 METHODOLOGY USED FOR THE PROJECT**

This portion of the offeror's proposal will be evaluated against the following questions:

- 1) Does the offeror show a thorough understanding of, and willingness to implement best practices for community engagement?
- 2) Does the offeror show an understanding and willingness to meet with outreach manager and turn in quarterly reports as scheduled?
- 3) Did the offeror describe methods to be used to accomplish goals when experiencing issues with navigating people through their services?
- 4) Did the offeror describe the use of HIPAA compliance through all stages of engagement with participants?
- 5) Did the offeror clearly describe a plan for outreach efforts, and a plan for participant navigation services once engaged in the program?

## **SEC. 5.07 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PROJECT**

This portion of the offeror's proposal will be evaluated against the following questions:

- 1) How well does the management plan support community level cancer prevention and understanding of screening requirements?
- 2) How well is accountability completely and clearly defined?
- 3) How well does the management plan illustrate existing community ties and experience doing similar work as what is requested in the RFP?
- 4) To what extent does the offeror already have experience making strong community connections and assisting individuals with overcoming barriers to services?
- 5) Does it appear that the offeror can find new and not previously sought after ways to engage with the target population?
- 6) Has the offeror gone beyond the minimum tasks necessary to meet the objectives of the RFP?
- 7) To what degree does the proposal reflect a solid plan to build community partners and address the needs of target populations?
- 8) To what extent has the offeror identified potential problems, as well as solutions to overcome the problems identified?

## **SEC. 5.08 CONTRACT COST (COST PROPOSAL)**

Overall, 40% of the total evaluation points will be assigned to cost. After the procurement officer applies any applicable preferences, the offeror with the lowest total cost will receive the maximum number of points

allocated to cost per 2 AAC 12.260(c). The point allocations for cost on the other proposals will be determined using the following formula:

$$[(\text{Price of Lowest Cost Proposal}) \times (\text{Maximum Points for Cost})] \div (\text{Cost of Each Higher Priced Proposal})$$

**Example (Max Points for Contract Cost = 400):**

**Step 1**

List all proposal prices, adjusted where appropriate by the application of applicable preferences claimed by the offeror.

Offeror #1	\$40,000
Offeror #2	\$42,750
Offeror #3	\$47,500

**Step 2**

In this example, the RFP allotted 40% of the available 1,000 points to cost. This means that the lowest cost will receive the maximum number of points.

**Offeror #1 receives 400 points.**

The reason they receive that amount is because the lowest cost proposal, in this case \$40,000, receives the maximum number of points allocated to cost, 400 points.

**Offeror #2 receives 374.3 points.**

$$\$40,000 \text{ lowest cost} \times 400 \text{ maximum points for cost} = 16,000,000 \div \$42,750 \text{ cost of Offeror \#2's proposal} = \mathbf{374.3}$$

**Offeror #3 receives 336.8 points.**

$$\$40,000 \text{ lowest cost} \times 400 \text{ maximum points for cost} = 16,000,000 \div \$47,500 \text{ cost of Offeror \#3's proposal} = \mathbf{336.8}$$

## **SEC. 5.09 ALASKA OFFEROR PREFERENCE**

Per 2 AAC 12.260, if an offeror qualifies for the Alaska Bidder Preference, the offeror will receive an Alaska Offeror Preference. The preference will be 10% of the total available points, which will be added to the offeror's overall evaluation score.

**Example:**

**Step 1**

Determine the number of points available to qualifying offerors under this preference:

$$1000 \text{ Total Points Available in RFP} \times 10\% \text{ Alaska Offeror preference} = 100 \text{ Points for the preference}$$

**Step 2**

Determine which offerors qualify as Alaska bidders and thus, are eligible for the Alaska Offeror preference. For the purpose of this example, presume that all proposals have been completely evaluated based on the evaluation criteria in the RFP. The scores at this point are:



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Offeror #1	830 points	No Preference	0 points
Offeror #2	740 points	Alaska Offeror Preference	100 points
Offeror #3	800 points	Alaska Offeror Preference	100 points

**Step 3**

Add the applicable Alaska Offeror preference amounts to the offerors' scores:

Offeror #1	830 points
Offeror #2	840 points (740 points + 100 points)
<b>Offeror #3</b>	<b>900 points (800 points + 100 points)</b>

**Offeror #3** is the highest scoring offeror and would get the award, provided their proposal is responsive and responsible.

## **SECTION 6. GENERAL PROCESS AND LEGAL INFORMATION**

### **SEC. 6.01 INFORMAL DEBRIEFING**

When the contract is completed, an informal debriefing may be performed at the discretion of the project director or procurement officer. If performed, the scope of the debriefing will be limited to the work performed by the contractor.

### **SEC. 6.02 ALASKA BUSINESS LICENSE AND OTHER REQUIRED LICENSES**

Prior to the award of a contract, an offeror must hold a valid Alaska business license. However, in order to receive the Alaska Bidder Preference and other related preferences, such as the Alaska Veteran and Alaska Offeror Preference, an offeror must hold a valid Alaska business license prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals. Offerors should contact the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing, PO Box 110806, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806, for information on these licenses. Website: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/BusinessLicensing.aspx>.

Acceptable evidence that the offeror possesses an Alaska business license may consist of any one of the following:

- copy of a valid Alaska business license;
- certification on the proposal that the offeror has a valid Alaska business license and has included the license number in the proposal;
- a canceled check for the Alaska business license fee;
- a copy of the Alaska business license application with a receipt stamp from the state's occupational licensing office; or
- a sworn and notarized statement that the offeror has applied and paid for the Alaska business license.

You are not required to hold a valid Alaska business license at the time proposals are opened if you possess one of the following licenses and are offering services or supplies under that specific line of business:

- fisheries business licenses issued by Alaska Dept. of Revenue or Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game,
- liquor licenses issued by Alaska Dept. of Revenue for alcohol sales only,
- insurance licenses issued by Alaska Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development - Division of Insurance, or
- Mining licenses issued by Alaska Dept. of Revenue.

Prior the deadline for receipt of proposals, all offerors must hold any other necessary applicable professional licenses required by Alaska Statute.

### **SEC. 6.03 SITE INSPECTION**

The state may conduct on-site visits to evaluate the offeror's capacity to perform the contract. An offeror must agree, at risk of being found non-responsive and having its proposal rejected, to provide the state reasonable access to relevant portions of its work sites. Individuals designated by the procurement officer at the state's expense will make site inspection.

## **SEC. 6.04 CLARIFICATION OF OFFERS**

In order to determine if a proposal is reasonably susceptible for award, communications by the procurement officer or the proposal evaluation committee (PEC) are permitted with an offeror to clarify uncertainties or eliminate confusion concerning the contents of a proposal. Clarifications may not result in a material or substantive change to the proposal. The evaluation by the procurement officer or the PEC may be adjusted as a result of a clarification under this section.

## **SEC. 6.05 DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFERORS**

The state may conduct discussions with offerors in accordance with AS 36.30.240 and 2 AAC 12.290. The purpose of these discussions will be to ensure full understanding of the requirements of the RFP and proposal. Discussions will be limited to specific sections of the RFP or proposal identified by the procurement officer. Discussions will only be held with offerors who have submitted a proposal deemed reasonably susceptible for award by the procurement officer. Discussions, if held, will be after initial evaluation of proposals by the procurement officer or the PEC. If modifications are made as a result of these discussions, they will be put in writing. Following discussions, the procurement officer may set a time for best and final proposal submissions from those offerors with whom discussions were held. Proposals may be reevaluated after receipt of best and final proposal submissions.

If an offeror does not submit a best and final proposal or a notice of withdrawal, the offeror's immediate previous proposal is considered the offeror's best and final proposal.

Offerors with a disability needing accommodation should contact the procurement officer prior to the date set for discussions so that reasonable accommodation can be made. Any oral modification of a proposal must be reduced to writing by the offeror.

## **SEC. 6.06 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS**

The procurement officer, or an evaluation committee made up of at least three state employees or public officials, will evaluate proposals. The evaluation will be based solely on the evaluation factors set out in Section 5: Evaluation Criteria and Contractor Selection.

After receipt of proposals, if there is a need for any substantial clarification or material change in the RFP, an amendment will be issued. The amendment will incorporate the clarification or change, and a new date and time established for new or amended proposals. Evaluations may be adjusted as a result of receiving new or amended proposals.

## **SEC. 6.07 CONTRACT NEGOTIATION**

After final evaluation, the procurement officer may negotiate with the offeror of the highest-ranked proposal. Negotiations, if held, shall be within the scope of the request for proposals and limited to those items which would not have an effect on the ranking of proposals. If the highest-ranked offeror fails to provide necessary

information for negotiations in a timely manner, or fails to negotiate in good faith, the state may terminate negotiations and negotiate with the offeror of the next highest-ranked proposal. If contract negotiations are commenced, they may be held telephonically or via video conference.

## **SEC. 6.08 FAILURE TO NEGOTIATE**

If the selected offeror:

- fails to provide the information required to begin negotiations in a timely manner; or
- fails to negotiate in good faith; or
- indicates they cannot perform the contract within the budgeted funds available for the project; or
- if the offeror and the state, after a good faith effort, simply cannot come to terms,

the state may terminate negotiations with the offeror initially selected and commence negotiations with the next highest ranked offeror.

## **SEC. 6.09 OFFEROR NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION**

After the completion of contract negotiation, the procurement officer will issue a written Notice of Intent to Award and send copies of that notice to all offerors who submitted proposals. The notice will set out the names of all offerors and identify the offeror selected for award.

## **SEC. 6.10 PROTEST**

AS 36.30.560 provides that an interested party may protest the content of the RFP.

An interested party is defined in 2 AAC 12.990(a) (7) as "an actual or prospective bidder or offeror whose economic interest might be affected substantially and directly by the issuance of a contract solicitation, the award of a contract, or the failure to award a contract."

If an interested party wishes to protest the content of a solicitation, the protest must be received, in writing, by the procurement officer at least ten days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals.

AS 36.30.560 also provides that an interested party may protest the award of a contract or the proposed award of a contract.

If an offeror wishes to protest the award of a contract or the proposed award of a contract, the protest must be received, in writing, by the procurement officer within ten days after the date the Notice of Intent to Award the contract is issued.

A protester must have submitted a proposal in order to have sufficient standing to protest the proposed award of a contract. Protests must include the following information:

- the name, address, and telephone number of the protester;
- the signature of the protester or the protester's representative;
- identification of the contracting agency and the solicitation or contract at issue;
- a detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds of the protest including copies of relevant documents; and the form of relief requested.

Protests must contain a signature, or they will not be considered. A PDF copy of the protest including a signature is acceptable to fulfill this requirement.

The procurement officer will issue a written response to the protest. The response will set out the procurement officer's decision and contain the basis of the decision within the statutory time limit in AS 36.30.580. A copy of the decision will be furnished to the protester by certified mail, fax or another method that provides evidence of receipt.

All offerors will be notified of any protest. The review of protests, decisions of the procurement officer, appeals, and hearings, will be conducted in accordance with the State Procurement Code (AS 36.30), Article 8 "Legal and Contractual Remedies."

## **SEC. 6.11 APPLICATION OF PREFERENCES**

Certain preferences apply to all state contracts, regardless of their dollar value. The Alaska Bidder, Alaska Veteran, and Alaska Offeror preferences are the most common preferences involved in the RFP process. Additional preferences that may apply to this procurement are listed below:

- Alaska Products Preference - AS 36.30.332
- Recycled Products Preference - AS 36.30.337
- Local Agriculture and Fisheries Products Preference - AS 36.15.050
- Employment Program Preference - AS 36.30.321(b)
- Alaskans with Disabilities Preference - AS 36.30.321(d)
- Alaska Veteran's Preference - AS 36.30.321(f)

Guides that contain excerpts from the relevant statutes and codes, explain when the preferences apply and provide examples of how to calculate the preferences are available at the following website: [Application Of Preferences](#)

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development keeps a list of qualified employment programs and individuals who qualify as persons with a disability. As evidence of a business' or an individual's right to the Employment Program or Alaskans with Disabilities preferences, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will issue a certification letter. To take advantage of these preferences, a business or individual must be on the appropriate Division of Vocational Rehabilitation list prior to the time designated for receipt of proposals. Offerors must attach a copy of their certification letter to the proposal. An offeror's failure to provide this certification letter with their proposal will cause the state to disallow the preference.

## **SEC. 6.12 ALASKA BIDDER PREFERENCE**

An Alaska Bidder Preference of 5% will be applied to the price in the proposal. The preference will be given to an offeror who:

- 1) holds a current Alaska business license prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals;
- 2) submits a proposal for goods or services under the name appearing on the offeror's current Alaska business license;

- 3) has maintained a place of business within the state staffed by the offeror, or an employee of the offeror, for a period of six months immediately preceding the date of the proposal;
- 4) is incorporated or qualified to do business under the laws of the state, is a sole proprietorship and the proprietor is a resident of the state, is a limited liability company (LLC) organized under AS 10.50 and all members are residents of the state, or is a partnership under AS 32.06 or AS 32.11 and all partners are residents of the state; and
- 5) if a joint venture, is composed entirely of ventures that qualify under (1)-(4) of this subsection.

#### **Alaska Bidder Preference Certification Form**

In order to receive the Alaska Bidder Preference, the proposal must include the Alaska Bidder Preference Certification Form attached to this RFP. An offeror does not need to complete the Alaska Veteran Preference questions on the form if not claiming the Alaska Veteran Preference. An offeror's failure to provide this completed form with their proposal will cause the state to disallow the preference.

### **SEC. 6.13 ALASKA VETERAN PREFERENCE**

An Alaska Veteran Preference of 5%, not to exceed \$5,000, will be applied to the price in the proposal. The preference will be given to an offeror who qualifies under AS 36.30.990(2) as an Alaska bidder and is a:

- A. sole proprietorship owned by an Alaska veteran;
- B. partnership under AS 32.06 or AS 32.11 if a majority of the partners are Alaska veterans;
- C. limited liability company organized under AS 10.50 if a majority of the members are Alaska veterans; or
- D. corporation that is wholly owned by individuals, and a majority of the individuals are Alaska veterans.

In accordance with AS 36.30.321(i), the bidder must also add value by actually performing, controlling, managing, and supervising the services provided, or for supplies, the bidder must have sold supplies of the general nature solicited to other state agencies, other government, or the general public.

#### **Alaska Veteran Preference Certification**

In order to receive the Alaska Veteran Preference, the proposal must include the Alaska Bidder Preference Certification Form attached to this RFP. An offeror's failure to provide this completed form with their proposal will cause the state to disallow the preference.

### **SEC. 6.14 STANDARD CONTRACT PROVISIONS**

The contractor will be required to sign the state's Standard Agreement Form for Professional Services Contracts (form SAF.DOC/Appendix A). This form is attached with the RFP for your review. The contractor must comply with the contract provisions set out in this attachment. No alteration of these provisions will be permitted without prior written approval from the Department of Law, and the state reserves the right to reject a proposal that is non-compliant or takes exception with the contract terms and conditions stated in the Agreement. Any requests to change language in this document (adjust, modify, add, delete, etc.), must be set out in the offeror's proposal in a separate document. Please include the following information with any change that you are proposing:

- 1) Identify the provision that the offeror takes exception with.

- 2) Identify why the provision is unjust, unreasonable, etc.
- 3) Identify exactly what suggested changes should be made.

### **SEC. 6.15 QUALIFIED OFFERORS**

Per 2 AAC 12.875, unless provided for otherwise in the RFP, to qualify as an offeror for award of a contract issued under AS 36.30, the offeror must:

- 1) Add value in the contract by actually performing, controlling, managing, or supervising the services to be provided; or
- 2) Be in the business of selling and have actually sold on a regular basis the supplies that are the subject of the RFP.

If the offeror leases services or supplies or acts as a broker or agency in providing the services or supplies in order to meet these requirements, the procurement officer may not accept the offeror as a qualified offeror under AS 36.30.

### **SEC. 6.16 PROPOSAL AS PART OF THE CONTRACT**

Part of or all of this RFP and the successful proposal may be incorporated into the contract.

### **SEC. 6.17 ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The state reserves the right to add terms and conditions during contract negotiations. These terms and conditions will be within the scope of the RFP and will not affect the proposal evaluations.

### **SEC. 6.18 HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

By signature on their proposal, the offeror certifies that the offeror is not established and headquartered or incorporated and headquartered in a country recognized as Tier 3 in the most recent United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report.

The most recent United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report can be found at the following website: <https://www.state.gov/trafficking-in-persons-report/>

Failure to comply with this requirement will cause the state to reject the proposal as non-responsive or cancel the contract.

### **SEC. 6.19 RIGHT OF REJECTION**

Offerors must comply with all of the terms of the RFP, the State Procurement Code (AS 36.30), and all applicable local, state, and federal laws, codes, and regulations. The procurement officer may reject any proposal that does not comply with all of the material and substantial terms, conditions, and performance requirements of the RFP.

Offerors may not qualify the proposal nor restrict the rights of the state. If an offeror does so, the procurement officer may determine the proposal to be a non-responsive counteroffer and the proposal may be rejected.

Minor informalities may be waived by the procurement officer. These may include informalities that:

- do not affect responsiveness;
- are merely a matter of form or format;
- do not change the relative standing or otherwise prejudice other offers;
- do not change the meaning or scope of the RFP;
- are trivial, negligible, or immaterial in nature;
- do not reflect a material change in the work; or
- do not constitute a substantial reservation against a requirement or provision;

The State reserves the right to refrain from making an award if it determines that it is not in the best interest of the State.

**A proposal from a debarred or suspended offeror shall be rejected.**

## **SEC. 6.20 STATE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARATION COSTS**

The state will not pay any cost associated with the preparation, submittal, presentation, or evaluation of any proposal.

## **SEC. 6.21 DISCLOSURE OF PROPOSAL CONTENTS**

All proposals and other material submitted become the property of the State of Alaska and may be returned only at the state's option. AS 40.25.110 requires public records to be open to reasonable inspection. All proposal information, including detailed price and cost information, will be held in confidence during the evaluation process and prior to the time a Notice of Intent to Award is issued. Thereafter, proposals will become public information.

The Office of Procurement and Property Management (OPPM), or their designee recognizes that some information an offeror submits might be confidential under the United States or the State of Alaska Constitution, a federal statute or regulation, or a State of Alaska statute: i.e., might be confidential business information (CBI). *See, e.g.,* article 1, section 1 of the Alaska Constitution; AS 45.50.910 – 45.50.945 (the Alaska Uniform Trade Secrets Act); *DNR v. Arctic Slope Regional Corp.*, 834 P.2d 134, 137-39 (Alaska 1991). For OPPM or their designee to treat information an offeror submits with its proposal as CBI, the offeror must do the following when submitting their proposal: (1) mark the specific information it asserts is CBI; and (2) for each discrete set of such information, identify, in writing, each authority the offeror asserts make the information CBI. If the offeror does not do these things, the information will become public after the Notice of Intent to Award is issued. If the offeror does these things, OPPM or their designee will evaluate the offeror's assertion upon receiving a request for the information. If OPPM or their designee reject the assertion, they will, to the extent permitted by federal and State of Alaska law, undertake reasonable measures to give the offeror an opportunity to object to the disclosure of the information.



## **SEC. 6.22 ASSIGNMENT**

Per 2 AAC 12.480, the contractor may not transfer or assign any portion of the contract without prior written approval from the procurement officer.

## **SEC. 6.23 DISPUTES**

A contract resulting from this RFP is governed by the laws of the State of Alaska. If the contractor has a claim arising in connection with the agreement that it cannot resolve with the State by mutual agreement, it shall pursue the claim, if at all, in accordance with the provisions of AS 36.30.620 – AS 36.30.632. To the extent not otherwise governed by the preceding, the claim shall be brought only in the Superior Court of the State of Alaska and not elsewhere.

## **SEC. 6.24 SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of the contract or agreement is declared by a court to be illegal or in conflict with any law, the validity of the remaining terms and provisions will not be affected; and the rights and obligations of the parties will be construed and enforced as if the contract did not contain the particular provision held to be invalid.

## **SEC. 6.25 SUPPLEMENTAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Proposals must comply with Section 6.19 Right of Rejection. However, if the state fails to identify or detect supplemental terms or conditions that conflict with those contained in this RFP or that diminish the state's rights under any contract resulting from the RFP, the term(s) or condition(s) will be considered null and void. After award of contract:

If conflict arises between a supplemental term or condition included in the proposal and a term or condition of the RFP, the term or condition of the RFP will prevail; and

If the state's rights would be diminished as a result of application of a supplemental term or condition included in the proposal, the supplemental term or condition will be considered null and void.

## **SEC. 6.26 SOLICITATION ADVERTISING**

Public notice has been provided in accordance with 2 AAC 12.220.

## **SEC. 6.27 FEDERALLY IMPOSED TARIFFS**

Changes in price (increase or decrease) resulting directly from a new or updated federal tariff, excise tax, or duty, imposed after contract award may be adjusted during the contract period or before delivery into the United States via contract amendment.

- **Notification of Changes:** The contractor must promptly notify the procurement officer in writing of any new, increased, or decreased federal excise tax or duty that may result in either an increase or decrease in the contract price and shall take appropriate action as directed by the procurement officer.
- **After-imposed or Increased Taxes and Duties:** Any federal excise tax or duty for goods or services covered by this contract that was exempted or excluded on the contract award date but later imposed on the contractor during the contract period, as the result of legislative, judicial, or administrative action may result in a price increase provided:
  - a) The tax or duty takes effect after the contract award date and isn't otherwise addressed by the contract.
  - b) The contractor warrants, in writing, that no amount of the newly imposed federal excise tax or duty or rate increase was included in the contract price, as a contingency or otherwise.
- **After-relieved or Decreased Taxes and Duties:** The contract price shall be decreased by the amount of any decrease in federal excise tax or duty for goods or services under the contract, except social security or other employment taxes, that the contractor is required to pay or bear, or does not obtain a refund of, through the contractor's fault, negligence, or failure to follow instructions of the procurement officer.
- **State's Ability to Make Changes:** The state reserves the right to request verification of federal excise tax or duty amounts on goods or services covered by this contract and increase or decrease the contract price accordingly.
- **Price Change Threshold:** No adjustment shall be made in the contract price under this clause unless the amount of the adjustment exceeds \$250.

## **SECTION 7. ATTACHMENTS**

### **SEC. 7.01 ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachments:**

- 1) Submittal Forms A – G
- 2) Submittal Form H - Cost Proposal
- 3) Standard Agreement Form, including all appendices (following pages; Section 7.02).  
These are provided for offeror review purposes only, and do not need to be filled out or returned.

## SEC. 7.02 Attachment – Sample Standard Agreement Form (with Appendices)

1. Agency Contract Number	2. Solicitation Number	3. Financial Coding	4. Agency Assigned Encumbrance Number
5. Vendor Number	6. Project/Case Number		7. Alaska Business License Number
<b>This contract is between the State of Alaska,</b>			
8. Department of Health and Social Services		Division	hereafter the State, and
9. Contractor			hereafter the Contractor
Mailing Address	Street or P.O. Box	City	State ZIP+4
<p>10.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 1. Appendices:</b> Appendices referred to in this contract and attached to it are considered part of it.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 2. Performance of Service:</b></p> <p>2.1 Appendix A (General Provisions), Articles 1 through 16, governs the performance of services under this contract</p> <p>2.2 Appendix B (Indemnity and Insurance) sets forth the liability and insurance provisions of this contract</p> <p>2.3 Appendix C (Description of Services) sets forth the services to be performed by the Contractor</p> <p>2.4 Appendix D (Payment for Services) sets forth the provision for payment</p> <p>2.5 Appendix E (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") Business Associate Agreement) governs the use of Protected Health Information under this contract</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 3. Period of Performance:</b> The period of performance for this contract begins _____, and ends on _____</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 4. Considerations:</b></p> <p>4.1 In full consideration of the Contractor's performance under this contract, the State shall pay the Contractor a sum not to exceed <u>\$0,000.00</u> in accordance with the provisions of Appendix D.</p>			
11. Department of Health and Social Services		Attention: Contracts Support Team	
Mailing Address P.O. Box 110650, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0650		Attention: Contracts Section	
<b>12. CONTRACTOR</b>		<b>14. CERTIFICATION</b>	
Name of Firm		I certify that the facts herein and on supporting documents are correct, that this voucher constitutes a legal charge against funds and appropriations cited, that sufficient funds are encumbered to pay this obligation, or that there is a sufficient balance in the appropriation cited to cover this obligation. I am aware that to knowingly make or allow false entries or alterations on a public record, or knowingly destroy, mutilate, suppress, conceal, remove or otherwise impair the verity, legibility or availability of a public record constitutes tampering with public records punishable under AS 11.56.815-.820. Other disciplinary action may be taken up to and including dismissal.	
Signature of Authorized Representative			
Date			
Typed or Printed Name of Authorized Representative			
Title			
<b>13. CONTRACTING AGENCY</b>		<b>Signature of Head of Contracting Agency or Designee</b>	
Department/Division Health & Social Services /		Date	
Signature of Project Director		Typed or Printed Name	
Date			
Typed or Printed Name of Project Director		Title	
Title			

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## **Appendix A**

### **General Provisions**

#### **Article 1. Definitions.**

- 1.1 In this contract and appendices, "Project Director" or "Agency Head" or "Procurement Officer" means the person who signs this contract on behalf of the Requesting Agency and includes a successor or authorized representative.
- 1.2 "State Contracting Agency" means the department for which this contract is to be performed and for which the Commissioner or Authorized Designee acted in signing this contract.

#### **Article 2. Inspections and Reports.**

- 2.1 The department may inspect, in the manner and at reasonable times it considers appropriate, all the contractor's facilities and activities under this contract.
- 2.2 The contractor shall make progress and other reports in the manner and at the times the department reasonably requires.

#### **Article 3. Disputes.**

- 3.1 If the contractor has a claim arising in connection with the contract that it cannot resolve with the State by mutual agreement, it shall pursue the claim, if at all, in accordance with the provisions of AS 36.30.620 – 632.

#### **Article 4. Equal Employment Opportunity.**

- 4.1 The contractor may not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, national origin, or because of age, disability, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy or parenthood when the reasonable demands of the position(s) do not require distinction on the basis of age, disability, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, or parenthood. The contractor shall take affirmative action to insure that the applicants are considered for employment and that employees are treated during employment without unlawful regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy or parenthood. This action must include, but need not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training including apprenticeship. The contractor shall post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting out the provisions of this paragraph.
- 4.2 The contractor shall state, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees to work on State of Alaska contract jobs, that it is an equal opportunity employer and that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy or parenthood.
- 4.3 The contractor shall send to each labor union or representative of workers with which the contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding a notice advising the labor union or workers' compensation representative of the contractor's commitments under this article and post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to all employees and applicants for employment.
- 4.4 The contractor shall include the provisions of this article in every contract, and shall require the inclusion of these provisions in every contract entered into by any of its subcontractors, so that those provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor. For the purpose of including those provisions in any contract or subcontract, as required by this contract, "contractor" and "subcontractor" may be changed to reflect appropriately the name or designation of the parties of the contract or subcontract.
- 4.5 The contractor shall cooperate fully with State efforts which seek to deal with the problem of unlawful discrimination, and with all other State efforts to guarantee fair employment practices under this contract, and promptly comply with all requests and directions from the State Commission for Human Rights or any of its officers or agents relating to prevention of discriminatory employment practices.
- 4.6 Full cooperation in paragraph 4.5 includes, but is not limited to, being a witness in any proceeding involving questions of unlawful discrimination if that is requested by any official or agency of the State of Alaska; permitting employees of the contractor to be witnesses or complainants in any proceeding involving questions of unlawful discrimination, if that is requested by any official or agency of the State of Alaska; participating in meetings;

submitting periodic reports on the equal employment aspects of present and future employment; assisting inspection of the contractor's facilities; and promptly complying with all State directives considered essential by any office or agency of the State of Alaska to insure compliance with all federal and State laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to the prevention of discriminatory employment practices.

4.7 Failure to perform under this article constitutes a material breach of contract.

**Article 5. Termination.**

The Project Director, by written notice, may terminate this contract, in whole or in part, when it is in the best interest of the State. In the absence of a breach of contract by the contractor, the State is liable only for payment in accordance with the payment provisions of this contract for services rendered before the effective date of termination.

**Article 6. No Assignment or Delegation.**

The contractor may not assign or delegate this contract, or any part of it, or any right to any of the money to be paid under it, except with the written consent of the Project Director and the Agency Head.

**Article 7. No Additional Work or Material.**

No claim for additional services, not specifically provided in this contract, performed or furnished by the contractor, will be allowed, nor may the contractor do any work or furnish any material not covered by the contract unless the work or material is ordered in writing by the Project Director and approved by the Agency Head.

**Article 8. Independent Contractor.**

The contractor and any agents and employees of the contractor act in an independent capacity and are not officers or employees or agents of the State in the performance of this contract.

**Article 9. Payment of Taxes.**

As a condition of performance of this contract, the contractor shall pay all federal, State, and local taxes incurred by the contractor and shall require their payment by any Subcontractor or any other persons in the performance of this contract. Satisfactory performance of this paragraph is a condition precedent to payment by the State under this contract.

**Article 10. Ownership of Documents.**

All designs, drawings, specifications, notes, artwork, and other work developed in the performance of this agreement are produced for hire and remain the sole property of the State of Alaska and may be used by the State for any other purpose without additional compensation to the contractor. The contractor agrees not to assert any rights and not to establish any claim under the design patent or copyright laws. Nevertheless, if the contractor does mark such documents with a statement suggesting they are trademarked, copyrighted, or otherwise protected against the State's unencumbered use or distribution, the contractor agrees that this paragraph supersedes any such statement and renders it void. The contractor, for a period of three years after final payment under this contract, agrees to furnish and provide access to all retained materials at the request of the Project Director. Unless otherwise directed by the Project Director, the contractor may retain copies of all the materials.

**Article 11. Governing Law; Forum Selection**

This contract is governed by the laws of the State of Alaska. To the extent not otherwise governed by Article 3 of this Appendix, any claim concerning this contract shall be brought only in the Superior Court of the State of Alaska and not elsewhere.

**Article 12. Conflicting Provisions.**

Unless specifically amended and approved by the Department of Law, the terms of this contract supersede any provisions the contractor may seek to add. The contractor may not add additional or different terms to this contract; AS 45.02.207(b)(1). The contractor specifically acknowledges and agrees that, among other things, provisions in any documents it seeks to append hereto that purport to (1) waive the State of Alaska's sovereign immunity, (2) impose

indemnification obligations on the State of Alaska, or (3) limit liability of the contractor for acts of contractor negligence, are expressly superseded by this contract and are void.

**Article 13. Officials Not to Benefit.**

Contractor must comply with all applicable federal or State laws regulating ethical conduct of public officers and employees.

**Article 14. Covenant Against Contingent Fees.**

The contractor warrants that no person or agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee except employees or agencies maintained by the contractor for the purpose of securing business. For the breach or violation of this warranty, the State may terminate this contract without liability or deduct from the contract price or consideration the full amount of the commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee.

**Article 15. Compliance.**

In the performance of this contract, the contractor must comply with all applicable federal, state, and borough regulations, codes, and laws, and be liable for all required insurance, licenses, permits and bonds.

**Article 16. Force Majeure:**

The parties to this contract are not liable for the consequences of any failure to perform, or default in performing, any of their obligations under this Agreement, if that failure or default is caused by any unforeseeable Force Majeure, beyond the control of, and without the fault or negligence of, the respective party. For the purposes of this Agreement, Force Majeure will mean war (whether declared or not); revolution; invasion; insurrection; riot; civil commotion; sabotage; military or usurped power; lightning; explosion; fire; storm; drought; flood; earthquake; epidemic; quarantine; strikes; acts or restraints of governmental authorities affecting the project or directly or indirectly prohibiting or restricting the furnishing or use of materials or labor required; inability to secure materials, machinery, equipment or labor because of priority, allocation or other regulations of any governmental authorities.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE**

#### **Article 1. Indemnification**

The Contractor shall indemnify, hold harmless, and defend the contracting agency from and against any claim of, or liability for error, omission or negligent act of the Contractor under this agreement. The Contractor shall not be required to indemnify the contracting agency for a claim of, or liability for, the independent negligence of the contracting agency. If there is a claim of, or liability for, the joint negligent error or omission of the Contractor and the independent negligence of the Contracting agency, the indemnification and hold harmless obligation shall be apportioned on a comparative fault basis. "Contractor" and "Contracting agency", as used within this and the following article, include the employees, agents and other contractors who are directly responsible, respectively, to each. The term "independent negligence" is negligence other than in the Contracting agency's selection, administration, monitoring, or controlling of the Contractor and in approving or accepting the Contractor's work.

#### **Article 2. Insurance**

Without limiting contractor's indemnification, it is agreed that contractor shall purchase at its own expense and maintain in force at all times during the performance of services under this agreement the following policies of insurance. Where specific limits are shown, it is understood that they shall be the minimum acceptable limits. If the contractor's policy contains higher limits, the state shall be entitled to coverage to the extent of such higher limits. Certificates of Insurance must be furnished to the contracting officer prior to beginning work and must provide for a notice of cancellation, non-renewal, or material change of conditions in accordance with policy provisions. Failure to furnish satisfactory evidence of insurance or lapse of the policy is a material breach of this contract and shall be grounds for termination of the contractor's services. All insurance policies shall comply with and be issued by insurers licensed to transact the business of insurance under AS 21.

**2.1 Workers' Compensation Insurance:** The Contractor will provide a letter stating that they work independently; therefore have no need to carry Workers Compensation coverage.

**2.2 Commercial General Liability Insurance:** covering all business premises and operations used by the Contractor in the performance of services under this agreement with minimum coverage limits of \$300,000 combined single limit per claim.

**2.3 Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance:** covering all vehicles used by the Contractor in the performance of services under this agreement with minimum coverage limits of \$300,000 combined single limit per claim.



**State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services  
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)  
Business Associate Agreement**

This HIPAA Business Associate Agreement is between the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services (“Covered Entity” or “CE”) and **Insert Vendor Name here** (“Business Associate” or “BA”).

**RECITALS**

Whereas,

- A. CE wishes to disclose certain information to BA, some of which may constitute Protected Health Information (PHI);
- B. It is the goal of CE and BA to protect the privacy and provide for the security of PHI owned by CE that is disclosed to BA or accessed, received, stored, maintained, modified or retained by BA in compliance with HIPAA (42 U.S.C. 1320d – 3120d-8) and its implementing regulations at 45 C.F.R. 160 and 45 C.F.R. 164 (the “Privacy and Security Rule”), the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5) (the “HITECH Act”), and with other applicable laws;
- C. The purpose and goal of the HIPAA Business Associate Agreement (“BAA”) is to satisfy certain standards and requirements of HIPAA, HITECH Act, and the Privacy and Security Rule, including but not limited to 45 C.F.R. 164.502(e) and 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e), as may be amended from time to time;
- D. CE may operate a drug and alcohol treatment program that must comply with the Federal Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records law and regulations, 42 U.S.C. 290dd-2 and 42 C.F.R. Part 2 (collectively “Part 2”); and
- E. BA may be a Qualified Service Organization (“QSO”) under Part 2 and therefore must agree to certain mandatory provisions regarding the use and disclosure of substance abuse treatment information.

**Therefore,** in consideration of mutual promises below and the exchange of information pursuant to the BAA, CE and BA agree as follows:

- 1. Definitions.
  - a. General: As used in this BAA, the terms "Protected Health Information," "Health Care Operations," and other capitalized terms have the same meaning given to those terms by HIPAA, the HITECH Act and the Privacy and Security Rule. In the event of any conflict between the mandatory provisions of HIPAA, the HITECH Act or the Privacy and Security Rule, and the provisions of this BAA, HIPAA, the HITECH Act or the Privacy and Security Rule shall control. Where the provisions of this BAA differ from those mandated by HIPAA, the HITECH Act or the Privacy and Security Rule but are nonetheless permitted by HIPAA, the HITECH Act or the Privacy and Security Rule, the provisions of the BAA shall control.
  - b. Specific:
    - 1) Business Associate: “Business Associate” or “BA” shall generally have the same meaning as the term “business associate” at 45 C.F.R. 160.103.
    - 2) Covered Entity: “Covered Entity” or “CE” shall have the same meaning as the term “covered entity” at 45 C.F.R. 160.103.
    - 3) Privacy and Security Rule: “Privacy and Security Rule” shall mean the Privacy, Security, Breach Notification, and Enforcement Rules at 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164.
- 2. Permitted Uses and Disclosures by Business Associate.
  - a. BA may only use or disclose PHI for the following purposes:
    - i. BA may use or disclose PHI as required by law.
    - ii. BA agrees to make uses and disclosures and requests for PHI consistent with CE’s minimum necessary policies and procedures.
    - iii. BA may not use or disclose PHI in a manner that would violate Subpart E of 45 C.F.R. Part 164 if done by CE, except for the specific uses and disclosures set out below.
    - iv. BA may disclose PHI for the proper management and administration of BA or to carry out the legal responsibilities of BA, provided the disclosures are required by law, or BA obtains reasonable assurances from the person to whom the information is disclosed that the information will remain

confidential and used or further disclosed only as required by law or for the purposes for which it was disclosed to the person, and the person notified BA of any instances of which it is aware in which the confidentiality of the information has been breached.

v. BA may provide data aggregation services related to the health care operations of CE.

3. Obligations of Business Associate.

- a. Permitted uses and disclosures: BA may only use and disclose PHI owned by the CE that it creates, receives, maintains, or transmits if the use or disclosure is in compliance with each applicable requirement of 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e) of the Privacy Rule or this BAA. The additional requirements of Subtitle D of the HITECH Act contained in Public Law 111-5 that relate to privacy and that are made applicable with respect to Covered Entities shall also be applicable to BA and are incorporated into this BAA.

To the extent that BA discloses CE's PHI to a subcontractor, BA must obtain, prior to making any such disclosure: (1) reasonable assurances from the subcontractor that it will agree to the same restrictions, conditions, and requirements that apply to the BA with respect to such information; and (2) an agreement from the subcontractor to notify BA of any Breach of confidentiality, or security incident, within two business days of when it becomes aware of such Breach or incident.

- b. Safeguards: 45 C.F.R. 164.308 (administrative safeguards), 164.310 (physical safeguards), 164.312 (technical safeguards), and 164.316 (policies, procedures and documentation requirements) shall apply to BA in the same manner that such sections apply to CE, and shall be implemented in accordance with HIPAA, the HITECH Act, and the Privacy and Security Rule. The additional requirements of Title XIII of the HITECH Act contained in Public Law 111-5 that relate to security and that are made applicable to Covered Entities shall also apply to BA and are incorporated into this BAA.

Unless CE agrees in writing that this requirement is infeasible with respect to certain data, BA shall secure all paper and electronic PHI by encryption or destruction such that the PHI is rendered unusable, unreadable or indecipherable to unauthorized individuals; or secure paper, film and electronic PHI in a manner that is consistent with guidance issued by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services specifying the technologies and methodologies that render PHI unusable, unreadable or indecipherable to unauthorized individuals, including the use of standards developed under Section 3002(b)(2)(B)(vi) of the Public Health Service Act, as added by Section 13101 of the HITECH Act contained in Public Law 111-5.

BA shall not use personally owned devices to create, receive, maintain or transmit PHI. Devices the BA uses to create, receive, maintain or transmit CE's electronic PHI shall be owned and managed by BA or CE.

BA shall patch its operating system and all applications within two weeks of the release of any patch.

BA shall keep its antivirus and antimalware installed and active. BA shall limit its use of administrative accounts for IT operations only.

- c. Reporting Unauthorized Disclosures and Breaches: During the term of this BAA, BA shall notify CE within 24 hours of discovering a Breach of security; intrusion; or unauthorized acquisition, access, use or disclosure of CE's PHI in violation of any applicable federal or state law, including security incidents.

BA shall identify for the CE the individuals whose unsecured PHI has been, or is reasonably believed to have been, Breached so that CE can comply with any notification requirements if necessary. BA shall also indicate whether the PHI subject to the Breach; intrusion; or unauthorized acquisition, access, use or disclosure was encrypted or destroyed at the time. BA shall take prompt corrective action to cure any deficiencies that result in Breaches of security; intrusion; or unauthorized acquisition, access, use, and disclosure. BA shall fulfill all breach notice requirements unless CE notifies BA that CE will take over the notice requirements. BA shall reimburse CE for all costs incurred by CE that are associated with any mitigation, investigation and notice of Breach CE undertakes or provides under HIPAA, HITECH Act, and the Privacy and Security Rule as a result of a Breach of CE's PHI caused by BA or BA's subcontractor or agent.

If the unauthorized acquisition, access, use or disclosure of CE's PHI involves only Secured PHI, BA shall notify CE within 10 days of discovering the Breach but is not required to notify CE of the names of the individuals affected.

- d. BA is not an agent of CE.

- e. BA's Agents: If BA uses a subcontractor or agent to provide services under this BAA, and the subcontractor or agent creates, receives, maintains, or transmits CE's PHI, the subcontractor or agent shall sign an agreement with BA containing substantially the same provisions as this BAA and further identifying CE as a third-party beneficiary with rights of enforcement and indemnification from the subcontractor or agent in the event of any violation of the subcontractor or agent agreement. BA shall mitigate the effects of any violation of that agreement.
- f. Availability of Information to CE: Within 15 days after the date of a written request by CE, BA shall provide any information necessary to fulfill CE's obligations to provide access to PHI under HIPAA, the HITECH Act, or the Privacy and Security Rule.
- g. Accountability of Disclosures: If BA is required by HIPAA, the HITECH Act, or the Privacy or Security Rule to document a disclosure of PHI, BA shall make that documentation. If CE is required to document a disclosure of PHI made by BA, BA shall assist CE in documenting disclosures of PHI made by BA so that CE may respond to a request for an accounting in accordance with HIPAA, the HITECH Act, and the Privacy and Security Rule. Accounting records shall include the date of the disclosure, the name and if known, the address of the recipient of the PHI, the name of the individual who is subject of the PHI, a brief description of the PHI disclosed and the purpose of the disclosure. Within 15 days of a written request by CE, BA shall make the accounting record available to CE.
- h. Amendment of PHI: Within 30 days of a written request by CE or an individual, BA shall amend PHI maintained, transmitted, created or received by BA on behalf of CE as directed by CE or the individual when required by HIPAA, the HITECH Act or the Privacy and Security Rule, or take other measures as necessary to satisfy CE's obligations under 45 C.F.R. 164.526.
- i. Internal Practices: BA shall make its internal practices, books and records relating to the use and disclosure of CE's PHI available to CE and all appropriate federal agencies to determine CE's and BA's compliance with HIPAA, the HITECH Act and the Privacy and Security Rule.
- j. Risk Assessment: BA shall biennially conduct a thorough assessment of the potential risks to and vulnerabilities of the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of CE's PHI that BA receives, stores, transmits, or has access to. BA shall provide CE, upon request, with a written report detailing the results of the risk assessment within 5 days.
- k. To the extent BA is to carry out one or more of CE's obligations under Subpart E of 45 C.F.R. Part 164, BA must comply with the requirements of that Subpart that apply to CE in the performance of such obligations.
- l. Audits, Inspection and Enforcement: CE may, after providing reasonable notice to the BA, conduct an inspection of the facilities, systems, books, logs and records of BA that relate to BA's use of CE's PHI, including inspecting logs showing the creation, modification, viewing, and deleting of PHI at BA's level. Failure by CE to inspect does not waive any rights of the CE or relieve BA of its responsibility to comply with this BAA. CE's failure to detect or failure to require remediation does not constitute acceptance of any practice or waive any rights of CE to enforce this BAA.  
Notwithstanding BA's obligation to report under paragraph 3.c of this BAA, BA shall provide a monthly report to CE detailing the unauthorized, or reasonable belief of unauthorized, acquisition, access, use, or disclosure of CE's PHI, including any unauthorized creation, modification, or destruction of PHI and unauthorized login attempts. BA shall include privileged and nonprivileged accounts in its audit and report, indicating the unique individual using the privileged account. BA shall also indicate whether CE's PHI subject to unauthorized activity was encrypted or destroyed at the time of the unauthorized activity.  
BA shall provide a yearly report to CE that lists the names of all individuals with technical or physical access to CE's PHI and the scope of that access.
- m. Restrictions and Confidential Communications: Within 10 business days of notice by CE of a restriction upon use or disclosure or request for confidential communications pursuant to 45 C.F.R.164.522, BA shall restrict the use or disclosure of an individual's PHI. BA may not respond directly to an individual's request to restrict the use or disclosure of PHI or to send all communication of PHI to an alternate address. BA shall refer such

- requests to the CE so that the CE can coordinate and prepare a timely response to the requesting individual and provide direction to the BA.
- n. Indemnification: BA shall indemnify and hold harmless CE for any civil or criminal monetary penalty or fine imposed on CE for acts or omissions in violation of HIPAA, the HITECH Act, or the Privacy or Security Rule that are committed by BA, a member of its workforce, its agent, or its subcontractor.
  4. Obligations of CE. CE will be responsible for using legally appropriate safeguards to maintain and ensure the confidentiality, privacy and security of PHI transmitted to BA under the BAA until the PHI is received by BA. CE will not request BA to use or disclose PHI in any manner that would not be permissible under HIPAA, the HITECH Act or the Privacy and Security Rule if done by CE.
  5. Termination.
    - a. Breach: A breach of a material term of the BAA by BA that is not cured within a reasonable period of time will provide grounds for the immediate termination of the contract.
    - b. Reasonable Steps to Cure: In accordance with 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e)(1)(ii), CE and BA agree that, if it knows of a pattern of activity or practice of the other party that constitutes a material breach or violation of the other party's obligation under the BAA, the nonbreaching party will take reasonable steps to get the breaching party to cure the breach or end the violation and, if the steps taken are unsuccessful, terminate the BAA if feasible, and if not feasible, report the problem to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
    - c. Effect of Termination: Upon termination of the contract, BA will, at the direction of the CE, either return or destroy all PHI received from CE or created, maintained, or transmitted on CE's behalf by BA in any form. Unless otherwise directed, BA is prohibited from retaining any copies of PHI received from CE or created, maintained, or transmitted by BA on behalf of CE. If destruction or return of PHI is not feasible, BA must continue to extend the protections of this BAA to PHI and limit the further use and disclosure of the PHI. The obligations in this BAA shall continue until all of the PHI provided by CE to BA is either destroyed or returned to CE.
  6. Amendment. The parties acknowledge that state and federal laws relating to electronic data security and privacy are evolving, and that the parties may be required to further amend this BAA to ensure compliance with applicable changes in law. Upon receipt of a notification from CE that an applicable change in law affecting this BAA has occurred, BA will promptly agree to enter into negotiations with CE to amend this BAA to ensure compliance with changes in law.
  7. Ownership of PHI. For purposes of this BAA, CE owns the data that contains the PHI it transmits to BA or that BA receives, creates, maintains or transmits on behalf of CE.
  8. Litigation Assistance. Except when it would constitute a direct conflict of interest for BA, BA will make itself available to assist CE in any administrative or judicial proceeding by testifying as witness as to an alleged violation of HIPAA, the HITECH Act, the Privacy or Security Rule, or other law relating to security or privacy.
  9. Regulatory References. Any reference in this BAA to federal or state law means the section that is in effect or as amended.
  10. Interpretation. This BAA shall be interpreted as broadly as necessary to implement and comply with HIPAA, the HITECH Act, the Privacy and Security Rule and applicable state and federal laws. The parties agree that any ambiguity in BAA will be resolved in favor of a meaning that permits the CE to comply with and be consistent with HIPAA, the HITECH Act, and the Privacy and Security Rule. The parties further agree that where this BAA conflicts with a contemporaneously executed confidentiality agreement between the parties, this BAA controls.
  11. No Private Right of Action Created. This BAA does not create any right of action or benefits for individuals whose PHI is disclosed in violation of HIPAA, the HITECH Act, the Privacy and Security Rule or other law relating to security or privacy.
  12. Privacy and Security Point of Contact. All communications occurring because of this BAA shall be sent to [HSS-Security@alaska.gov](mailto:HSS-Security@alaska.gov) in addition to the CE.

In witness thereof, the parties hereto have duly executed this BAA as of the effective date.