

**HIDALGO COUNTY
HEAD START PROGRAM
PROCUREMENT PACKET**

**Request for Proposals
RFP No: 23-003-05-05-AS**

“Educator Preparation Program”

**Acceptance Due Date:
Friday, May 5, 2023 at 2:00pm**

Ambrosio Tovar, Procurement Director
Hidalgo County Head Start Program

Project Contact Information:

Ambrosio Tovar, Procurement Director (956)
956-380-4149
Ambrosio.tovar@hchsp.org



Hidalgo County
Head Start Program
1901 W. State Hwy 107
McAllen, TX 78504
956-380-4149

Company Name

Authorized Representative

Address

City

State, Zip Code

**HIDALGO COUNTY HEAD START PROGRAM
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: RFP NO.: 23-003-05-19-AS
TEXAS TEACHING CERTIFICATION**

Dear Prospect Offeror:

The Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department welcomes and appreciates your participation in this project.

Enclosed please find the procurement packet for the aforementioned project. Modifications and new requirements have been added and implemented. Please ensure to carefully read and review all instructions, requirements and specifications.

The items listed on the Table of Contents shall be found in this procurement packet that is attached herewith. Should you find that any of the listed items are not attached in their entirety, please contact the Procurement Director listed on the cover page to advice of the missing documentation, and it will be emailed to you.

If any further assistance is required, please do not hesitate to call the Purchasing Department.

Sincerely,

Ambrosio Tovar
Procurement Director

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This procurement packet includes the components marked below. If the item is not checked, it is not applicable to this solicitation. Offerors are asked to review the documentation to be sure that all applicable parts are included. If any portion of the documentation is missing, notify the Purchasing Department immediately. Offeror should be thoroughly familiar with all of the following items applicable to this procurement packet before submitting a response.

<u> X</u>	A. Procurement Overview.....
<u> X</u>	B. Legal Notice.....
	Appendices:
<u> X</u>	C. Scope of Services.....
<u> X</u>	D. Evaluation Criteria.....
<u> X</u>	E. Insurance Requirements.....
<u> X</u>	F. Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (CIQ).....
<u> X</u>	G. Vendor Enrollment Solution and HUB Declaration.....
<u> X</u>	H. Certification Regarding Debarment.....
<u> X</u>	I. Title VI Appendices “A” through “E”.....
<u> X</u>	J. Required Contract Clauses for Contracts Under Federal Award.....
<u> X</u>	K. Respondent’s Affidavit.....
<u> X</u>	L. Draft Agreement.....
<u> X</u>	M. Reference Form.....

PROCUREMENT OVERVIEW

THE RESPONDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR READING AND UNDERSTANDING ALL DOCUMENTS, FORMS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND INSTRUCTIONS WITHIN THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT. Follow all instructions; you are responsible for obtaining any information needed in order to respond to this RFP. Further, the Respondent is responsible for providing any and all relevant information necessary for this proposal. Failure to do so will be at the Respondent's risk, and may result in rejection of the proposal as non-conforming.

General Requirements apply to all advertised solicitations; however, these may be superseded, whole or in part, by OTHER DATA CONTAINED HEREIN. Review the Table of Contents. Be sure your procurement package is complete.

INTRODUCTION

Hidalgo County Head Start Program (hereinafter referred to as "**PROGRAM**") is requesting proposals for (including all funding sources, programs, and entities) "**Education Preparation Program**", in accordance with the requirements attached hereto as **Appendix "A"**. The proposal should address all requirements.

Respondent may suggest substitutions of features which they feel would be in the best interest of PROGRAM; however, a strong rationale must be presented for any deviation from the requirements, to be included on the Deficiencies and Deviations form "**Appendix L**". The PROGRAM reserves the right to reject the deviation and its effect on the overall qualification.

Hidalgo County Head Start Program is requiring all submitted proposals to remain firm for a minimum of ninety (90) days after the RFP opening.

AWARD

No award can be made until approved by Hidalgo County Head Start Program Policy Council and Hidalgo County Commissioners Court. This RFP does not obligate Hidalgo County Head Start Program to the eventual purchase of any product and/or service described, implied or which may be proposed. Progress toward this end is solely at the discretion of Hidalgo County Head Start Program, and may be terminated at any time prior to execution of an agreement.

DISQUALIFICATION AND REJECTION OF PROPOSALS

Failure to comply with the minimum requirements or the procedures set forth herein, or to satisfy the Trainer and servicing criteria as set forth in the requirements, may result in disqualification.

TERM OF AGREEMENT

It is intended that the initial contract term will be for two (2) year with the Program's sole option to renew for an additional one (1) year terms, under the same rates, terms, and conditions. Hidalgo County Head Start Program reserves the right to continue this for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the contract term for unforeseen delay in award of the next contract.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

One (1) original and two (2) USBs in original PDF format. Further instructions listed below under **SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**.

PROPOSAL OPENING

The proposal opening is open to the public. Proposal opening participants may attend the proposal opening in person at the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Administration Building (or designated location), located at 1901 W. State Highway 107, McAllen TX 78504. Please be advised, public attendance at any in-person proposal opening may be limited due to capacity and will be on a first-come-first-serve basis.

PROPOSALS

Each party submitting a proposal is asked to screen their designated/services/ proposals for correctness and compliance with the scope of service. A good understanding of your products is a must. A narrative summary of all deviations from the scope of service is required as part of your proposal (on the Deviation from Appendix L). A detailed explanation and description of price quotation

SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND PROPOSAL OPENING

All submissions must be received on or before **Friday, May 5, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.** Any submission received after this deadline will not be accepted and will be returned to sender, at the sender's expense.

HAND DELIVERED PROPOSALS

When hand delivering proposals Hidalgo County Head Start Program requires submitters, to make sure that it is stamped with date and time received by the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement staff.

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF SUBMISSION

Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department will not accept telegraphic or electronically transmitted submissions.

DELIVER TO:

US Postal / Physical Mail Address:

Ambrosio Tovar, Procurement Director
ATTN: Angelica Salinas
Hidalgo County Head Start Program
Procurement Department.
Administration Building
1901 W. State Hwy 107
McAllen Texas, 78504

SIGNING OF SUBMISSION

In order to be considered, all submittals **must** be signed by an authorized representative of the firm. **Please sign the original in [blue](#) ink and ensure the copy is clearly labeled.**

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions must be submitted via email to angelica.salinas@hchsp.org by **Monday, May 1, 2023 at 5:00 P.M.** Responses to submitted questions will be emailed to all participants who obtained their procurement packet directly from Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department by **Wednesday, May 3, 2023.** Telephone inquiries will not be accepted.

RESTRICTIVE OR AMBIGUOUS REQUIREMENTS

It is the responsibility of the submitter to review the procurement packet and to notify the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department if the requirements are formulated in a manner that would unnecessarily restrict competition, or clarification on any requirements that are ambiguous. Any such protest or question regarding the requirements or proposals procedures must be received in writing via email by the deadline stated for Questions and Answers.

COST OF SUBMISSION

Hidalgo County Head Start Program will not be liable for any costs incurred by the respondent in preparing a response to this procurement packet. Each Offeror acknowledges it is submitting a response at their own risk and expense. Further, no reimbursement for such charges or expenses shall be passed onto Hidalgo County Head

Start Program. Hidalgo County Head Start Program makes no guarantee that any products or services will be purchased as a result of this solicitation and reserves the right to reject any and all submissions received. All responses and accompanying documentation will become the property of Hidalgo County Head Start Program. All responses are open to negotiation.

WAIVING OF INFORMALITIES

Hidalgo County Head Start Program reserves the right to waive minor informalities or technicalities when it is in the best interest of Hidalgo County Head Start Program.

NOTICE OF COMMUNICATION

All communications by a respondent to the program, its officials, and department heads regarding this procurement shall be done through the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department. No respondent its' representative, agent, or employee shall engage in private communication with a member of the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court or county department heads regarding any procurement of goods or services by the County from the date that this procurement packet is released. No private communication regarding the purchase shall be permitted until the procurement process is complete and a purchase order is granted or a contract is entered into "Private Communication" means communication with any respondent outside of a posted meeting of the governing body, a regular meeting of a standing or appointed committee, or negotiation with a respondent which has been specifically authorized by the governing body.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Responses to this procurement packet shall be formatted and organized in the following order for consistency and uniformity while being reviewed:

- All submissions must be typed, single spaced, and printed single-sided on 8 ½" by 11" paper.
- One (1) original, **clearly marked "ORIGINAL"** and two (2) USBs in PDF format.
- Original document must be submitted in a three-ring, loose-leaf binder with a Cover Page containing the specified information.
 - The Proposal must be in the order listed in the Submission Outline/Checklist below.
 - Each selection of the Offeror's response should start on a new page. A tabbed divider should be used to separate each section.
 - Two (2) USBs containing the complete response in its original format (i.e. PDF, Word, and/or Excel) must be included.
 - If any of the documents have password restrictions, the passwords must be typed and included inside the binder.
 - The USB copies shall include copies of all signed documents.
 - The USB shall be properly labeled.
 - A self-adhesive packet may be used to secure the USB.
- The complete response must be sealed in an appropriately sized envelope or box for delivery to the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department, per instructions contained within this procurement packet.
- All documents must be labeled with the offeror's name and the procurement packet number as expressed on the shipping label on (appendix "N"). Any response received by the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department that is not identified on the outside with the RFP number will be at risk for rejection.

THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

LEGAL NOTICE

These General Provisions are considered standard language for an Offeror (hereinafter referred to as “Offeror”, “Vendor”, “Respondent”, or “Contractor”) submitting a response for a Request for Bids, Proposals, Qualifications or other solicitation (hereinafter referred to as “Procurement Packet”) made by the Hidalgo County Head Start Program (hereinafter referred to as “Hidalgo County Head Start Program” and “Program” or any other governing body/agency for which the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department has been authorized to perform procurement services.

It is the Offeror’s sole responsibility to be in compliance of all federal, state, and local laws, requirements, rules, codes, ordinances, and regulations applicable to their proposed goods and/or services. In the event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of these requirements and the specifications, the specifications shall govern. In the event of any conflict of interpretation of any part of this overall procurement packet, Hidalgo County Head Start Program’s interpretation shall govern.

The following is a link to all adopted Hidalgo County policies (<https://www.hidalgocounty.us/805/CountyAdministrative-Policies>), which for all purposes, when applicable and whether specified explicitly or not, are incorporated by reference as part of this procurement packet and any resulting agreement.

- 1. ACCEPTANCE OF SUBMISSION.** Receipt of the submission shall under no circumstance obligate Hidalgo County Head Start Program to accept the response or make an award. The Offeror is responsible for obtaining any information needed in order to respond and for all costs of submitting its response. An Offeror’s submitted response is to remain firm for a minimum of sixty (60) days after opening. Hidalgo County Head Start Program is not responsible for any missing, lost, or late submissions.
- 2. ACCESS TO RECORDS.** In special circumstances, Vendor may be required to allow duly authorized representatives of Hidalgo County Head Start Program, or the state and federal government access to contracts, books, documents, and records necessary to verify the nature and extent of the cost of services provided by Vendor. Vendor must keep records within Hidalgo County or note in their submission that records will be available within the boundaries of Hidalgo County to those representatives within one (1) business day of request by the Program.
- 3. ACCOUNT CREATION FOR PAYMENT.** Upon award and prior to execution of a contract, Offeror shall cooperate with and submit any required information to the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement’s Office in order to establish an account with the Program for payment, including information requested on Hidalgo Head Start Program Vendor Enrollment Solution, **Appendix “E”** on this procurement packet. This information must be on file with the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department. Failure to provide this information may result in a delay in payment and/or back-up withholding as required by the Internal Revenue Service.
- 4. ADDENDA.** When specifications interpretations, amendments, corrections or changes are revised, the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department will issue an Addendum addressing the nature of the change. All released Addenda will be e-mailed to all point of contact(s) who are known to have received or requested a copy of the procurement packet directly from the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department. Offeror must **sign in blue ink and include it in the returned submission package.**
- 5. ASSIGNMENT.** The successful Offeror shall not assign, sell, transfer, convey, or otherwise transfer its rights under any awarded contract, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of Hidalgo County Commissioners Court (hereinafter referred to as “Commissioners Court”), and Hidalgo County Head Start Program Policy Council or other applicable governing body.
- 6. AWARD.** Hidalgo County Head Start Program reserves the right to award this contract on the basis determined on the Procurement Overview, and when applicable, listed on **Appendix “B”**, in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, to waive any formality or irregularity, to make awards to more than one Offeror, and to reject any or all submissions received. After Hidalgo County Head Start Program Policy Council and Hidalgo County Commissioners’ Court approves an award, and the awarded Contractor defaults in meeting the general requirements and/or specifications in complying with the contract agreement, Hidalgo County Head Start Program reserves the right to seek the services of the next lowest bidder(s) and/or qualified Offeror(s). In such event, Hidalgo County Head Start Program shall charge the Awarded Vendor the difference for any additional cost of such item. Hidalgo County Head Start Program reserves the right to add or delete items during the term of the contract under the same rates and conditions.

7. **COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS.** The Program will search a database maintained by the Texas State Comptroller which contains relevant vendor information. A contract may not be entered into with an entity that is identified therein. Search results shall be incorporated for all purposes as part of any resulting agreement entered into by the parties. The Offeror shall follow all federal, state, and local laws, requirements, rules, codes, ordinances, regulations and Hidalgo County Head Start Program Policy & Procedures applicable to their proposed goods and/or services, including, but not limited to those addressed within this procurement packet, the resulting agreement and the following:

7.1 Attestation Terrorist Organizations - TEX. GOVT. CODE CH. 2252. Pursuant to the Texas Government Code, including but not limited to Chapter's 2252, 806 and 807, the Offeror warrants, represents, certifies and attests that, by submitting a response to this procurement packet and/or at the time of execution of this Contract, Agreement, or supplemental agreement thereafter, neither the Offeror, nor any wholly owned subsidiary, majority-owned subsidiary, parent company or affiliate of the same (i) engages in business with Iran, Sudan, or any foreign terrorist or (ii) is a company listed by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

7.2 Breach of Ethics. Contracts awarded hereunder shall be in compliance with Tex. Loc. Govt. Code Chapter 171: Regulation of Conflicts of Interest of Officers of Municipalities, Counties and Certain Other Local Governments.

It shall be a breach of ethics to offer, give, or agree to give any elected official, department head or employee, or former elected official, department head or employee, of the County, or for any elected official, department head or employee or former elected official, department head or employee of the County, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, entity or organization, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation or any part of a program requirement or purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing, or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract, or to any solicitation or response to a request therefore pending before any department or agency of the County.

It shall be a breach of ethics for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor for any contract for the County, or any person associated therewith, as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.

7.3 Bonds. If this procurement packet requires submission of bid bond or proposal guarantee, and performance and payment bonds, an explanation of these requirements will be detailed on the Projects Requirements Acknowledgement listed in **Appendix "C"**. Responses submitted without the required bond or cashier's checks may be deemed unresponsive, thus disqualified from participation.

7.4 Boycott Energy Companies Verification – TEX. GOVT. CODE 2274. In accordance with changes to the law from the 87th Legislature in 2021, a for-profit company, not including a sole proprietorship, with ten or more full-time employees, is required to verify in writing that it does not boycott energy companies, and it will not boycott energy companies during the term of the Contract, if it is a contract for goods or services that has a value of at least \$100,000 that is paid wholly or partly from public funds of the governmental body. Written verification may be provided by signing the Legal Notice Declarations page. Please provide a written notification if your company is unable to provide the written verification referenced above.

As per Tex. Gov't. Code §809.001(1), "Boycott energy company" means "without an ordinary business purpose, refusing to deal with, terminating business activities with, or otherwise taking any action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations with a company because the company: (A) engages in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy and does not commit or pledge to meet environmental standards beyond applicable federal and state law; or (B) does business with a company described by Paragraph (A)".

As per Ch. 2274(c), this verification requirement does not apply to the County if it determines that this requirement is inconsistent with the County's constitutional or statutory duties related to the issuance, incurrence, or management of debt obligations or the deposit, custody, management, borrowing, or investment of funds.

7.5 Boycott Israel Verification - TEX. GOVT. CODE 2270. In accordance with the Texas Government Code, including but not limited to Chapters 2270 and 808, a company, other than a sole proprietorship, with ten or

more full time employees is required to certify in writing that it does not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of the Contract, if the Contract has a value of \$100,000 or more.

7.6 Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion. The Offeror warrants and represents by execution of an award from their response to this procurement packet that it is not debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in any Federal programs, or state assistance, as described under Executive Order 12549, “Debarment and Suspension.” The Offeror agrees to include this certification in all contracts between itself and any subcontractors in connection with the services performed under any subsequent Contract or Agreement arising from this award. The Offeror also acknowledges that it is their sole responsibility to immediately notify Hidalgo County, in writing, if they or a subcontractor is not in compliance with Executive Order 12549 during the term of this contract. Further, Offeror agrees to refund Hidalgo County Head Start Program for any payments made to the contractor while ineligible. Pursuant to federal regulation 45 CFR Part 76, the Offeror is required to furnish a certification or acknowledgement stating that they are free from suspension and debarment through registration on System for Award Management at www.sam.gov with their response.

7.7 Davis-Bacon Act/Hidalgo County Adopted Prevailing Wage Rate. When applicable, in accordance with Texas Government Code, Chapter 2258, as well as any other applicable laws, any Contractor or Subcontractor performing contracts in excess of \$2,000, for the construction, alteration, or repair (including painting and decorating) of public buildings or public works must pay their laborers and mechanics employed under the contract no less than the locally prevailing wages and fringe benefits for corresponding work on similar projects in the area as per the Davis Bacon Act or the rates adopted by Hidalgo County.

The Offeror warrants and represents that it will pay all its workers all monies earned by its employees including, but not limited to regular wages, any overtime compensation, or any additional payments pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. Section 207 9a(1), as amended; the Texas Pay Day Act; the Equal Pay Act; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. Section 2000e, *et al.*, as amended; and/or any provisions of the Texas Labor Code Ann., as amended, without cost or expenses to the Program.

Awarded Vendors, its officers, agents, and/or employees will not be entitled to any benefits of an employee or elected official of Hidalgo County Head Start Program, including, but not limited to, benefits associated with Hidalgo County's civil service system.

7.7 Disclosure of Conflict of Interest.

7.7.1 As an Offeror. Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 176, an Offeror must disclose an interest between the Offeror, the Offeror's employees and any Hidalgo County employees arising from relationships within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity. A financial interest arises if the County's elected official, department head, or employee, or a member of their family, received any gifts valued in excess of \$250 during the preceding twelve (12) month period, or employment of any County's elected official, department head, or employee, or the County official's family member.

The Offeror shall not use funds to directly or indirectly pay any person for influencing or attempting to influence any County employee or official in connection with the awarding of any contract or the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment or modification of any contract.

7.7.2 Certificate of Interested Parties (Form 1295). Hidalgo County Head Start Program cannot enter into a contract until Form 1295 is submitted, as Texas law, including, but not limited to Tex. Govt. Code Ch. 2252, Title 1 Tex. Ethics Comm. Rules – Title 1, sec. 46 and the Tex. Admin. Code, requires all parties who enter into any contract with the County which must be approved by its governing body, to disclose all interested parties. Form 1295 must be completed in its entirety through the Texas Ethics Commission at the following website:

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm prior to awarding the Contract. Failure to do so may result in delay of award, or deem your response unresponsive, thus disqualified from participation.

7.7.3 Collusion. The Offeror affirms that by responding to any solicitation made by Hidalgo County Head Start Program, it has not communicated directly or indirectly the response made to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business. Any or all responses may be rejected if the Program believes that collusion exists among the Offerors, and/or the Program

believes prices provided by the Offerors are inappropriately unbalanced. Respondent's Affidavit (**Appendix "J"**) must be included in the response.

7.7.4 Consultants Excluded from Competition. An outside Consultant or Contractor is prohibited from submitting a response for goods or services requested on a Hidalgo County Head Start Program project of which the Consultant or Contractor was a designer or other previous contributor, assisted in developing or drafting specifications, requirements, statements of work, or requests for goods and/or services must be excluded from competing for such procurements. If such, a Consultant or Contractor submits a response, that response shall be prohibited, and disqualified on the basis of conflict of interest, no matter when the conflict is discovered by Hidalgo County Head Start Program.

7.7.5 Disclosure of Interested Parties (Form CIQ). Offeror must fully disclose the existence of any relationships as defined above in its response to this procurement packet. The Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (CIQ), attached hereto as **Appendix "D"**, must be filed with the Hidalgo County Clerk, located inside the Hidalgo County Courthouse, at 100 N. Closner, Edinburg, TX 78539 no later than the seventh business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. **Completion and submission of Form CIQ is the sole responsibility of the Offeror.** Additionally, the Offeror must immediately notify Hidalgo County Head Start Program if the information provided in its response changes at any time.

7.7.6 Disclosure to Report Lobbying. When applicable, pursuant to 31 U.S.C.A. §1352 (2003), if at any time during the contract term funding to Contractor exceeds \$100,000.00, Contractor shall file with the Program the Federal Standard Form LLL titled "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying" as detailed in **Appendix "H"**.

7.8 Discrimination Against Firearm Entities or Trade Associations Verification - Tex. Gov't. Code Ch. 2274. In accordance with changes to the law from the 87th Legislature in 2021, a for-profit company, not including a sole proprietorship, with ten or more full-time employees, is required to verify in writing that it does not have a practice, policy, guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association and will not discriminate against a firearm entity or firearm trade association during the term of the Contract, if it is a contract for goods or services that has a value of at least \$100,000 that is paid wholly or partly from public funds of the governmental body. Written verification may be provided by signing the Legal Notice Declaration page. Please provide a written notification if your company is unable to provide the written verification referenced above.

As per Tex. Gov't. Code §2274.001(3), except as otherwise indicated, to "discriminate against a firearm entity or firearm trade association " means "with respect to the entity or association, to: (i) refuse to engage in the trade of any goods or services with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association; (ii) refrain from continuing an existing business relationship with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association; or (iii) terminate an existing business relationship with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association".

As per Ch. 2274, this verification requirement does not apply to the Program if it contracts with a sole-source provider, does not receive any bids from a company that is able to provide the required written verification above, or the contract is exempt from compliance under Tex. Gov't. Code sec. 2274.003 relating to the issuance, sale or delivery of notes.

7.9 Disqualification of Offeror. By submitting a response to this request, an Offeror offering to sell supplies, materials, services, or equipment to Hidalgo County Head Start Program certifies that the Offeror has not violated the antitrust laws of this state codified in Texas Business and Commerce Code §15.01, et seq., as amended, or the federal antitrust laws. If multiple submissions are made by an Offeror and after they are opened, the Offeror requests to withdraw one of the submissions is requested to be withdrawn, the result will be that all of the responses submitted by that Offeror will be withdrawn; however, nothing herein prohibits an Offeror from submitting multiple responses for different products or services.

7.10 Ethical Business Practices. Hidalgo County Head Start Program operates its business ethically and in compliance with the law. We ask that any Offeror, their representative, and/or employee doing business with Hidalgo County Head Start Program, who believes they have witnessed any suspected ethical violation or fraud immediately report the allegations to the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Director, 1901 W. State Hwy 107 McAllen, TX 78504, (956) 383-0706, ambrosio.tovar@hchsp.org

Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department will conduct a prompt and thorough investigation. At the conclusion of the investigation, Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department will refer any suspected criminal activity to the Hidalgo County District Attorney or other appropriate law enforcement agency. Any Offeror who reports suspected ethical violations or fraud can do so without fear of retaliation. Retaliating against any offeror for reporting suspected ethical violations or fraud is strictly prohibited.

7.11 Historically Underutilized Business/Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. The Program is committed to ensuring that Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) such as small business enterprises (SBE), minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBE) receive a fair and equal opportunity for participation in the Program's procurement process. The Program encourages the use of these enterprises both as prime and subcontractors as listed in **Appendix "E"**.

When federal funds are expended by the Program, the Program will take affirmative steps set forth in 2 CFR 200.321 to assure that small, minority, women-owned businesses and labor surplus area owned firms are used when possible. Pursuant to 2 CFR 321, the Program requires that a prime contractor who uses subcontractors take affirmative steps set forth in 2 CFR 200.321, including:

- a. Placing qualified small and minority business and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists;
- b. Assuring that small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
- c. Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;
- d. Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises; and
- e. Using the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce.
- f. Nothing in this section is to be construed to require the Program to award a contract other than as required by law and Hidalgo County Head Start Program policies and procedures.

When procurement is related to road construction projects with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), all respondents must submit their HUB/DBE plans as part of their submission to be qualified to participate.

7.12 Independent Contractor. It is expressly agreed that this Contract and the performance by the parties hereunder does not create any agency relationship or master-servant relationship that the Program has no supervision of the performance of the Services provided by Vendor, and that Vendor is an independent contractor under an award through this procurement packet.

7.13 Nondiscrimination. By submitting a response to this procurement packet, the Offeror certifies that it will conform to the provisions of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended and related state and federal law.

Offeror, during the performance of this contract, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or any other protected class under law (except as allowed in the case of bona fide occupational qualifications).

7.14 Texas Public Information Act. The Offeror understands and agrees that Hidalgo County Head Start Program is a governmental body for purposes of the Public Information Act, codified as Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code and as such is required to release information in accordance with the Public Information Act (the "Act"). Hidalgo County Head Start Program must rely on advice, decisions and opinions of the Attorney General of the State of Texas relative to the disclosure of data or information. Submissions will be kept confidential in accordance with the Act and applicable law, and **submissions are subject to inclusion into the public record after award.** To the extent permitted by law, Offeror may request in writing non-disclosure of any information that it considers to be confidential, proprietary, and/or trade secret in its submission. Such data shall accompany the submission, be readily separable from the response, and shall be CLEARLY MARKED "**CONFIDENTIAL, PROPRIETARY and/or TRADE SECRET**". Hidalgo County Head Start Program will make reasonable efforts to provide Offeror notice in accordance with the Act in the event the Program receives a request for information under the Act for information that the Offeror has marked as indicated above. E-mail addresses provided by Offeror to the Program as part of its response to this procurement packet are not confidential. Additionally, Offeror provides its affirmative consent to the disclosure of its e-mail addresses, including from its employees, officers, and agents acting on its behalf, that are provided to Hidalgo County Head Start Program. This consent shall survive

termination of this agreement and apply to any e-mail address provided in any form for any reason whether related to this procurement packet or otherwise.

7.15 Title VI Notice. The County of Hidalgo, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat.252, 42 U.S.C. §§2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all respondents that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit Bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. Further, Title VI has been broadened by related statutes, regulations and executive orders as found in Appendices “A” through “E” as attached hereto as **Appendix “G”**. Offeror agrees to comply with Title VI as may be required.

- 8. CONTRACT OBLIGATION.** Hidalgo County Head Start Program Policy Council and the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court must award the contract and the County Judge and Hidalgo County Head Start Program’s Executive Director must sign the contract before it becomes binding on Hidalgo County or the Offeror. Elected officials, department heads, other County employees or representatives are NOT authorized to sign agreements for Hidalgo County Head Start Program, unless prior authorization is approved by the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court, or respective governing body. Binding agreements shall remain in effect until all products and/or services covered by this procurement packet have been satisfactorily delivered and accepted.
- 9. CONTRACT RENEWALS.** Any extension or renewal of the agreement entered into by the parties are made at the Program’s sole discretion and under the same rates, terms and conditions as the initial agreement, or as amended.
- 10. CONTRACT TRANSITION (Grace Period).** In the event services end by either contract expiration or termination, it shall be required that the successful respondent continue services if requested by the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department, until new services can be completely operational. The successful respondent acknowledges its responsibility to cooperate fully with the replacement vendor and Hidalgo County Head Start Program to ensure a smooth and timely transition to the replacement vendor. Such transitional period shall not extend more than sixty (60) days beyond the expiration/termination date of the contract, or any extension thereof. The successful respondent shall be reimbursed for services during the transitional period at the rate in effect when the transitional period clause is invoked by Hidalgo County Head Start Program. During any transition period, all other terms and conditions of the contract shall remain in full force and effect as originally written and subsequently amended.
- 11. COST OF GOODS AND SERVICES.** Discount payments will be considered when offered. If during the life of any contract, or response awarded, the successful respondent’s net prices generally available to other customers for items awarded herein are reduced below the contracted price, it is understood and agreed that the benefits of such reduction shall be extended to Hidalgo County Head Start Program. Failure by the Vendor to notify the Program of a decrease in costs for items and/or supplies for which the Vendor was granted a price adjustment, may result in immediate termination of this contract and the Program shall not be obligated to pay the Vendor the difference between the contract price and the price adjustment.
- 12. COUNTY APPROVED HOLIDAYS.** There are fourteen (14) County approved holidays. The Offeror is advised that official County business will not be conducted on those dates. The link of approved holidays can be found on: <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/115/County-Holidays>.
- 13. EVALUATION.** Evaluation shall be used as a determinant as to which proposed items or services are the most efficient and/or most economical for the Program, considering all factors which have a bearing on price and performance of the items in the user department’s environment. All submissions, except for Requests for Bids, may be subject to evaluations and negotiations by the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department, or authorized Program representative as approved by Hidalgo County Commissioners Court, with recommendation to the appropriate governing body. Compliance with all requirements, delivery and needs of the user department are considerations in evaluating the responses received. **Pricing is NOT the only criteria for making a recommendation.** A preliminary evaluation by Hidalgo County Head Start Program will be held and appropriate responses will be subjected to the negotiating process and a request for a Best and Final Offer. Upon completion of the negotiations, Hidalgo County Head start Program will make an award. All responses that have been submitted shall be available and open for public record after the contract is awarded, except for trade secrets or confidential information contained in the responses and identified as such.

Hidalgo County Head Start Program reserves the right to refuse and reject any or all submissions and to waive any or all formalities or technicalities, or to the qualifications considered the best and most advantageous to Hidalgo County Head Start Program. Additionally, Hidalgo County Head Start Program reserves the right to separate and accept or eliminate

any item(s) listed under this procurement packet that it deems necessary to accommodate budgetary or operational requirements.

- 14. FISCAL FUNDING.** Hidalgo County Head Start Program has the discretion to utilize grant funding or general funding, however, should grant funding be utilized "Grant Funding" rules will apply. The award of a contract hereunder will not be construed to create a debt of the Program which is payable out of funds beyond the current fiscal year. Additionally, should funds not be appropriated by the applicable governing body to continue the lease or contract in their sole discretion, said lease or contract shall become null and void on the last day of the current appropriation of funds.

14.1 General Funding. A multi-year lease or lease/purchase arrangement, or any contract continuing as a result of an extension option, must include a fiscal funding out provision in the lease or contract. Funds for this procurement have been provided through the Hidalgo County Head Start Program budget for this fiscal year only. Hidalgo County Head Start Program, on an annual basis and at their discretion, has the right to reconsider a contract during the budget process for ensuing years if financial resources of Hidalgo County Head Start Program are insufficient to meet the liabilities of said contract. After expiration of the lease, leased equipment shall be removed by the Vendor from the user department without penalty of any kind or form to Hidalgo County Head Start Program. All charges and physical activity related to delivery, installation, removal and re-delivery shall be the responsibility of the Vendor.

14.2 Grant Funding. Any contract entered into by the Program that is to be paid from grant funds shall be limited to payment from the grant funding, and the Offeror understands that the Program has not set aside any Program funds for the payment of obligations under a grant contract. If grant funding should become unavailable at any time for the continuation of services paid for by the grant, and further funding cannot be obtained for the contract, then the contract shall be null and void.

Additionally, Program contracts subject to assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), require inclusion of the contract terms found in **Appendix "H"**. It is the Program's intention to comply with FEMA requirements; therefore, any conflict in terms should be resolved as such.

- 15. FORCE MAJEURE.** If by reason of Force Majeure either Party shall be rendered unable, wholly or in part, to carry out its responsibility under this contract by any occurrence by reason of Force Majeure, then the Party unable to carry out its responsibility shall give the other Party notice and full particulars of such Force Majeure in writing within a reasonable time after the occurrence of the event, and such notice shall suspend the Party's responsibility for the continuance of the Force Majeure claimed, but for no longer period. Force Majeure means acts of God, floods, hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, earthquakes, or other natural disasters, acts of a public enemy, acts of terrorism, sovereign conduct, riots, civil commotion, strikes or lockouts, and other causes that are not occasioned by either Party's conduct which by the exercise of due diligence the Party is unable to overcome and which substantially interferes with operations.
- 16. GOVERNING LAW.** This procurement packet is governed by the competitive bidding requirements of the County Purchasing Act, Texas Local Government Code, §262.021 *et seq.*, as amended. Offerors shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Offeror is further advised that these requirements shall be fully governed by the laws of the State of Texas and venue shall be performable in a federal or state court or competent jurisdiction in Hidalgo County, Texas. Hidalgo County Head Start Program may request and rely on advice, decisions and opinions of the Attorney General of Texas and the Hidalgo County District Attorney concerning any portion of these requirements. The Program does not agree to binding arbitration and does not waive its right to a jury trial.
- 17. HIPAA COMPLIANCE.** When applicable, the Offeror agrees to comply with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-191 (codified at 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164), as amended ("HIPAA"); privacy and security regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services ("DHHS"); Title XIII, Subtitle D of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-5, as amended ("HITECH Act"); provisions regarding Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records (codified at 42 C.F.R. Part 2), as amended; and TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE ANN. §§81.046, as amended, 181.001 *et seq.*, as amended, 241.151 *et seq.*, as amended, and 611.001 *et seq.*, as amended collectively referred to as "HIPAA", to the extent that the Offeror uses, discloses or has access to protected health information as defined by HIPAA. Offeror may be required to enter a Business Associate Agreement pursuant to HIPAA.
- 18. INDEMNIFICATION.** The successful Offeror, shall indemnify, defend, save, and hold Hidalgo County Head Start Program, all its elected officials, officers, agents and employees harmless from all suits, actions, or other claims of any character, name and description brought for or on account of any injuries or damages received or

sustained by any person, persons, or property directly or indirectly from contractor's performance on account of any negligent act or fault of the successful Offeror, or of any agent, employee, subcontractor or supplier in the execution of, or performance under, any contract which may result from award or which arises from any event or casualty happening on or within County premises themselves or happening upon or in any halls, elevators, entrances, stairways or approaches of or to such County facilities. Successful Offeror shall pay any judgment with costs which may be obtained against the County growing out of such injury or damages, and shall, upon request, provide a defense to Hidalgo County Head Start Program by counsel reasonably acceptable to the Program. The Successful Offeror indemnity hereunder shall include, but is not limited to, claims relating to patent, copyright or trademark infringement and the like, arising out of the goods and services provided by successful Offeror.

- 19. INSPECTIONS & TESTING.** Hidalgo County Head Start Program reserves the right to inspect any item(s) or service location for compliance with specifications and requirements and needs of the user department. If an Offeror cannot furnish a sample of a proposed item, where applicable, for review, or fails to satisfactorily show an ability to perform, the Program can reject the response as inadequate.

The successful respondent shall warrant that all items/services shall conform to the specifications and/or all warranties provided under the Uniform Commercial Code and be free from all defects in material, workmanship and the like. Items supplied under a contract pursuant to this procurement packet shall be subject to the Program's approval. Items found to be defective or not meeting specifications shall be replaced by the successful Offeror within two (2) business days at no expense to the Program. Items that are not picked up within one (1) week after notification shall be deemed a donation to the Program and may be used or disposed of at the Program's discretion, without waiver of any other rights of the Program as to the items' nonconformity.

- 20. INSURANCE.** Contractor shall procure and maintain, with respect to the subject matter of this procurement packet, appropriate insurance coverage including, as a minimum, public liability and property damage with adequate limits to cover contractor's liability as may arise directly or indirectly from work performed under terms of this procurement packet. Certification of such coverage must be provided to the Program as part of this response. (See **Appendix "C": Insurance Requirements**). Prior to award, Hidalgo County Head Start Program must be listed as a Certificate Holder to the policies.

- 21. LEGAL DOCUMENTS.** Offeror should submit any agreement for products and/or services which may be required by their organization to enter into a contract with Hidalgo County Head Start Program. The awarded vendor will be required to execute an agreement with Hidalgo County Head Start Program which finalizes the terms and conditions set forth in their response, best and final offer, and any negotiations between the Offeror and Hidalgo County Head Start Program. The agreement is subject to review and amendment by the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Legal Counsel.

- 22. MAINTENANCE.** Maintenance required for equipment proposed should be available in Hidalgo County Head Start Program by a manufacturer-authorized maintenance facility. Costs for this service shall be shown on **Appendix "B"**. If Hidalgo County Head Start Program opts to include maintenance, it shall be so stated in the purchase order and said cost will be included. Service will commence only upon expiration of applicable warranties and should be priced accordingly.

- 23. MARKET VOLATILITY AND UNIT PRICE ADJUSTMENTS.** When applicable, Hidalgo County Head Start Program recognizes that during periods of national crisis and unstable economic conditions, unforeseen price increase might affect costs for goods and services contracted on an annual basis. As such, upon written request of the Vendor to the Program Procurement Director, the Program may review evidence of prevailing industry-wide market conditions that may warrant an adjustment in bid prices contained in the contract. When applicable, the following procedure and conditions may be employed to mediate price volatility:

- A Vendor shall:
 - make its Market Volatility and Unit Price Adjustment request in writing to the Program Procurement Director.
 - tie any price change clause to an industry-wide or otherwise nationally recognized index, or some other form of verifiable document. Such written request must be accompanied by a certified copy of the supplier's advisory or notification to the Vendor of the price changes.
 - put the Procurement Director on the mailing lists for such publications so that the Procurement Director can monitor said changes. Such membership shall be at no cost to the Program.
 - notify the Program at the time when the Vendor's costs for items, supplies, and or services reduce due to stabilization in the market at which time prices for items on this contract shall be reduced

accordingly. Failure by the Vendor to notify the Program of a decrease in costs for items and/or supplies for which the Vendor was granted a price adjustment, may result in immediate termination of this contract and the Program shall not be obligated to pay the Vendor the difference between the contract price and the price adjustment.

- Price adjustment reviews may only be requested by the Vendor on a quarterly basis; however, the Program may at its own discretion, conduct temporary price adjustment reviews at any time.
- The Program Procurement Director retains the right to determine whether or not such proposed price changes are in the best interest of the Program.
- The Program may only grant a price increase if the evidence presented is deemed reliable.
- No price escalation will be authorized in excess of the amount of the increase referred to in the supplier's notice.
- The total increase in contract price shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the original contract price during the contract term.
- Should the Program allow a price increase, the approved price change shall be honored for all orders received by the vendor or contractor after the effective date of such price change. Approved price changes are not applicable to orders already issued and in process at time of price change.
- Price increases are only valid for the quarter in which they are requested and approved.
 - Prices shall return to the original contract price at the beginning of the following quarter unless a Vendor notifies the Program in writing within ten (10) days of expiration of the quarter in which the price increase is in effect, that it desires to have the price increase continue or that the Vendor is requesting a different price increase for the following quarter. Such request must be supplemented with sufficient justification to demonstrate that the price increase remains necessary. The Program Procurement Department shall have sole discretion whether to grant the price increase extension.
- The Program Procurement Director and/or the Program Finance Department reserve the right to audit and/or examine any pertinent books, documents, papers, records or invoices relating directly to the contract transaction in question after reasonable notice and during normal business hours.
- The Program too, shall have discretion to unilaterally reduce, eliminate or extend a price adjustment to the Vendor at any time upon written notice from the Program to the Vendor demonstrating justification for such reduction, elimination or extension of the price adjustment.

24. MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS. Under the "Hazardous Communication Act", commonly known as the "Texas Right to Know Act", an Offeror must provide to the Program with each delivery, safety data sheets which are applicable to hazardous substances defined in the Act. Failure of the Offeror to furnish the required documentation will be cause to reject any response applying thereto.

25. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR RESPONSIBLE PROSPECTIVE RESPONDENTS. With their submitted response, the Offeror must affirmatively demonstrate their responsibility as listed on **Appendix "A"**. A prospective respondent, by submitting a response, represents to Program that it meets the requirements listed.

26. NAME BRANDS. Specifications may reference name brands and model numbers. It is not the intent of Hidalgo County Head Start Program to restrict or preclude competition in any way, but to establish a desired quality level of merchandise or to meet a pre-established standard due to like existing items. Offerors may offer items of equal stature and the burden of proof of such stature rests with Offerors. Hidalgo County Head Start Program shall act as sole judge in determining equality and acceptability of products offered.

27. NEW MILLENNIUM COMPLIANCE. All products and/or services furnished as part of this contract must be compliant for the present year and forward. This applies to all computers including hardware and software as well as all other commodities with date sensitive embedded chips.

28. PAYMENT UNDER CONTRACT. If the contract is for \$50,000 or less, no money will be paid to the contractor until completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the Program and, if applicable, the receipt by Program of satisfactory evidence that all subcontractors and material men have been paid.

29. PERFORMANCE ENFORCEMENT. Hidalgo County Head Start Program reserves the right to enforce performance of any contract, agreement, supplemental agreement, as amended, or participation in the professional services pool, in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of the Program. Hidalgo County Head Start Program reserves the right to terminate the contract awarded hereunder in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of the Program immediately in the event of breach or default by a successful respondent, including, but not limited to failure to maintain qualifications, meet schedules, pay any required fees or taxes, or otherwise failing to perform in accordance with the requirements of this procurement packet.

30. POST-AWARD DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS. Title and Risk of Loss of goods shall not pass to Hidalgo County Head Start Program until Hidalgo County Head Start Program actually receives and takes possession of the goods at the point or points of delivery. Receiving times may vary with the user department. Generally, deliveries may be made between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Program approved holidays. The Offeror is advised to consult the user department for instructions, and be given at least seventy-two (72) hours prior notice of delivery, if applicable, before delivery will be accepted. The place of delivery shall be identified in the Requirements/Specifications attached hereto as **Appendix "A"** of this procurement packet and/or on the Purchase Order as a "Deliver To:" address.

31. POST-AWARD INVOICES AND PAYMENTS. Offerors shall submit an original, itemized invoice on company letterhead with their company name and address, detailing the deliverable(s) of goods and/or services provided, the respective price, product code, item number, quantity, etc. per line item, the name of receiving/requesting department or elected office, the delivery address, the awarded vendor's contract number, and issued purchase order number. Any invoice, which cannot be verified by the contract price and/or is otherwise incorrect, will be returned to the Offeror for correction. Under term contracts, when multiple deliveries and/or services are required, the Offeror may invoice following each delivery and the Program will pay on invoice. Contracts providing for a monthly charge will be billed and paid on a monthly basis only. All payments are subject to compliance with the Texas Prompt Payment Act.

Deliverables or services will be considered complete only upon written acceptance by Hidalgo County Head Start Program. No charges may be billed to Hidalgo County Head Start Program unless such costs are explicitly included in the agreement or contract. For billing and payment questions please contact the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Finance Department. 1901 W. State Highway 107 McAllen, Texas 78504, (956) 383-0706.

32. PROCUREMENT PACKET FORM COMPLETION. Fill out and return to the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department one (1) complete response in an appropriately sized envelope or box. **PACKAGE MUST SHOW THE COMPANY NAME, RETURN ADDRESS, THE RFB, RFP, RFQ, etc., PROJECT DESCRIPTION, OPENING DATE AND TIME, AND BE MARKED "SEALED SUBMISSION"**. An authorized representative of the Offeror should sign the Submission Cover Sheet. The contract will be binding only when signed by Hidalgo County Head Start Program, funds are certified by the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Finance Department, and an official Hidalgo County Head Start Program Purchase Order is issued by the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department.

33. PROCUREMENT PACKET SUBMISSION. Offeror must submit all completed responses to the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department reception desk at 1901 W. Highway 107, McAllen, Texas 78504 by the date and time listed under the Submission Deadline and Bid Opening section of the Procurement Overview. **Late submissions will not be accepted for any reason.**

33.1 Supplemental Materials. Offerors are responsible for including all pertinent product data in the submitted response to this procurement packet. Literature, brochures, data sheets, specification information, completed forms requested as part of the procurement packet and any other facts which may affect the evaluation and subsequent contract award should be included. Materials such as legal documents and contractual agreements, which the Offeror wishes to include as a condition of the submission, must also be in the submitted response. Failure to include all necessary and proper supplemental materials may be cause to reject the entire response.

34. PROOF OF BUSINESS. Offeror must be in business under its current name and in its current form (e.g., proprietorship, Chapter S Corporation). Information to be included as part of the Vendor Application, **Appendix "E"**.

35. PURCHASE ORDER AND DELIVERY. The successful Offeror shall not deliver products or provide services without a Hidalgo County Head Start Program Purchase Order, signed by the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Director, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Program Director. When applicable, the fastest, most reasonable delivery time shall be indicated by the Offeror in the proper place on **Appendix "B"**. Any special information concerning delivery should also be included, on a separate sheet, if necessary. All items shall be shipped **F.O.B. INSIDE DELIVERY** unless otherwise stated in the specifications. This shall be understood to include bringing merchandise to the appropriate room or place designated by the user department. Every tender or delivery of goods must fully comply with all provisions of these requirements and the specifications including time, delivery and quality. Nonconformance shall constitute a breach which must be rectified prior to expiration of the time for performance. Failure to rectify within the performance period will be considered cause to reject future deliveries and cancellation of the contract by Hidalgo County Head Start Program, without prejudice to other remedies provided by law. **Where delivery times are critical, Hidalgo County Head Start Program reserves the right to award accordingly.**

Goods and/or Services must not be provided and **invoices will not be paid** without a purchase order signed by the Hidalgo County Head Start Program.

36. QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFEROR. Offeror's failure to qualify or maintain qualifications throughout the term of this agreement shall release Hidalgo County Head Start Program from all obligations to the Offeror with regard to the services. In such an event, Hidalgo County Head Start Program may elect to engage another qualified firm or reject all submissions and readvertise.

37. RECYCLED MATERIALS. Hidalgo County Head Start Program encourages the use of products made of recycled materials and shall give preference in purchasing to products made of recycled materials if the products meet applicable specifications as to quantity and quality. Hidalgo County Head Start Program will be the sole judge in determining product preference application.

38. REFERENCES. Offeror must provide a total of four (4) references in each response to a solicitation requested by Hidalgo County Head Start Program. **One of the four references listed should be of a project that was canceled.** Offeror may provide this in form of Reference Letters from other individual(s)/entities or local government entities for whom the Offeror has provided similar services in the past twenty-four (24) months as demonstration of their prior experience, or if Offeror prefers, may utilize the Reference Form **Appendix "M"**. Letters or reference sheet must include the following information:

- Organization/Client Name/Government Entity (Include population of any local governmental entity – some procurements may require a specific population).
- Name of Contact Person
- Contact Telephone, Address and Email
- Name of Project
- Scope of Work
- Contract Period
- Budget Project Amount; Actual Project Amount
- Expected project timeframe; actual project timeframe.
- Include contact information for one (1) client that services have been canceled, and a description of why the project was canceled.

39. SCANNED OR RE-TYPED RESPONSE. If in its response, Offeror either electronically scans, re-types, or in some way reproduces the Program's published procurement packet, then in the event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of the Program's published procurement packet, or any portion thereof, and the terms and provisions of the response made by the Offeror, the Program's procurement packet **as published** shall control. Furthermore, if an alteration of any kind to the Program's published procurement packet is only discovered after the contract is executed and is or is not being performed; the contract is subject to immediate cancellation.

Regardless of how an Offeror requested or received a copy of this procurement packet to prepare a response, **the response must be submitted in hard copy** according to the instructions contained within this procurement packet.

40. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or word of these requirements or the specifications shall be held invalid, such holding shall not affect the remaining portions of these requirements and the specifications and it is hereby declared that such remaining portions would have been included in these requirements and the specifications as though the invalid portion had been omitted.

41. SILENCE OF SPECIFICATIONS. The apparent silence of specifications as to any detail, or the apparent omission from it of a detailed description concerning any point, shall be regarded as meaning that only the best commercial practice is to prevail and that only material and workmanship of the finest quality are to be used. All interpretations of specifications shall be made on the basis of this statement. The items furnished under this contract shall be new, unused of the latest product in production to commercial trade and shall be of the highest quality as to materials used and workmanship. Manufacturer furnishing these items shall be experienced in design and construction of such items and shall be an established supplier of the item proposed.

- 42. SUBCONTRACTING.** Vendor may not subcontract services to another firm without prior written request detailing goods and/or services that are to be subcontracted, and approval of said written request by Hidalgo County Head Start Program Policy Council, or applicable governing body.
- 43. TAXES.** Hidalgo County Head Start Program is exempt from all federal excise, state and local taxes unless, otherwise stated in this document. Hidalgo County Head Start Program claims exemption from all sales and/or use taxes under Texas Tax Code §151.309, as amended. Offerors are not to include tax in any cost figures (including in any supplemental project specific contracts applicable to pools). If it is determined that tax was included in the cost figure it will not be included in the tabulation of any supplemental project specific awards. Texas Limited Sales Tax Exemption Certificates will be furnished upon written request to the Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department, and signed by the Agent, or authorized Purchasing Department representative.
- 44. TERM OF CONTRACTS.** If the contract is intended to cover a specific time period, the term will be specified in **Appendix A: Requirements/Specifications**. Awarded contract will be in effect until (a) the term expires, or (b) participation is terminated by Program with thirty (30) days written notice prior to cancellation with or without cause. Any supplemental project-specific contract award to a successful respondent will be in effect until (a) the contract expires, (b) delivery and acceptance of products, and/or performance of services ordered, or (c) terminated by the Program with thirty (30) days written notice prior to cancellation with or without cause, unless otherwise stated in the executed agreement.
- 45. TERMINATION.** Hidalgo County Head Start Program reserves the right to terminate the contract for default if Offeror breaches any of the terms therein, including warranties of Offeror or if the Offeror becomes insolvent or commits acts of bankruptcy. Such right of termination is in addition to and not in lieu of any other remedies which Hidalgo County Head Start Program may have in law or equity. Default may be construed as, but not limited to, failure to deliver the proper goods and/or services within the proper amount of time, and/or to properly perform any and all services required to Hidalgo County Head Start Program's satisfaction and/or to meet all other obligations and requirements. Hidalgo County Head Start Program may terminate the contract without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice, unless otherwise stated in the executed agreement.
- 46. TERMINATION FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATIONS.** Hidalgo County Head Start Program has the option to terminate this contract immediately without prior notice if Offeror fails to perform any of its obligations in this contract if the failure (a) created a potential threat to health or safety or (b) violated a law, ordinance, or regulation designed to protect health or safety.
- 47. USAGE REPORTS.** Hidalgo County Head Start Program reserves the right to request, and receive at no additional cost during the yearly contract period, a usage report detailing the services furnished to date under an agreement resulting from this procurement packet. The reports must be furnished no later than five (5) business days after written request and itemize all purchases to date by Hidalgo County Head Start Program, description of each service purchased, quantity of each service purchased, per unit cost and total amount of all services purchased.
- 48. WAIVER OF SUBROGATION.** Offeror and Offeror's insurance carrier waive any and all rights whatsoever with regard to subrogation against Hidalgo County Head Start Program as an indirect party to any suit arising out of personal or property damages resulting from Offeror's performance under any award resulting from award from this procurement packet.
- 49. WARRANTIES.** Offerors shall furnish all data pertinent to warranties or guarantees which may apply to items in the response to this procurement packet. Offeror may not limit or exclude any implied warranties. Further, Offeror warrants that product sold to the Program shall conform to the standards established by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. In the event product does not conform to OSHA Standards, where applicable, Hidalgo County Head Start Program may return the product for correction or replacement at the Offeror's expense. If Offeror fails to make the appropriate correction within a reasonable time, Hidalgo County Head Start Program may correct at the Offeror's expense.
- 50. CIVIL WORKS, CONSTRUCTION & PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.** Provisions of Tex. Govt. Code Ch. 2269 as amended by HB 2581 of the 87th Texas Legislature applicable to Civil Works and Construction Projects are hereby incorporated. Provisions of Texas Local Govt. Code Ch. 271, subchapter B applicable to competitive bidding on certain public works projects are hereby incorporated.

LEGAL NOTICE DECLARATION

TO: Ambrosio Tovar Procurement Director
Hidalgo County Head Start Program
Administration Building/Procurement Department
1901 W. State Highway 107
McAllen, Texas 78504

RE: RFP: 2023-003-05-05-AS

By providing a response to this solicitation, we acknowledge receipt of all of the pages in this procurement packet. We understand that Hidalgo County Head Start Program reserves the right to reject any or all submissions, and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best qualification.

We acknowledge that we have examined this procurement packet in its entirety and are familiar with the conditions to be met. In accordance with the Specifications, and subject to all laws and regulations of the United States, State of Texas, and local laws, we propose and commit to furnish all labor, equipment, material, software, and services as set forth in the documents hereinbefore mentioned. Any purchase order or contract resulting from this process shall be considered null and void if the successful respondent fails to comply with any federal, state or local laws.

We acknowledge that we are providing the required certifications, attestations, verifications and/or acknowledgments as referenced within this procurement packet. We further acknowledge that any and all specifications, provisions, and attachments of this response are incorporated into and made a part of any resulting agreement.

We agree that this response shall be good, and may not be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after the scheduled bid opening time and date for receiving the requested solicitation, as contained in the Specifications.

Lastly, we understand that any questions regarding compliance should be directed to our firm's legal counsel. We acknowledge that the individual authorized to bind the company is signing this Acknowledgement Form. By signing this Acknowledgement Form we understand we are providing written verification and certification of the aforementioned, and the Program cannot execute a contract for goods or services without this declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

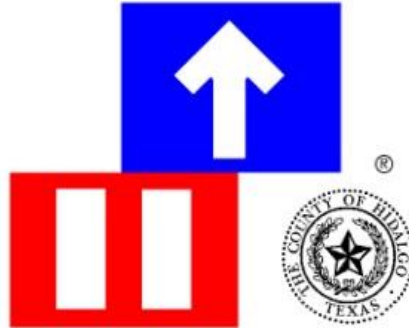
Firm: _____

Address: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Appendix A

REQUIREMENTS/SCOPE OF SERVICES

Request for Proposal – Educator Preparation Program (EPP)

Scope of Work

The Hidalgo County Head Start Program is seeking to engage a competent Educator Preparation Program that will provide evidence of compliance and satisfy Texas Administrative Code (TAC) and perform the services that include, but are not limited to, as stated herein.

The Scope of Work will include the following:

- Plan of Study for August 1st Internship Eligibility
- Test Preparation and Support for EC – 6 Certification and Bilingual Certification
- Ensure that Accelerated Certification Program (ACP) candidates meet all TEA Code Requirements:
 - (1) A minimum of 30 clock-hours of field-based experience. Up to 15 clock-hours of this field-based experience may be provided by use of electronic transmission or other video or technology-based method.
 - (2) 150 clock-hours of coursework and/or training that allows candidates to demonstrate proficiency in:
 - (a) designing clear, well-organized, sequential, engaging, and flexible lessons that reflect best practice, align with standard and related content, are appropriate for diverse learners and encourage higher order thinking, persistence, and achievement.
 - (b) formally and informally collecting, analyzing, and using student progress data to inform instruction and make needed lesson adjustments
 - (c) ensuring high levels of learning, social-emotional development, and achievement for all students through knowledge of students, proven practices, and differentiated instruction
 - (d) clearly and accurately communicating to support persistence, deeper learning, and effective effort
 - (e) organizing a safe, accessible, and efficient classroom
 - (f) establishing communicating, and maintaining clear expectations for student behavior
 - (g) leading a mutually respectful and collaborative class of actively engaged learners
 - (h) meeting expectations for attendance, professional appearance, decorum, procedural, ethical, legal, and statutory responsibilities
 - (i) reflect on his or her practice
 - (j) effectively communicating with students, families, colleagues, and community members

Admissions:

The Educator Preparation Program will ensure that participants meet all admission requirements, as set forth by the Texas Administrative Code (TAC):

- The Educator Preparation Program has informed applicants of the required information. 19 TAC 227.1(c)
- Candidates have met the required institution of higher education enrollment or degree requirements. 19 TAC 227.10(a) (1) and (2)
- Out of country candidates have met the required degree requirement. 19 TAC 227.10(e)
- Candidates have met the minimum grade point average (GPA) requirement. 19 TAC 227.10(a)(3)(A)
- Candidates that have been admitted with a GPA less than the 2.5 minimum have met the requirements for the GPA exception. 19 TAC 227.10(a)(3)(B) and (D)

- Applicants demonstrated content knowledge prior to admission. 19 TAC 227.10(a)(4)
- Applicants demonstrated basic skills prior to admission. 19 TAC 227.10(a)(5)
- Applicants demonstrated proficiency in English language skills prior to admission. 19 TAC 227.10(a)(6)
- A screening device has been used to determine applicant admission. 19 TAC 227.10(a)(7)

Curriculum:

The Educator Preparation Program will ensure that the curriculum meets all requirements.

- The curriculum is based on approved educator standards. 19 TAC 228.30(a)
- The curriculum addresses the relevant Texas Essential Knowledge and skills (TEKS). 19 TAC 228.30(a)
- The Educator Preparation Program uses assessment to measure candidate progress. 19 TAC 228.40(a)
- The curriculum is research-based. 19 TAC 228.30(b)
- The required subject matter has been included in the curriculum for candidates seeking initial certification in any certification class. 19 TAC 228.30(c) – (e)

Coursework, Training, Program Delivery, and Ongoing Support

The Educator Preparation Program will ensure the following:

- Formal observations conducted by field supervisors meet the requirement for duration, frequency, and format. 19 TAC 228.35(g)(1) – (8)
- Field supervisors make required initial contact with candidates. 19 TAC 228.35(h)
- For each observation, the field supervisor has held the required conferences with each candidate. Each candidate has received the required written feedback. 19 TAC 228.35(h)
- The field supervisor has provided a copy of the written observation feedback to the candidate's site supervisor. 19 TAC 228.35(h)
- The field supervisor provides informal observations and coaching as appropriate. 19 TAC 228.35(h)
- The field supervisor collaborates with the candidate and site supervisor throughout the practicum experience. 19 TAC 228.35(h)
- Observations conducted by field supervisors meet the requirements for duration, frequency, and format. 19 TAC 228.35(h) (1) – (4)
- An internship or clinical teaching experience was completed at a Head Start Program that meets requirements. 19 TAC 228.35(e)(3)
- The internship or clinical teaching experiences take place in setting that meets requirements. 19 TAC 228.35(e)(4) and (5)
- Candidates placed in clinical teaching, internship, or practicum assignments were assigned cooperating teachers, mentors, or site supervisors as appropriate. 19 TAC 228.35(f)
- Candidates have been assigned to field supervisors who held the required credentials. 19 TAC 228.35(g)
- Field supervisors have been trained. 19 TAC 228.35(g) and (h)
- Field supervisors collaborates with the required individuals. 19 TAC 228.35(g)

Assessment and Evaluation:

The Educator Preparation Program will ensure the following Code Requirements are met:

- The Educator Preparation Program has established benchmarks to measure candidate progress. 19 TAC 228.40(a)

- The Educator Preparation Program has processes to ensure candidates are prepared to be successful on their content examinations. 19 TAC 228.40(b)
- A candidate who is prepared in different certification in which the candidate was admitted. 19 TAC 228.40(c)
- The Educator Preparation Program has a process for determining that formally admitted candidates are prepared to take certification examinations. 19 TAC 228.40(d)
- The Educator Preparation Program uses information from a variety of sources to evaluate program design and delivery. 19 TAC 228.40(e)

Professional Conduct:

The Educator Preparation Program staff and candidates adhere to the Educators' Code of Ethics. 19 TAC 228.50

Complaints and Procedures:

The Educators Preparation Program has sent a copy of the complaint procedure to TEA. 19 TAC 228.70(b)(1)

The Educators Preparation Program has posted on its website the compliant policy and a link to the TEA complaints website. 19 TAC 228.70(b)(2)

The Educators Preparation Program complaint policy is posted on-site. 19 TAC 228.70(b)(3)

The Educators Preparation Program provides written information about filing complaints. 19 TAC 228.70(b)(4)

“APPENDIX A” **REQUIREMENTS**

"EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM" **RFP NO.: 23-003-05-05-AS**

Request for Proposals:

The required contents and limitations for the preparation of the RFP are described in this section. Failure to provide the requested information or adhere to any County limitations will result in disqualification of the submitted RFP. A total of **one (1) original one (1) copy** of the RFP shall be submitted to the address on the cover letter.

Contents:

The required contents for the RFP are presented below in the order they should be incorporated into the submitted document.

Understanding of the Project:

This section should demonstrate the submitter's understanding of the project needs, the work required, and any local issues or concerns. This description should be concise, candid, and limited to 3 pages in length.

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The Hidalgo County Head Start Program is seeking qualified instructors to engage in training Head Start teachers in preparation to successfully engage the State Teaching Certification that include, but are not limited to, as stated herein.

OFFEROR’S MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Qualifications for Instructors:

- Be currently certified in the area(s) they will teach
- Have at least 3 years of teaching experience
- Be an accomplished educator as shown by student learning
- Have experience teaching and coaching novice teachers
- Possess strong communication skills, interpersonal skills, and collaborative skills
- Respond to candidates’ inquiries within 48 hours
- Evaluate candidates’ performance within 72 hours of an assignment being submitted
- Have technology and proficient skills to support an interactive learning environment (e.g., computer, email, appropriate internet service, webcam)

Preferred Qualifications

- Have an advanced degree in the area in which they will teach

Qualifications for Field Supervisors:

- Hold a current teaching certificate in the state of Texas with at least 3 years of experience in the certification area of the supervised teaching assignment
- Have experience in instructional coaching or mentoring novice teachers
- Have a flexible schedule with the ability to commute regionally
- Be comfortable meeting with candidates via video-chat platform or phone call

- Conduct a minimum of 5 virtual and face-to-face observation cycles (i.e., pre-conference, observation, and post-conference) over an academic year
- Provide timely and constructive feedback that is aligned to the instructional practice rubric for each classroom observations
- Collaborate with mentor/cooperating teachers at clinical placements
- Respond to candidates' inquiries within 48 hours
- Observe and evaluate teacher candidate performance using an instructional practice rubric, both virtually and in person at their clinical site
- Have technology and proficient skills to communicate with and support candidate observation cycles (e.g., computer, email, appropriate internet service, webcam)

NOTE: In accordance with TAC 228.2(18), a field supervisor shall not be employed by the same school where the candidate being supervised is completing their clinical teaching or internship.

Preferred Qualifications

- Advanced degree in the certificate area in which they will supervise
- T-TESS trained and recognition as 'Appraiser'
- Certificate of Completion for the TEA-Approved Field Supervisor Training

NOTE: A field supervisor may be asked to support up to 60 teacher candidates at a time.

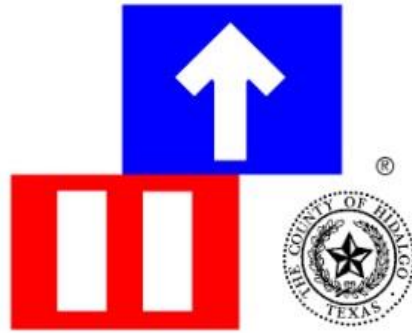
PART II-SELECTION AND SCHEDULES

SELECTION PROCEDURES/EVALUATION SYSTEM:

The evaluation consists of a 100-point scoring system. However, after the 100-point evaluation, Hidalgo County Head Start Program may elect to narrow the participating firms and request a presentation from a representative from firms.

- A. Hidalgo County Head Start Program and/or an Evaluation Committee (selected and/or designated by Commissioner's Court) will review, score and evaluate the proposals received in response to this Hidalgo County Head Start Program request for proposals.
- B. After the RFP's have been reviewed, scored and evaluated, a grid will be presented to the Policy Council for the purposes of ranking.

Categories are further detailed in the Selection Criteria (Appendix B) section of the RFP.



Appendix B

Evaluation Procedures

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Educator Preparation Program (EPP)
Hidalgo County Head Start Program

RFP-2023-003-05-05-AS

The submitter's RFP will be evaluated based on the criteria presented below. These criteria will be scored on the scales shown on the enclosed "RFP Evaluation Form."

1. Qualifications/Certifications/and other Credentials (20)

The trainer should provide information related to his/hers qualifications. The trainer(s) must be certified in the State of Texas. Trainer (s) must provide a copy of certificate by the State of Texas, and any other credentials/registrations or other pertinent information that demonstrates qualifications to perform the services required. A list of, and scope of, similar projects for comparative purposes shall be included in an appendix.

2. Understanding the Services/Methodology (20)

The trainer must state the approach and/or (methodology) in achieving and rendering all services detailed and required as the trainer for Hidalgo County Head Start Program. If the trainer currently has an active practice, the Trainer must state in detail how he/she can comply and render all the services, and requirements detailed for the contract. Trainer should include any local issues or concerns that directly affect the trainer's understanding of the project.

3. Experience (30)

The trainers must have a minimum of 3 years experience in public Teaching/Education services. Also, experience maintaining control over and accountability for all students and be knowledgeable with all regulations promulgated in the Texas Administrative Code. Trainer must be in good standing with the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

4. Ability to Commit to all Services Required (30)

The trainer should provide as much background information as to its experience in providing similar services to any other Governmental agencies. Reference information should be as current as possible, especially contact persons and telephone numbers.

HIDALGO COUNTY HEAD START PROGRAM

“EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM”

RFP NO. 2023-003-05-05-AS

EVALUATION CRITERIA	PROPOSER		
	GRADERS		
Trainer(s) Qualifications/and other Credentials			
Understanding the Services/Methodology			
Experience			
Ability to commit all services required			
Total			
TOTAL AVERAGES			
Designates/Approved by PC and CC as “Qualified” to proceed with negotiation phase of procurement process.	Yes_____		No_____



EXHIBIT B

FEE SCHEDULE

**“Educator Preparation Program (EPP) for
Hidalgo County Head Start Program”**

Exhibit B

RFP. 2023-003-05-05-AS

MONTHLY RATES	
Individual	\$
Student Rate	

REFERENCE FORM

Respondent's involvement with reference checks is not permitted. Only Hidalgo County Head Start Program Procurement Department or authorized designees will conduct reference checks. Any deviation to this may result in rejection of your response.

Reference One

Client's Name: _____
Type of Organization: _____
Address: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____
Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Project Information:

Name of Project: _____
Scope of Work: _____

Contract Period: From _____ to _____
Cost: Projected \$ _____ Actual \$ _____
Timeframe (include unit measure) Projected _____ Actual _____ Status as
of _____ (circle one): complete in progress canceled.

Reference Two

Client's Name: _____
Type of Organization: _____
Address: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____
Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Project Information:

Name of Project: _____
Scope of Work: _____

Contract Period: From _____ to _____
Cost: Projected \$ _____ Actual \$ _____
Timeframe (include unit measure) Projected _____ Actual _____ Status as
of _____ (circle one): complete in progress canceled.

Date

Reference Three

Client's Name: _____
Type of Organization: _____
Address: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____
Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Project Information:

Name of Project: _____
Scope of Work: _____

Contract Period: From _____ to _____
Cost: Projected \$ _____ Actual \$ _____
Timeframe (include unit measure) Projected _____ Actual _____ Status as
of _____ (circle one): complete in progress canceled.
Date

Reference Four

Client's Name: _____
Type of Organization: _____
Address: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____
Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Project Information:

Name of Project: _____
Scope of Work: _____

Contract Period: From _____ to _____
Cost: Projected \$ _____ Actual \$ _____
Timeframe (include unit measure) Projected _____ Actual _____ Status as
of _____ (circle one): complete in progress canceled.
Date



APPENDIX C

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

APPENDIX "C"

Insurance Requirements Applicable to the Acquisition of Goods and/or Services (Other than Professional Services)

The Bidder awarded the contract shall furnish proof of insurance, which will also include any subcontractor that is subcontracted by the bidder in at least the following limits, to be in place prior to providing any services under this Contract and to continue at all times in force in effect during the term of this Contract and any extension hereof:

1. **Comprehensive General Liability insurance** policy with limits of not less than Five Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$500,000.00) providing additional coverage to all underlying liabilities of County. Policy shall cover, but not be limited to, Bidder's activities in providing the Services for County; all persons, vehicles, equipment connected with providing Services; and theft or loss of Bidder's property.
2. **Automobile liability insurance** policy, covering all owned, non-owned or hired/leased automobiles, with limits of at least Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) per person and Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) per occurrence. Coverage should include injury to or death of persons and property damage claims with limits up to five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000.00) arising out of the services provide d to County hereunder.
3. **Uninsured/Underinsured motorist coverage** in an amount equal to the auto liability limits set forth immediately above;
4. **Workers Compensation Insurance:** Workers Compensation insurance in amounts established by Texas law, unless the Bidder is specifically exempted from the Texas Workers Compensation Act, Texas Labor Code Chapter 401, et. seq. Workers Compensation policies must include other States Endorsement to include TEXAS if the business is domiciled outside the State of Texas.

x Bidder shall obtain and maintain any and all other insurances which may be necessary in providing the good/service applicable to this procurement or are otherwise required by law.

x Any and all insurance policies shall be in amounts prescribed by law or otherwise specified by the County, but in no event less than the minimum amounts prescribed by law.

Additional Insurance Requirements:

- a. Bidder shall furnish to County certificate(s) of insurance, and all renewals throughout the duration of the Project, issued by the insurer that such insurance is in full force and effect.
- b. Certificates of insurance shall be submitted to County for approval prior to any services being performed by Bidder.
- c. **Hidalgo County Head Start Program will only accept certificates of insurance on an Acord form (as attached hereto).**

Page 2 of 2: Continuation of Exhibit "C": Insurance Requirements Applicable to the Acquisition of Goods and/or Services (Other than Professional Services)

- d. For each policy, except Workers' Compensation, Bidder shall name the County as an additional insured.

- e. Each policy of insurance required hereunder shall extend for a period equivalent to, or longer than the term of the Contract, and any insurer hereunder shall be required to give at least thirty (30) days written notice to the County prior to the cancellation of any such coverage on the termination date, or otherwise.
- f. This Contract shall be automatically suspended upon the cancellation, or other termination, of any required policy of insurance hereunder, and such suspension shall continue until evidence of adequate replacement coverage is provided to County. If replacement coverage is not provided within thirty (30) days following suspension of the Contract, this Contract shall automatically terminate.
- g. All insurance policies will be endorsed to provide a waiver of subrogation in favor of the County.
- h. County reserves the right to review the insurance requirements of this section during the effective period of the contract and to require adjustment of insurance coverage and their limits when deemed necessary and prudent by County based upon changes in statutory law, court decisions, or the claims history of the industry as well as the Bidder.
- i. Insurance policies shall be obtained at Bidder's sole expense. County does not maintain and will not obtain insurance of any type to protect Bidder against loss, damage or injury that may in any way result from Bidders performance of the services.
- j. In no event shall the County be liable for any loss, damage to or destruction of any property belonging to the Bidder.
- k. Bidder is responsible for ensuring all required insurance policies are valid for the duration of the contract.
- l. All insurance policies are to be issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in the State of Texas and acceptable to County.
- m. Bidder shall make any other insurance documentation available to County upon request.



CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

PRODUCER	CONTACT NAME:		
	PHONE (A/C No. Ext):		FAX (A/C No):
INSURED	E-MAIL ADDRESS:		
	INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE		NAIC #
	INSURER A:		
	INSURER B:		
	INSURER C:		
	INSURER D:		
	INSURER E:		
	INSURER F:		

COVERAGES CERTIFICATE NUMBER: REVISION NUMBER:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDITIONAL INSURER	INSURER WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXPI (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS
	GENERAL LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUR GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: <input type="checkbox"/> POLICY <input type="checkbox"/> PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/> LOC						EACH OCCURRENCE \$ DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) \$ MED EXP (Any one person) \$ PERSONAL & ADV INJURY \$ GENERAL AGGREGATE \$ PRODUCTS - COMP/OP AGG \$ \$
	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO <input type="checkbox"/> ALL OWNED AUTOS <input type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULED AUTOS <input type="checkbox"/> NON-OWNED AUTOS <input type="checkbox"/> UMBRELLA LIAB <input type="checkbox"/> EXCESS LIAB <input type="checkbox"/> DED <input type="checkbox"/> RETENTION \$						COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per person) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per accident) \$ PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) \$ \$ EACH OCCURRENCE \$ AGGREGATE \$ \$
	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? (Mandatory in NH) If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below						<input type="checkbox"/> WC STATUS-TOBY LIMITS <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER E.L. EACH ACCIDENT \$ E.L. DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE \$ E.L. DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT \$

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (Attach ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, if more space is required)

CERTIFICATE HOLDER HIDALGO COUNTY ATTN: PURCHASING DEPARTMENT 2812 S, HIGHWAY BUS. 281 EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539	CANCELLATION SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
---	--

INSURANCE REQUIREMENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, _____, authorized representative for _____,
Company/Vendor

hereby acknowledge receipt of the County's required insurance limits. Said requirements:

will be acquired within 10 working days after notification from Procurement Department of award of the project by the Hidalgo County Head Start Program;

will acquire additional amount needed to meet the County's requirements within 10 working days after notification from Procurement Department of award of the project by the Hidalgo County Head Start Program; currently carry the following:

Professional Liability (Errors & Omissions): \$ _____

Automobile Liability: \$ _____ General Liability: \$ _____

have already been met, see attached copy of certificate of insurance.

Authorized Representative

Date

Notice to Bidder:

A certificate of insurance for the required insurance limits shall be provided to the Purchasing Department in order to qualify for award of the project and to execute a contract between your Company and the County.

Failure to provide Certificates of Insurance to the Purchasing Department's Contract Managers will cause the award of the project to be rescinded and then re-awarded to next qualified vendor. Certificates of Insurance will be monitored and verified on a **quarterly basis** to ensure coverage policy is in place. It is the Company's obligation to maintain the appropriate insurance coverage throughout the term of the contract.

THIS FORM MUST BE ACCOMPANY YOUR RESPONSE

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This is to certify that I, _____, possess all of the **APPLICABLE:**

1. Licenses: _____

2. Bonds: _____

3. Certificates: _____

4. Permits: _____

5. Other: _____

necessary to carry out the required project. Furthermore, I am providing copies of the required documentation so that, if my company is awarded this project, I may be eligible to enter into a contract with Hidalgo County Head Start Program and proceed to complete the project in a timely manner.

*** Any licenses, bonds, certificates, permits, etc. which are required must be presented as part of the bid packet in order to expedite the bid evaluation process. Failure to provide said documentation will result in the disqualification of your bid or response.**

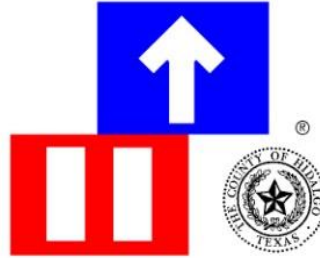
Authorized Signature

Date

Company

Address

City, State, Zip



APPENDIX D

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

FORM CIQ

This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.

This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).

By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.

A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.

2 Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire. (The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th business day after the date on which you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.)

3 Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed.

Name of Officer

4 Describe each employment or other business relationship with the local government officer, or a family member of the officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A). Also describe any family relationship with the local government officer. Complete subparts A and B for each employment or business relationship described. Attach additional pages to this Form CIQ as necessary.

A. Is the local government officer or a family member of the officer receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from the vendor?

Yes No

B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from or at the direction of the local government officer or a family member of the officer AND the taxable income is not received from the local governmental entity?

Yes No

5 Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 maintains with a corporation or other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an officer or director, or holds an ownership interest of one percent or more.

6 Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.003(a-1).

7

Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity

Date

EXHIBIT D

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Effective January 1, 2006, Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code requires that any vendor, person, consultant or contractor considering doing business with Hidalgo County ("the County") to disclose in the Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (the "CIQ") attached as Exhibit D, the vendor, person, consultant or contractor's affiliation or business relationship that might cause a conflict of interest with the Hidalgo County Head Start Program. By law, the CIQ must be filed with the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office no later than the seventh business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require that statement to be filed. The disclosure requirement applies to a person or business that contracts or seeks to contract with Hidalgo County for the sale or purchase of property, goods or service. Any purchase order or contract resulting from this process shall be considered null and void if the successful participant fails to comply with Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176. Vendors, consultants, contractor and others who desire to conduct business with Hidalgo County Head Start Program are encouraged to refer to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 for the details of this law. An offense under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 is a Class C. Misdemeanor.

Please Submit completed forms to the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office located at 100 North Clossner, Edinburg, Texas 78539-Hidalgo County Courthouse.

COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIQ IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RESPECTIVE PARTICIPANT

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

A complete copy of Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code may be found at <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/LG/htm/LG.176.htm>. For easy reference, below are some of the sections cited on this form.

Local Government Code § 176.001(1-a): "Business relationship" means a connection between two or more parties based on commercial activity of one of the parties. The term does not include a connection based on:

- (A) a transaction that is subject to rate or fee regulation by a federal, state, or local governmental entity or an agency of a federal, state, or local governmental entity;
- (B) a transaction conducted at a price and subject to terms available to the public; or
- (C) a purchase or lease of goods or services from a person that is chartered by a state or federal agency and that is subject to regular examination by, and reporting to, that agency.

Local Government Code § 176.003(a)(2)(A) and (B):

(a) A local government officer shall file a conflicts disclosure statement with respect to a vendor if:

(2) the vendor:

(A) has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer that results in the officer or family member receiving taxable income, other than investment income, that exceeds \$2,500 during the 12-month period preceding the date that the officer becomes aware that

(i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed;

or

(ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor;

(B) has given to the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts that have an aggregate value of more than \$100 in the 12-month period preceding the date the officer becomes aware that:

(i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or

(ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor.

Local Government Code § 176.006(a) and (a-1)

(a) A vendor shall file a completed conflict of interest questionnaire if the vendor has a business relationship with a local governmental entity and:

(1) has an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A);

(2) has given a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, one or more gifts with the aggregate value specified by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding any gift described by Section 176.003(a-1); or

(3) has a family relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity.

(a-1) The completed conflict of interest questionnaire must be filed with the appropriate records administrator not later than the seventh business day after the later of:

(1) the date that the vendor:

(A) begins discussions or negotiations to enter into a contract with the local governmental entity; or

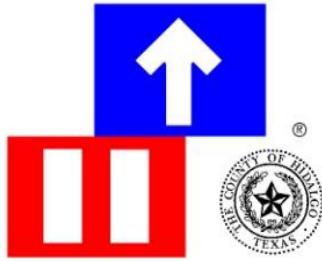
(B) submits to the local governmental entity an application, response to a request for proposals or bids, correspondence, or another writing related to a potential contract with the local governmental entity; or

(2) the date the vendor becomes aware:

(A) of an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer, or a family member of the officer, described by Subsection (a);

(B) that the vendor has given one or more gifts described by Subsection (a); or

(C) of a family relationship with a local government officer.



APPENDIX E

VENDOR APPLICATION and HUB DECLARATION

HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB) DECLARATION

The primary objective of the Hidalgo County HUB Program is to ensure Historically Underutilized Businesses receive a fair and equal opportunity for participation in the County's procurement process. This fact holds true for Services (Professional & Non-Professional), Commodities, and Construction contracts and any subcontracts thereto. The program strongly encourages Prime Contractors to provide subcontracting opportunities to Certified Hub Contractors/Vendors. Our goal for HUB contractor/vendor participation, as well as HUB subcontractor participation is 30%. To be considered as a "Certified HUB Contractor/Vendor" the contractor/vendor must have been certified by, and hold a current and valid certification with any of the three agencies listed below.

Have you been certified as a HUB or an MBE/WBE source? Yes No

If yes, by whom? State General Services Commission Other _____

Indicate Certification No(s): _____ or Are Certificate(s) Attached?: Yes No

LIST OF CERTIFIED HUB SUBCONTRACTORS

(Attach additional pages if necessary)

What percentage of the Bid, RFP, or RFQ is to be subcontracted with Certified HUB sources?: _____%(List HUB Subcontractor information below).

HUB Contractor Name: _____ HUB Status: _____

Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No () _____

Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed _____

HUB Subcontractor Name: _____ HUB Status: _____

Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No: () _____

Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed _____

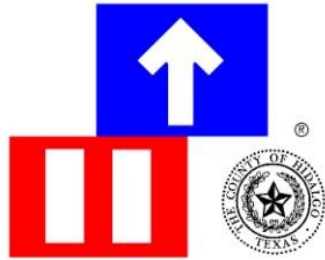
HUB Subcontractor Name: _____ HUB Status: _____

Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No: () _____

Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed _____



APPENDIX F

CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT

Certification
Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Ineligibility

As is required by the Federal Regulations Implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 45 CFR Part 76, Government-wide Debarment and Suspension, the applicant certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that both it and its principals:

- a. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency;
- b. Have not within a three-year period preceding this bid proposal and/or application been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction, violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
- c. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity with commission of any of the offenses enumerated herein; and
- d. Have not within a three-year period preceding this bid proposal and/or application had one or more public transactions terminated for cause or default.

Signature: _____

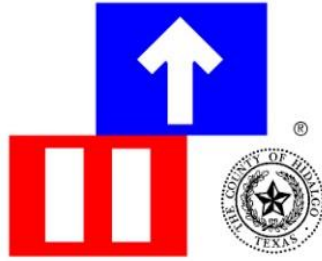
Print Name: _____

Title: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Date: _____

If the bidder is unable to certify to all of the statements in this Certification, such bidder should attach an explanation to this proposal.



Appendix H

**REQUIRED CONTRACT CLAUSES FOR
CONTRACTS UNDER FEDERAL AWARD**

2 C.F.R. § 200.327 & 2 C.F.R. PART 200, APPENDIX II, REQUIRED CONTRACT CLAUSES FOR NONFEDERAL ENTITY CONTRACTS UNDER FEDERAL AWARDS

The United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued in 2 C.F.R. 200: *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Subpart D: Post Federal Award Requirements: 2 CFR §§200.317-200.327 of the Uniform Guidance contain provisions applicable to procurements made with federal grant funding. [Except as otherwise provided, updated Post Federal Award Requirements (i.e.: 2 CFR §§200.317-200.327) apply to declarations and awards issued on or after November 12, 2020].

As a non-Federal entity, the County of Hidalgo's ("County") contracts must contain the applicable contract clauses described in Appendix II to the Uniform Guidance (Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards), which are set forth below. (2 C.F.R. §200.327). If applicable, the following clauses shall supersede any existing, similar clauses stated within the bid document, contract, and/or Terms and Conditions. *The term "Contractor" used herein refers to the proposer, bidder or other entity/individual responding to the applicable procurement packet.*

If applicable, the regulations in 2 CFR, Part 200 and Appendix II to the Uniform Guidance, as it may be amended from time to time, and the contract clauses below, are incorporated by reference as part of this procurement packet and any resulting agreement.

To procure goods and services using funds under a federal grant or contract, specific federal laws, regulations, and requirements may apply in addition to those under state law. The following provisions are required and apply when federal funds are expended by the County of Hidalgo for any contract resulting from this procurement process.

1. **Remedies.**

- a. **Applicability.** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. **Standard.** Contracts for more than the simplified acquisition threshold currently set at \$150,000, which is the inflation adjusted amount determined by the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council (Councils) as authorized by 41 U.S.C. 1908, must address administrative, contractual, or legal remedies in instances where contractors violate or breach contract terms, and provide for such sanctions and penalties as appropriate. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, A.
- c. **Statement.** Pursuant to Federal Rule (A) above, when federal funds are expended by the County, the County reserves all rights and privileges under the applicable laws and regulations with respect to this procurement in the event of breach of contract by either party. Contractor shall comply with all applicable Federal, State of Texas, and local laws, rules, and regulations and shall obtain all applicable licenses and permits for the conduct of its business and the performance of the services, and any provision of equipment and material ("Applicable Law"). All transactions related to any of the Contract Documents shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas, and trial of any action brought in connection with the bid or the Contract Documents shall be held exclusively in a state court in the County of Hidalgo, Texas.

2. **Termination for Cause and Convenience.**

- a. **Applicability.** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. **Standard.** All contracts in excess of \$10,000 shall address termination for cause and for convenience by the non-Federal entity including the manner by which it will be effected and the basis for settlement as follows. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, B.
- c. **Statement.** *Termination.* County may terminate this Agreement for any reason upon ten (10) days written notice to the other party. County may terminate this Agreement immediately upon written notice if Contractor breaches this Agreement. In the event of any termination, Contractor shall promptly deliver to the County any and all Work Materials prepared for the County prior to the effective date of such termination, all of which shall become County's sole property. After receipt of

the Work Materials, County will pay Contractor for the services which the County determines were satisfactorily performed as of the effective date of the termination.

Excuses for Non-Performance. Either party shall be absolved from its obligations under this contract when and to the extent that performance is delayed or prevented (and in the County of Hidalgo's case when and to the extent that its need for the articles, materials or work to be supplied hereunder is reduced or eliminated) by reason of acts of God, fire explosion, war riots, strikes, labor disputes, or governmental laws, orders or regulations.

Default. If Contractor or Subcontractor shall breach any provision hereof or shall become insolvent, enter voluntary or involuntary bankruptcy or receivership proceedings or make an assignment to the benefit of creditors, County of Hidalgo shall have the right (without limiting any other rights or remedies which it may have hereunder or by operation of law) to terminate this contract by written notice to Contractor whereupon County shall be relieved of all further obligation hereunder except the obligation to pay the reasonable value of Contractor's prior performance (at not exceeding the contract rate), and Contractor shall be liable to County for all costs incurred by County in completing or procuring the completion of performance in excess of the contract price herein specified. The County's right to require strict performance of any obligation hereunder shall not be affected by any previous waiver, forbearance of course of dealing. Time is of the essence thereof.

3. **Equal Employment Opportunity.**

- a. **Applicability:** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. **Standard.** Except as otherwise provided under 41 C.F.R. Part 60, all contracts that meet the definition of "federally assisted construction contract" in 41 C.F.R. § 60-1.3 must include the equal opportunity clause provided under 41 C.F.R. § 60-1.4(b), in accordance with Executive Order 11246, *Equal Employment Opportunity* (30 Fed. Reg. 12319, 12935, 3 C.F.R. Part, 1964-1965 Comp., p. 339), as amended by Executive Order 11375, *Amending Executive Order 11246 Relating to Equal Employment Opportunity*, and implementing regulations at 41 C.F.R. Part 60 (Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Equal Employment Opportunity, Department of Labor). See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, C.
- c. **Key Definitions:**
 - (1) *Federally Assisted Construction Contract.* The regulation at 41 C.F.R. § 60-1.3 defines a "federally assisted construction contract" as any agreement or modification thereof between any applicant and a person for construction work which is paid for in whole or in part with funds obtained from the Government or borrowed on the credit of the Government pursuant to any Federal program involving a grant, contract, loan, insurance, or guarantee, or undertaken pursuant to any Federal program involving such grant, contract, loan, insurance, or guarantee, or any application or modification thereof approved by the Government for a grant, contract, loan, insurance, or guarantee under which the applicant itself participates in the construction work.
 - (2) *Construction Work.* The regulation at 41 C.F.R. § 60-1.3 defines "construction work" as the construction, rehabilitation, alteration, conversion, extension, demolition or repair of buildings, highways, or other changes or improvements to real property, including facilities providing utility services. The term also includes the supervision, inspection, and other onsite functions incidental to the actual construction
- d. **Statement:** Contractor will comply with the Nondiscrimination Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended and all Federal regulations relative to nondiscrimination in Federally assisted programs. The regulation at 41 C.F.R. Part 60-1.4(b) requires the insertion of the following contract clause:

"During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

- (1) The contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: Employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or

recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

(2) The contractor will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive considerations for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

(3) The contractor will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which he has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice to be provided advising the said labor union or workers' representatives of the contractor's commitments under this section, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

(4) The contractor will comply with all provisions of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and of the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.

(5) The contractor will furnish all information and reports required by Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and by rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to his books, records, and accounts by the administering agency and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and orders.

(6) In the event of the contractor's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination clauses of this contract or with any of the said rules, regulations, or orders, this contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part and the contractor may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts or federally assisted construction contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and such other sanctions as may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.

(7) The contractor will include the portion of the sentence immediately preceding paragraph (1) and the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (7) in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to section 204 of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The contractor will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the administering agency may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions for noncompliance: Provided, however, That in the event a contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the administering agency the contractor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States."

4. **Davis Bacon Act and Copeland Anti-Kickback Act.**

- a. **Applicability of Davis-Bacon Act.** The Davis-Bacon Act only applies to the emergency Management Preparedness Grant Program, Homeland Security Grant Program, Nonprofit Security Grant Program, Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program, Port Security Grant Program, and Transit Security Grant Program. **It does not apply to other Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs, including the Public Assistance Program.**
- b. **Standard.** All prime construction contracts in excess of \$2,000 awarded by non-Federal entities must include a provision for compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 3141-3144 and 3146-3148) as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations at 29 C.F.R. Part 5 (Labor Standards Provisions Applicable to Contracts Covering Federally Financed and Assisted Construction)).

In accordance with the statute, contractors must be required to pay wages to laborers and mechanics at a rate not less than the prevailing wages specified in a wage determination made by the Secretary of Labor. In addition, contractors must be required to pay wages not less than once a week.

The non-Federal entity must place a copy of the current prevailing wage determination issued by the Department of Labor in each solicitation. The decision to award a contract or subcontract must be conditioned upon the acceptance of the wage determination. The non-Federal entity must report all suspected or reported violations to the Federal awarding agency.

In contracts subject to the Davis-Bacon Act, the contracts must also include a provision for compliance with the Copeland “Anti-Kickback” Act (40 U.S.C. § 3145), as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations at 29 C.F.R. Part 3 (Contractors and Subcontractors on Public Building or Public Work Financed in Whole or in Part by Loans or Grants from the United States). The Copeland Anti-Kickback Act provides that each contractor or subrecipient must be prohibited from inducing, by any means, any person employed in the construction, completion, or repair of public work, to give up any part of the compensation to which he or she is otherwise entitled. The non-Federal entity must report all suspected or reported violations to FEMA or applicable Federal entity. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, D.

- c. Statement. The regulation at 29 C.F.R. § 5.5(a) does provide the required contract clause that applies to compliance with both the Davis-Bacon and Copeland Acts. However, as discussed in the previous subsection, the Davis-Bacon Act does not apply to Public Assistance recipients and subrecipients. In situations where the Davis-Bacon Act does not apply, neither does the Copeland “Anti-Kickback Act.” However, for purposes of grant programs where both clauses do apply, FEMA or applicable Federal entity requires the following contract clause:

“Compliance with the Copeland “Anti-Kickback” Act.

(1) *Contractor.* The contractor shall comply with 18 U.S.C. § 874, 40 U.S.C. § 3145, and the requirements of 29 C.F.R. pt. 3 as may be applicable, which are incorporated by reference into this contract.

(2) *Subcontracts.* The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clause above and such other clauses as Federal requirements may by appropriate instructions require, and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for the compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with all of these contract clauses.

(3) *Breach.* A breach of the contract clauses above may be grounds for termination of the contract, and for debarment as a contractor and subcontractor as provided in 29 C.F.R. § 5.12.”

5. **Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.**

- a. Applicability: This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. Standard. Where applicable (see 40 U.S.C. § 3701), all contracts awarded by the non-Federal entity in excess of \$100,000 that involve the employment of mechanics or laborers must include a provision for compliance with 40 U.S.C. §§ 3702 and 3704, as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations at 29 C.F.R. Part 5.

Under 40 U.S.C. § 3702, each contractor must be required to compute the wages of every mechanic and laborer on the basis of a standard work week of 40 hours. Work in excess of the standard work week is permissible provided that the worker is compensated at a rate of not less than one and a half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in the work week.

The requirements of 40 U.S.C. § 3704 are applicable to construction work and provide that no laborer or mechanic must be required to work in surroundings or under working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous. These requirements do not apply to the purchases of supplies or materials or articles ordinarily available on the open market, or contracts for transportation or transmission of intelligence. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, E.

The regulation at 29 C.F.R. § 5.5(b) provides the required contract clause concerning compliance with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act:

- c. Statement.

“Compliance with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.

(1) *Overtime requirements.* No contractor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the contract work which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics shall require or permit any such laborer or mechanic in any workweek in which he or she is employed on such work to work in excess of forty hours in such workweek unless such laborer or mechanic receives compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in such workweek.

(2) *Violation; liability for unpaid wages; liquidated damages.* In the event of any violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (1) of this section the contractor and any subcontractor responsible therefor shall be liable for the unpaid wages. In addition, such contractor and subcontractor shall be liable to the United States (in the case of work done under contract for the District of Columbia or a territory, to such District or to such territory), for liquidated damages. Such liquidated damages shall be computed with respect to each individual laborer or mechanic, including watchmen and guards, employed in violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (1) of this section, in the sum of \$10 for each calendar day on which such individual was required or permitted to work in excess of the standard workweek of forty hours without payment of the overtime wages required by the clause set forth in paragraph (1) of this section.

(3) *Withholding for unpaid wages and liquidated damages.* The County of Hidalgo shall upon its own action or upon written request of an authorized representative of the Department of Labor withhold or cause to be withheld, from any moneys payable on account of work performed by the contractor or subcontractor under any such contract or any other Federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other federally-assisted contract subject to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, which is held by the same prime contractor, such sums as may be determined to be necessary to satisfy any liabilities of such contractor or subcontractor for unpaid wages and liquidated damages as provided in the clause set forth in paragraph (2) of this section.

(4) *Subcontracts.* The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clauses set forth in paragraph (1) through (4) of this section and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with the clauses set forth in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this section.”

6. **Rights to Inventions Made Under a Contract or Agreement.**

- a. **Applicability:** Stafford Act Disaster Grants. This requirement **does not apply to the Public Assistance**, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Fire Management Assistance Grant Program, Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Grant Program, Disaster Case Management Grant Program, and Federal Assistance to Individuals and Households – Other Needs Assistance Grant Program, as FEMA or Federal awards under these programs do not meet the definition of “funding agreement.”
- b. **Standard.** If the FEMA or Federal award meets the definition of “funding agreement” under 37 C.F.R. § 401.2(a) and the non-Federal entity wishes to enter into a contract with a small business firm or nonprofit organization regarding the substitution of parties, assignment or performance of experimental, developmental, or research work under that “funding agreement,” the non-Federal entity must comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. Part 401 (Rights to Inventions Made by Nonprofit Organizations and Small Business Firms Under Government Grants, Contracts and Cooperative Agreements), and any implementing regulations issued by FEMA or applicable awarding agency. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, F.
- c. **Key Definition:** The regulation at 37 C.F.R. § 401.2(a) currently defines “funding agreement” as any contract, grant, or cooperative agreement entered into between any Federal agency, other than the Tennessee Valley Authority, and any contractor for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work funded in whole or in part by the Federal government. This term also includes any assignment, substitution of parties, or subcontract of any type entered into for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work under a funding agreement as defined in the first sentence of this paragraph.

7. **Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.**

- a. **Applicability and Standard:** Contracts of amounts in excess of \$150,000 must contain a provision that requires the contractor to agree to comply with all applicable standards, orders, or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 7401-7671q) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended (33 U.S.C. §§ 1251-1387). Violations

must be reported to the Federal awarding agency and the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, G.

b. Statement: Included in contracts as provided in section “7a” above.

- (1) The contractor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq. and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.
- (2) The contractor agrees to report each violation to the Federal awarding agency (e.g. Federal Emergency Management Agency-FEMA) and the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency. Contractor understands and agrees that each violation reported to the County of Hidalgo will, in turn, be reported as required to assure notification to the Federal awarding agency and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.
- (3) The contractor agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract exceeding \$150,000 financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by the applicable Federal awarding agency (e.g. FEMA).

8. Debarment and Suspension.

a. Applicability: This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.

b. Standard. Non-Federal entities and contractors are subject to the debarment and suspension regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, *Debarment and Suspension* (1986) and Executive Order 12689, *Debarment and Suspension* (1989) at 2 C.F.R. Part 180 and the Department of Homeland Security’s regulations at 2 C.F.R. Part 3000 (Non-procurement Debarment and Suspension).

These regulations restrict awards, subawards, and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs and activities. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, H; and Chapter IV, 6.d and Appendix C, 2. A contract award must not be made to parties listed in the SAM Exclusions. SAM Exclusions is the list maintained by the General Services Administration that contains the names of parties debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded by agencies, as well as parties declared ineligible under statutory or regulatory authority other than Executive Order 12549. SAM exclusions can be accessed at www.sam.gov. See 2 C.F.R. § 180.530; Chapter IV, 6.d and Appendix C, ¶ 2.

In general, an “excluded” party cannot receive a Federal grant award or a contract within the meaning of a “covered transaction,” to include subawards and subcontracts. This includes parties that receive Federal funding indirectly, such as contractors to recipients and subrecipients. The key to the exclusion is whether there is a “covered transaction,” which is any non-procurement transaction (unless excepted) at either a “primary” or “secondary” tier. Although “covered transactions” do not include contracts awarded by the Federal Government for purposes of the non-procurement common rule and DHS’s implementing regulations, it does include some contracts awarded by recipients and subrecipient.

Specifically, a covered transaction includes the following contracts for goods or services:

- (1) The contract is awarded by a recipient or subrecipient in the amount of at least \$25,000.
- (2) The contract requires the approval of FEMA or applicable Federal entity, regardless of amount.
- (3) The contract is for Federally-required audit services.
- (4) A subcontract is also a covered transaction if it is awarded by the contractor of a recipient or subrecipient and requires either the approval of FEMA or applicable Federal entity or is in excess of \$25,000.

c. Statement. The following provides a debarment and suspension clause. It incorporates a method of verifying that contractors are not excluded or disqualified:

For maximum protection, provide a print or electronic document for every prime and subcontractor, from www.sam.gov in order to ensure that they are not debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs and activities.

This contract is a covered transaction for purposes of 2 C.F.R. pt. 180 and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000. As such the contractor is required to verify that none of the contractor, its principals (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.995), or its affiliates (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.905) are excluded (defined at 2 C.F.R. 180.940) or disqualified (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.935).

The contractor must comply with 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C and must include a requirement to comply with these regulations in any lower tier covered transaction it enters into.

This certification is a material representation of fact relied upon by (insert name of subrecipient). If it is later determined that the contractor did not comply with 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C, in addition to remedies available to (name of state City serving as recipient and name of subrecipient), the Federal Government may pursue available remedies, including but not limited to suspension and/or debarment.

The bidder or proposer agrees to comply with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C while this offer is valid and throughout the period of any contract that may arise from this offer. The bidder or proposer further agrees to include a provision requiring such compliance in its lower tier covered transactions.”

9. Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment.

- a. Applicability: This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. Standard. Contractors that apply or bid for an award of \$100,000 or more must file the required certification. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, I; 44 C.F.R. Part 18; Chapter IV, 6.c; Appendix C, 4. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any City, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Each tier must also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the non-Federal award. See Chapter IV, 6.c and Appendix C, 4.
- c. Statement. The following statement in bold provides a Byrd Anti-Lobbying contract clause:

(IF APPLICABLE, PLEASE FILL IN BLANKS AND SIGN)

“Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment, 31 U.S.C. § 1352 (as amended)

Contractors who apply or bid for an award of \$100,000 or more shall file the required certification. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant, or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Each tier shall also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the recipient.”

APPENDIX A, 44 C.F.R. PART 18 – CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

(To be submitted with each bid or offer exceeding \$100,000)

The undersigned Contractor, _____ certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge, that:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form- LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.
3. The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by 31, U.S.C. § 1352 (as amended by the Lobbying

Disclosure Act of 1995). Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

The Contractor, _____, certifies or affirms the truthfulness and accuracy of each statement of its certification and disclosure, if any. In addition, the Contractor understands and agrees that the provisions of 31 U.S.C. § 3801 *et seq.*, apply to this certification and disclosure, if any.

Signature of Contractor's Authorized Official

Name and Title of Contractor's Authorized Official

Date"

10. Procurement of Recovered Materials.

- a. Applicability: This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. Standard. A non-Federal entity that is a **state agency or agency of a political subdivision** of a state and its contractors must comply with Section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, Pub. L. No. 89-272 (1965) (codified as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act at 42 U.S.C. § 6962). See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, J; 2 C.F.R. § 200.323; *PDAT Supplement*, Chapter V, 7.

The requirements of Section 6002 include procuring only items designated in guidelines of the EPA at 40 C.F.R. Part 247 that contain the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable, consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of competition, where the purchase price of the item exceeds \$10,000 or the value of the quantity acquired by the preceding fiscal year exceeded \$10,000; procuring solid waste management services in a manner that maximizes energy and resource recovery; and establishing an affirmative procurement program for procurement of recovered materials identified in the EPA guidelines.

- c. Statement. The following provides the clause that a state agency or agency of a political subdivision of a state and its contractors can include in contracts meeting the above contract thresholds:

“(1) In the performance of this contract, the Contractor shall make maximum use of products containing recovered materials that are EPA- designated items unless the product cannot be acquired—

- (i) Competitively within a timeframe providing for compliance with the contract performance schedule;
 - (ii) Meeting contract performance requirements; or (iii) At a reasonable price.
- (2) Information about this requirement, along with the list of EPA-designate items, is available at EPA’s Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines web site, <https://www.epa.gov/smm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program>.
- (3) The Contractor also agrees to comply with all other applicable requirements of Section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.”

11. Prohibition on Contracting for Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services – 2 CFR § 200.216 (FEMA Interim Policy #405-143-1 effective August 13, 2020).

- a. Applicability: This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs and/or as provided below, and is effective August 13, 2020.
- b. Standard. A non-Federal entity is prohibited against using federal funds to purchase telecommunications and video surveillance equipment and services (such as but not limited to mobile phones, land lines, internet, video surveillance, and cloud servers) from certain companies/entities in covered foreign countries for national security reasons. This regulation is being incorporated into federal grants and contracts received by the County through 2 CFR 200.216 and/or Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) clause 52.204-25; as well as guidance provided through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Policy #405-143-1. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, K

Currently, applicable federal provisions provide that Covered Foreign country means the People’s Republic of China and covered telecommunications equipment or services means –

- i. Telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation, (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);
- ii. For the purpose of public safety, security of Government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);

- iii. Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment; or
- iv. Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country.

The definition of “Affiliate” can be found in FAR 2.101. Listing of subsidiaries and affiliates can be found in Supplement Number 4 to 15 CFR Part 744.

- c. Statement. Federal awards recipients and subrecipients, as well as their contractors and subcontractors, include the following required contract clause in applicable new, extended, or renewed contracts and subcontracts as per the provisions discussed above.

PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTING FOR COVERED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES

- (a) Definitions. As used in this clause, the terms backhaul; covered foreign country; covered telecommunications equipment or services; interconnection arrangements; roaming; substantial or essential component; and telecommunications equipment or services have the meaning as defined in FEMA Policy, #405-143-1 Prohibitions on Expending FEMA Award Funds for Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services As used in this clause—
- (b) Prohibitions.
 - (1) Section 889(b) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, Pub. L. No. 115-232, and 2 C.F.R. § 200.216 prohibit the head of an executive agency on or after Aug.13, 2020, from obligating or expending grant, cooperative agreement, loan, or loan guarantee funds on certain telecommunications products or from certain entities for national security reasons.
 - (2) Unless an exception in paragraph (c) of this clause applies, the contractor and its subcontractors may not use grant, cooperative agreement, loan, or loan guarantee funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to:
 - (i) Procure or obtain any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology of any system;
 - (ii) Enter into, extend, or renew a contract to procure or obtain any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology of any system;
 - (iii) Enter into, extend, or renew contracts with entities that use covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system; or
 - (iv) Provide, as part of its performance of this contract, subcontract, or other contractual instrument, any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system.
- (c) Exceptions.
 - (1) This clause does not prohibit contractors from providing—
 - a. A service that connects to the facilities of a third-party, such as backhaul, roaming, or interconnection arrangements; or

- b. Telecommunications equipment that cannot route or redirect user data traffic or permit visibility into any user data or packets that such equipment transmits or otherwise handles.
- (2) By necessary implication and regulation, the prohibitions also do not apply to:
- a. Covered telecommunications equipment or services that:
 - i. Are not used as a substantial or essential component of any system; and
 - ii. Are not used as critical technology of any system.
 - b. Other telecommunications equipment or services that are not considered covered telecommunications equipment or services.
- d. Reporting requirement.
- (1) In the event the contractor identifies covered telecommunications equipment or services used as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system, during contract performance, or the contractor is notified of such by a subcontractor at any tier or by any other source, the contractor shall report the information in paragraph (d)(2) of this clause to the recipient or subrecipient, unless elsewhere in this contract are established procedures for reporting the information.
- (2) The Contractor shall report the following information pursuant to paragraph (d)(1) of this clause:
- (i) Within one business day from the date of such identification or notification: The contract number; the order number(s), if applicable; supplier name; supplier unique entity identifier (if known); supplier Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) code (if known); brand; model number (original equipment manufacturer number, manufacturer part number, or wholesaler number); item description; and any readily available information about mitigation actions undertaken or recommended.
 - (ii) Within 10 business days of submitting the information in paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this clause: Any further available information about mitigation actions undertaken or recommended. In addition, the contractor shall describe the efforts it undertook to prevent use or submission of covered telecommunications equipment or services, and any additional efforts that will be incorporated to prevent future use or submission of covered telecommunications equipment or services.
- e. Subcontracts. The Contractor shall insert the substance of this clause, including this paragraph (e), in all subcontracts and other contractual instruments.

12. **Domestic Preferences for Procurements**

- a. **Applicability:** This requirement of this section must be included in all subawards including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products under Federal award applies to all contracts and purchase orders for work or products using federal funds.
- b. **Standard.** As appropriate, and to the extent consistent with law, Non Federal Entities should, to the greatest extent practicable under a federal award, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products or materials produced in the United States. This includes, but is not limited to, iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200.322 and 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, L
- c. **Statement.** The following provides the required Domestic Preferences for Procurements contracts clause that is incorporated herein by reference.

“Domestic Preference for Procurements

As appropriate, and to the extent consistent with law, the contractor should, to the greatest extent practicable, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States. This includes, but is not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products.

For purposes of this clause:

- *Produced in the United States* means, for iron and steel products, that all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States.
- *Manufactured products* mean items and construction materials composed in whole or in part of nonferrous metals such as aluminum; plastics and polymer-based products such as polyvinyl chloride pipe; aggregates such as concrete; glass, including optical fiber; and lumber.”

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED CONTRACT CLAUSES FOR NON-FEDERAL ENTITY CONTRACTS UNDER FEDERAL AWARDS WITH THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

Additional FEMA or applicable Federal Requirements. In addition to the requirements above, non-Federal entity contracts under Federal award subject to financial assistance from FEMA are required to contain the following additional contract clauses. The Uniform Guidance authorizes FEMA to require additional provisions for non-Federal entity contracts. FEMA, pursuant to this authority, requires or recommends the following:

These clauses are incorporated by reference as part of this procurement packet and any resulting agreement.

1. **Changes.**

- a. **Standard.** To be eligible for FEMA assistance under the non-Federal entity’s Federal grant or cooperative agreement, the cost of the change, modification, change order, or constructive change must be allowable, allocable, within the scope of its grant or cooperative agreement, and reasonable for the completion of project scope. FEMA or applicable Federal entity recommends, therefore, that a non-Federal entity include a changes clause in its contract that describes how, if at all, changes can be made by either party to alter the method, price, or schedule of the work without breaching the contract. The language of the clause may differ depending on the nature of the contract and the end-item procured.
- b. **Statement.** The following provides a contract clause regarding access to records:

“The contractor shall secure written authorization before proceeding with any additional work, whether requested by the County or required to complete the contract. The cost for any changes to the contract price, whether requested by the County or the Contractor will be approved only after submitting the contractor’s true costs for the work and related equipment costs and site expenses.”

2. **Access to Records.**

- a. **Standard.** All non-Federal entities must place into their contracts a provision that all contractors and their successors, transferees, assignees, and subcontractors acknowledge and agree to comply with applicable provisions governing Department and FEMA or applicable Federal entity access to records, accounts, documents, information, facilities, and staff. See DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, v 3.0, XXVI (2013).
- b. **Statement.** The following provides a contract clause regarding access to records:

“Access to Records. The following access to records requirements apply to this contract:

(1) The contractor agrees to provide the City of Concord, the FEMA or applicable Federal Administrator, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their authorized representatives access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Contractor which are directly pertinent to this contract for the purposes of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions.

(2) The Contractor agrees to permit any of the foregoing parties to reproduce by any means whatsoever or to copy excerpts and transcriptions as reasonably needed.

(3) The contractor agrees to provide the FEMA or applicable Federal Administrator or his authorized representatives access to construction or other work sites pertaining to the work being completed under the contract.”

3. **DHS Seal, Logo, and Flags.**

a. **Standard.** All non-Federal entities must place in their contracts a provision that a contractor shall not use the DHS seal(s), logos, crests, or reproductions of flags or likenesses of DHS City officials without specific FEMA or applicable Federal entity pre-approval. See DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, 3.0, XXV (2013).

b. **Statement.** The following provides a contract clause regarding DHS Seal, Logo, and Flags:

“The contractor shall not use the DHS seal(s), logos, crests, or reproductions of flags or likenesses of DHS City officials without specific FEMA or applicable Federal entity pre- approval.”

4. **Compliance with Federal Law, Regulations, and Executive Orders.**

a. **Standard.** All non-Federal entities must place into their contracts an acknowledgement that FEMA or applicable Federal financial assistance will be used to fund the contract along with the requirement that the contractor will comply with all applicable Federal law, regulations, executive orders, and FEMA or applicable Federal policies, procedures, and directives.

b. **Statement.** The following provides a contract clause regarding Compliance with Federal Law, Regulations and Executive Orders:

“This is an acknowledgement that Federal financial assistance will be used to fund the contract only. The contractor will comply will all applicable Federal law, regulations, executive orders, FEMA or applicable Federal policies, procedures, and directives.”

5. **No Obligation by Federal Government.**

a. **Standard.** The non-Federal entity must include a provision in its contract that states that the Federal Government is not a party to the contract and is not subject to any obligations or liabilities to the non-Federal entity, contractor, or any other party pertaining to any matter resulting from the contract.

b. **Statement.** The following provides a contract clause regarding no obligation by the Federal Government:

“The Federal Government is not a party to this contract and is not subject to any obligations or liabilities to the non-Federal entity, contractor, or any other party pertaining to any matter resulting from the contract.”

6. **Program Fraud and False or Fraudulent Statements or Related Acts.**

a. **Standard.** The non-Federal entity must include a provision in its contract that the contractor acknowledges that 31 U.S.C. Chap. 38 (Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements) applies to its actions pertaining to the contract.

b. **Statement.** The following provides a contract clause regarding Fraud and False or Fraudulent Related Acts:

“The contractor acknowledges that 31 U.S.C. Chap. 38 (Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements) applies to the contractor’s actions pertaining to this contract.”

7. **FEMA Contract requirement regarding Prohibition on Contracting for Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services – 2 CFR § 200.216 (FEMA Interim Policy #405-143-1 effective August 13, 2020).**

FEMA recipients and subrecipients and their contractors and subcontractors are required per 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II K to include a contract provision in all FEMA-funded contracts and subcontracts, including any purchase orders. To satisfy this requirement, the contract provision found in Number 11 above is incorporated by reference by the County of Hidalgo in all new, extended, or renewed contracts and subcontracts. Applicable County contractors and subcontractors shall also comply with the applicable law and requirements. (See Number 11 above).

8. **FEMA Contract requirement regarding Domestic Preferences for Procurements**

For purchases in support of FEMA declarations and awards issued on or after November 12, 2020, all FEMA recipients and subrecipients are required per 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II L to include in all contracts and purchase orders for work or products the contract provision included in number 12 above encouraging domestic preference for procurements.

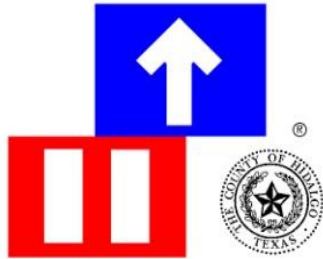
_____ **Contractor**
agrees to comply with all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations and ordinances, as applicable. It is further acknowledged that the Contractor read and understands all provisions, laws, acts, regulations, etc. as specifically noted above and certifies compliance with the same.

Vendor's Name/Company Name: _____

Printed Name and Title of Authorized Representative: _____

Signature of Authorized Representative: _____

Date: _____



APPENDIX J

PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT

EXHIBIT J PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT

PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT OF NON-COLLUSION, NON-CONFLICT OF INTEREST, AND ANTI-LOBBYING

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO

Affiant, _____, being first duly sworn, deposes that:

- (1) Affiant does hereby state neither the proposer nor any of the proposer's officers, partners, owners, agents, representatives, employees, or parties in interest, has in any way colluded, conspired, agreed, directly or indirectly with any person, firm, corporation, or another proposer, or potential proposer, to provide any money or other valuable consideration for assistance in procuring or attempting to procure a contract or fix the prices in the attached proposed or the proposal of any other proposer, and further states that no such money or another reward will be hereinafter paid.
- (2) Affiant further states they have neither recommended nor suggested to Hidalgo County or any of its officials or employees, any of the terms or provisions set forth in their Request for Proposal and subsequent agreement, except at a meeting open to all interested proposers, of which proper notice was given.
- (3) Affiant, further states their officers, employees, or agents have not, and will not attempt to lobby, directly or indirectly, the Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court between proposal submission date and award by the Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court.
- (4) Affiant further states no officer, or stockholder of the proposer is a member of the staff, or related to any employee of Hidalgo County except as noted herein below:

Signature/Title: _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____, 20_____

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF HIDALGO §

**CONTRACT FOR SERVICE
C-23-003-XX-XX AS**

THIS CONTRACT is made and entered into this _____ day of _____ 2023, by and between the of **Hidalgo County Head Start Program**, ("HCHSP"), and _____ ("Company").

WHEREAS, HCHSP requested responses to notices for: “_____ **Services**” on an as needed basis for the HCHSP (the “Services”). A copy of the procurement packet, including applicable specifications, is attached hereto as **Exhibit “A”**, and is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes (“Procurement Packet”); and

WHEREAS, Company submitted a bid to provide services in accordance with the specifications as bid, a copy of the Company’s response to the Procurement Packet is attached hereto as **Exhibit “B”**, (“Response”) and is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes; and;

WHEREAS, Company represents that it is qualified and desires to perform such services; and;

WHEREAS, in recognition of and in consideration of Company's agreement to perform the services in accordance with the Procurement Packet, the Policy Council of Hidalgo County Head Start Program

NOW, THEREFORE, in mutual consideration of the foregoing and the further consideration of the following, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. HCHSP and Company hereby agree that this Contract is entered into in order to provide the Services to **Hidalgo County Head Start Program**. This Contract does not extend to any third parties any duties or benefits conferred in any manner hereunder or otherwise.

2. During the term of this Contract, Company shall be obligated and hereby promises and agrees to render and provide the Services in accordance with specifications and terms contained in Exhibit “A” Procurement Packet and Company’s Response. Services shall be performed within **Hidalgo County** following a request for Services by the **Program** or its designated agent. Company agrees in performing the Services that it will use proper professional standards, comply with any and all appropriate laws and regulations in providing the Services, and devote such time as is necessary to safely and efficiently provide the Services. Further, Hidalgo County Head Start Program reserves the right to request these services from other sources other than the successful vendor and shall not be

in violation of any terms or conditions of said contract.

3. **Term.** This Contract shall be for a period of two (2) year(s), commencing on _____, 2023 and expiring on _____, 2025, and may be extended at the sole discretion of Hidalgo County Head Start Program for an additional **one (1) year** term under the same rates, terms and conditions unless this Contract is

terminated pursuant to the provisions herein, whichever occurs first. Hidalgo County Head Start Program also reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the contract term for unforeseen delay of award for the next term and under the same rates, terms and conditions.

4. **Licenses.** As a condition of this Contract, Company shall hold and maintain throughout the term of this Contract all licenses and permits required, or which may be required by any authority during the term hereof to provide the Services. If such license or permit is suspended or revoked, this Agreement shall automatically be terminated and Company shall immediately notify HCHSP.

5. Company shall provide a sufficient number of trucks, vehicles, personnel and equipment available to safely and efficiently provide the Services, if applicable.

6. All trucks or vehicles operated by the Company to perform the Services shall contain all equipment required by any authority to operate on streets and roads and all persons in the employ of Company who operate such trucks or vehicles shall have the required licenses, qualifications, skill and expertise to perform such Services and shall comply with all laws, rules and regulations prescribed by any agency or authority having jurisdiction with regard to the operation of such trucks or vehicles in providing the Services.

7. **Consideration.** As consideration for rendering the Service provided for in this Contract, HCHSP agrees to pay Company the amounts specified in Exhibit "B" attached hereto payable against written invoice submitted by Company in accordance with the Texas Prompt Payment Act, Tex. Govt. Code Ch. 2251.

8. **Insurance:** Consistent with its status as an independent contractor and at its sole expense, Company agrees that throughout the duration of the work under this contract and any extension hereof, it shall provide and maintain any and all insurances and abide by any requirements which are specified in the Procurement Packet/Specifications and/or which may be necessary in providing Services or are otherwise required by law. Insurance policies shall cover, but are not limited to, Bidder's activities and all persons, vehicles, equipment and property connected with providing Services, to include theft or loss. The amount of insurance required shall be in accordance with amounts specified by HCHSP or as prescribed by law, but in no event shall any amount be less than the minimum amounts prescribed by law, including, but not limited to the Texas Tort Claims Act. These requirements do not establish limits of Company's liability. Any and all applicable insurance requirements and amounts are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes. Company is responsible for ensuring all required insurance policies are valid for the duration of the contract. All insurance policies are to be issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in the State of Texas and acceptable to HCHSP. Company shall cause all subcontractors utilized by Company to also comply with these specifications. Company shall furnish to County certificate(s) of coverage, and all renewals throughout the duration of the Project, issued by the insurer that such insurance is in full force and effect. (See Exhibit "C" attached hereto and incorporated herein for all purposes). For each applicable policy, Company shall name HCHSP as an additional insured. Company shall notify HCHSP a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance of cancellation of all or part of a policy. Company shall make any other insurance documentation available to HCHSP upon request.

9. **Indemnification.** Company shall indemnify and hold harmless HCHSP, its elected officials, employees and agents from any and all claims, damages, losses, and expenses including attorney's fees for the defense of any action against County arising out of, resulting from, or connected with the provision of

the Service by Company under this Contract. Said indemnity shall cover any act or failure to act by the Company, its agents or employees.

10. **Assignment.** This Contract shall not be assignable in whole or in part by either party without prior written consent of the other party.

11. **Independent Contractor.** It is expressly agreed that this Contract and the performance by the parties hereunder does not create any agency relationship or master-servant relationship that HCHSP has no supervision of the performance of the Services provided by Company, and that Company is an independent contractor under this Contract.

12. **Notice.** Any notice required or permitted to be given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be delivered personally or sent by certified mail, postage prepaid, as set forth below:

If to HCHSP: Hidalgo County Head Start Program
 Attn: Ms. Irma Peña, Executive Director
 P.O. Box 0117
 Edinburg, Texas 78540

If to Company: _____

14. **Provisions.** In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision thereof and this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.

15. **Termination.** This Agreement may be terminated by HCHSP without cause upon thirty (60) days written notice.

16. **Successors.** This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns where permitted by this Agreement.

17. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and shall be performable in Hidalgo County.

18. **Commitment of Current Revenues Only.** In the event that, during any term hereof, HCHSP does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of the Program under this Agreement, HCHSP may terminate this Agreement upon ninety (90) days written notice to Company. HCHSP agrees, however, to use reasonable efforts to secure funds necessary for the continued performance of this Agreement. The parties intend this provision to be a continuing right to terminate this Agreement at the expiration of each budget period of HCHSP.

Agreements for the acquisition, including lease of real or personal property under Tex. Loc. Govt. Code §271.903: In the event that, during any term hereof, the HCHSP not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of HCHSP under this Agreement, HCHSP may terminate this Agreement upon ninety (90) days written notice to Company, HCHSP agrees, however, to use a best efforts attempt to obtain and appropriate funds for payment of the Agreement. The parties intend this provision, if applicable, to be a continuing right to terminate this at the expiration of each budget period of HCHSP in accordance with Tex. Loc. Govt. Code §271.903 (Vernon Supp. 1996).

19. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement contains the entire contract between the parties hereto, and each party acknowledges that neither has made (either directly or through any agent or representative) any representation or agreement in connection with this Agreement not specifically set forth herein. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by agreement in writing executed by the parties hereto, and not otherwise.

20. **Immunities:** Nothing in this Agreement is intended to and HCHSP does not hereby waive, release or relinquish any right to assert any of the defenses HCHSP enjoys by virtue of the state or federal constitution, laws, rules or regulations, and any sovereign, official or qualified immunity available to HCHSP as to any claim or action of any person, entity, or individual against HCHSP.

21. **Nondiscrimination:** Company, including subcontractors, assignees and successors in interest, ensures that no person shall on the grounds of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, or any other protected class under law, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination or retaliation in any federally or non-federally funded program or activity when providing any services described herein under this contract/agreement. Applicable nondiscrimination statements and provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, were provided as part of the initial procurement packet and are incorporated herein and made a part of this agreement for all purposes.

22. **Additional Documents:** The parties hereto covenant and agree that they will execute each such other and further instruments and documents as are or may become necessary or convenient to effectuate and carry out the terms of this contract/agreement.

23. **Required Contract Provision for Contracts Subject to Federal Award (if applicable):** Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.327, a non-federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions described in appendix II to 2 CFR 200-Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts under Federal Awards. Additionally, HCHSP contracts under Federal award which are subject to assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are also required to contain additional contract clauses. The applicable required contract clauses were provided as part of the initial procurement packet and are incorporated herein and made part of this agreement for all purposes.

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

EXECUTED as of the day and year first written above.

APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT ON _____, 2023.

Executive Office: _____

VENDOR:

Date

Hidalgo County Head Start Program

Honorable Richard Cortez
Hidalgo County Judge

Irma Peña, Executive Director
Hidalgo County Head Start Program

Date

Date

ATTEST:

Arturo Guajardo, Jr.
Hidalgo County Clerk

Approved As To Form:

Ricardo González, P.C.
DBA, Oxford & González

By: _____

Ricardo González

AI-
Date Approved by Policy Council:
Date Approved by Commissioner's Court: