



HIDALGO COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

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EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539-6243

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www.hidalgocounty.us/294/Auditors-Office

February 18, 2025

The Honorable Richard F. Cortez, Hidalgo County Judge
The Honorable David Fuentes, Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
The Honorable Eduardo Cantu, Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
The Honorable Everardo Villarreal, Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
The Honorable Ellie Torres, Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

RE: Certification of Revenue

Dear Judge and Commissioners:

Pursuant to Local Government Code § 111.07076 SPECIAL BUDGET FOR GRANT OR AID MONEY:

The county auditor shall certify to the commissioners' court the receipt of all public or private grant or aid money that is available for disbursement in a fiscal year but not included in the budget for that fiscal year. On certification, the court shall adopt a special budget for the limited purpose of spending the grant or aid money for its intended purpose.

I, Letty Chavez, County Auditor of Hidalgo County, certify to the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court the receipt of an award from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Office of Border Public Health. These funds may now be made available by creating a new special budget or amending a current budget for its intended purposes.

AMOUNT
\$ 9,999.00

PURPOSE
Purchase Order No. HHSTX-5-0000363325
Office of Border Public Health (OBPH)

CERTIFIED BY:



Letty Chavez
Hidalgo County Auditor

2/13/2025

Date

HIDALGO COUNTY DISTRICT JUDGES

LUIS M. SINGLETERRY JUDGE, 92ND D.C. FERNANDO MANCIAS JUDGE, 93RD D.C. J. R. "BOBBY" FLORES JUDGE, 139TH D.C. ROSE GUERRA REYNA JUDGE, 206TH D.C. MARLA CUELLAR JUDGE, 275TH D.C. JUAN R. ALVAREZ JUDGE, 332ND D.C. NOE GONZALEZ JUDGE, 370TH D.C. LETICIA LOPEZ JUDGE, 389TH D.C. L. KENO VASQUEZ JUDGE, 398TH D.C. ORLANDO ESQUIVEL JUDGE, 430TH D.C. RENEE R. BETANCOURT JUDGE, 449TH D.C. JOSE "JOE" RAMIREZ JUDGE, 464TH D.C. NEREIDA LOPEZ-SINGLETERRY JUDGE, 476TH D.C.

AI-98282

Health & Human Services Dept.

CC REGULAR AGENDA SPECIAL MTG

Meeting Date: 02/18/2025

Submitted For: Dairen Sarmiento, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPT.

Submitted By: Carlos Oliva

Department: HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPT.

CAPTION

- ✓ 1. Requesting approval to accept the Office of Border Public Health FY25 award in the amount of \$9,999.00
- ✓ 2. Requesting approval of the Certification of Revenue by the County Auditor in the amount of \$9,999.00 and appropriation of the same.

BACKGROUND

DSHS notified Hidalgo County Health & Human Services of the ongoing Binational program and provided the purchase order that will support this program through 08/31/2025

Fiscal Impact

CALENDAR YEAR: 2025

ACCT. #: 5-1293-441-00-340-054-5-XXX ✓

FUNDS AVAILABLE Y/N?: Y

MATCHING FUNDS Y/N?: N ✓

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

No local match funds required

Attachments

Budget Appropriation

Work Plan

Purchase Order

Form Review

Inbox

Reviewed By

Date

(Originator)

Carlos Oliva

02/05/2025 08:54 AM

Form Started By: Carlos Oliva

Started On: 02/05/2025 08:54 AM

REVIEWED

By Minerva Diaz at 8:48 am, Feb 13, 2025

DATE: February 6, 2025

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Dairen Sarmiento Rangel

DEPARTMENT NAME: Health & Human Services

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 5-1293-441-00-340-054-5-XXX

Contact Person: Carlos Oliva Ph#: (956) 383-6221

2025 Appropriation AI-98282



SUBJECT: Budget Amendments (increase (decrease)) in accordance with Local Government Code, Chapter 111, § 111.070, Item C (2).

Honorable Commissioners' Court of Hidalgo County:

I would like to request the following Budget Amendments (increase (decrease)) in accordance with Local Government Code, Chapter 111, § 111.070, Item C (2).

INCREASE ACCOUNT NUMBER(S)	ACCOUNT (OBJECT) NAME	AMOUNT
5-1293-441-00-340-054-5-550	OBPH-PRINTING & BINDING + 1,500.00	1,500.00 ✓
	+ 6,200.00	
	+ 2,299.00	
5-1293-441-00-340-054-5-610	OBPH-GENERAL SUPPLIES = 6,200.00	6,200.00 ✓
	+ 9,999.00	
5-1293-441-00-340-054-5-890	OBPH-OTHER	2,299.00 ✓
	+ 4,999.50	
5-1293-331-12-340-054-5-000	OBPH - REVENUE (FEDERAL) + 4,999.50	4,999.50 ✓
5-1293-334-10-340-054-5-000	OBPH - REVENUE (STATE) + 4,999.50	4,999.50 ✓
	+ 9,999.00	
TOTAL BUDGET INCREASE (DECREASE)		9,999.00 ✓

REVIEWED By Minerva Diaz at 8:48 am, Feb 13, 2025

REASON: Appropriation of program funding for Office of Border Public Health FY 25 program that started on 09/01/2024 and ends on 08/31/2025. ✓

DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE

APPROVED COMMISSIONERS' COURT

DATE

ATTEST COUNTY CLERK



Monica Valdez <monica.avaldez@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

Request for Certification of Revenue - OBPH FY 25

1 message

Carlos Oliva <carlos.oliva@hchd.org>

Thu, Feb 6, 2025 at 1:05 PM

To: Monica Valdez <monica.avaldez@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

Cc: Minerva Diaz <minerva.diaz@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>, Miguel Escaname <miguel.escaname@hchd.org>

Good afternoon Monica,

Will you please help me with a certification of revenue for our OBPH FY 25.

AI-98282 was created and will be presented to court on 2/18/2025.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Thank you,

--

Carlos Oliva

Accountant III

Hidalgo County Health Department

1304 S. 25th Avenue


Edinburg, Texas 78542

Phone: (956) 292-7000 Ext. 7241

carlos.oliva@hchd.org

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3 attachments

 **Appropriation - AI - 98282.xlsx**
126K

 **FY25 Hidalgo HIDAREY Public Health COBINAS Workplan.pdf**
229K

 **PO 0000363325 Hidalgo County.pdf**
398K

Texas Department of State Health Services
Office of Border Public Health (OBPH) ✓
Project Proposal
FY 2025 (September 1, 2024-August 31, 2025) ✓

REQUESTING AGENCY/PROGRAM

Hidalgo Health and Human Services
Hidalgo-Reynosa Binational Health Council

KEY PERSONNEL that must be invited:

- HIDAREY Hidalgo Reynosa Binational Health Council Members
- Hidalgo Health and Human Services – will provide staff to attend and participate
- Secretariat of Health of Tamaulipas, Health Jurisdiction No. IV - will provide some of the presenters and staff.
- Department of State Health Services-Region 11-Office of Border Public Health and Epidemiologist
- Other neighboring health departments (if needed)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background

Binational Health Councils (known commonly as the COBINAS) Binational Health Councils for U.S. - México border sister-cities were established during the XXI U.S. Mexico Border Health Association meeting in Nogales, Arizona in 1963. The initial purpose of the councils was to provide a vehicle for the promotion of unity and friendship between the health officials of neighboring cities. As the councils have matured, their purpose has evolved to include examining health needs, problems, and available programs with particular attention and concern to the Council's geographical area, and to consider how its members can promote joint actions in common benefit of the population of both sides of the border.

Project Goals and Objectives

Goal

To provide a vehicle for the promotion of unity and friendship between the health officials of neighboring cities, examining health needs, **share epidemiological data**, assess current and emerging public health concerns, and share available programs with particular attention and concern to the council's geographical area, and to consider how its members can promote joint actions in common benefit of the population of both sides of the border.

Objectives

- Establish a Border Epidemiological Surveillance Team (BEST Team) and share epidemiological data on both sides of the border
- To strengthen communication and binational border collaboration between the HIDAREY members.
- Provide updated information to the community about current and emerging disease, vector surveillance and emergency

Border Epidemiological Surveillance Team (BEST) Project Overview

The purpose of the BEST workgroup is to develop a joint effort to strengthen the Epi/Surveillance capacity by identifying issues, interests, and challenges on the sister cities on both sides of the border. Activities that may be

included in this project will be writing or aiding in disaster plans for regional responses for multiple communicable diseases. This project would review disease conditions, transmission and the potential for outbreaks and determine trigger points for response activity along the border and with sister cities. There is an immense need to integrate a binational component and it would best to have the fellow assist in the integration and completion of these activities. This program can help to review binational outbreak guidelines and create reference guides for distribution to local stakeholders, regional local health departments and local healthcare providers. The CSTE fellow will acquire great experience in Binational epidemiological programs and issues that are unique to Region 11.

Mission

The mission of the BEST is to utilize a multi-agency partnership to assess, analyze and facilitate public health surveillance activities and interventions in a binational setting for the purpose of improving the health status of border communities through identification, communication, and response to issues of public health significance.

Goals of BEST

- To clarify the roles of each team member to optimize surveillance activity when an event occurs.
- To decrease fragmentation of existing surveillance systems and increase knowledge of present surveillance systems to maximize limited resources.
- To provide an opportunity for bilateral exchange and interaction in the area of public health and science.
- To clarify the roles of each team member to optimize surveillance activity when an event occurs.
- Increase border surveillance along public health region 11
- Acquire accurate infectious disease incidence rates
- Create a strong network of reporting sites

Potential projects:

- Current and emerging diseases
- Covid-19
- Chikungunya / Dengue / West Nile / Zika Surveillance
- Vector surveillance
- ILI
- Share epidemiological data and case numbers of current and emerging disease.

Proposed Work Plan

To have four Hidalgo-Reynosa (HIDAREY) COBINAS official meetings during the FY25 and to have a Health Education Event/ each fiscal year. Other events or meetings cannot substitute for official COBINAS meetings.

Meeting Criteria Requirements for reimbursement:

A meeting must meet the following criteria to be considered for reimbursement as one of the four COBINAS meeting:

- Must be in-person (preferred) or on a virtual face-to-face platform such as but not limited to Zoom, MS Teams, Skype. Etc.
- Conference Call are permitted if all entities mentioned below are invited, exceptions for reimbursement include:
 - One-on-one conference calls will not count as COBINAS meeting for reimbursement.
 - One-on-one calls between health entities will not count for reimbursement.
- Key Personnel **must** be invited to each meeting to meet minimum requirements for reimbursement:
- HIDAREY Members

- Hidalgo Health and Human Services – will provide staff to attend and participate
 - Secretariat of Health of Tamaulipas, Health Jurisdiction No. IV - will provide some of the presenters and staff.
 - Department of State Health Services-Region 11-Office of Border Public Health and Epidemiologist
 - Other neighboring health departments (if needed)
 - Must provide a sign-in sheet and/or list of participants. Screenshots of the participant list on virtual platforms are valid and welcomed.
 - Most provide a copy of epidemiological updates from both sides of the border presented at each meeting.
 - Share epidemiological data and case numbers of current and emerging disease.
 - Must provide meeting minutes or transcript
- * **Other events or meetings that are related but don't meet meeting criteria established above will not count as a COBINAS meeting and therefore will not be reimbursed.**

HIDAREY provides a vehicle for the promotion of unity and friendship between the health officials of neighboring cities, examining health needs, sharing epidemiological data, assess current and emerging public health concerns, and share available programs with particular attention and concern to the Council's geographical area, and to consider how its members can promote joint actions in common benefit of the population of both sides of the border. During the meetings, members present updates on current and emerging issues, and presentation by subject matter experts on public health topics affecting the population of both sides of the border.

Binational Health Month Event (October) or Health Education Event (other months if October not permitted)

Binational Health Month Event or Health Education Event (on any current and emerging disease) is a community engagement event to educate the public and any emerging diseases at hand (Covid-19, Zika, West Nile, Flu, etc.) The intention of the event can inform and educate the binational community about disease prevention behaviors, current and emerging diseases, provide trustworthy and accurate information about and offer the necessary tools and resources for taking action to prevent emerging diseases of the moment. It is preferred that event is in October to celebrate Binational Health Month.

Binational Health Month Event (October) or Health Education Day/Event Criteria and Benefits

- Promote, celebrate, and bring awareness to Bination Health Month in October
- Promote joint actions to address health needs of the population of both sides of the border.
- Increased knowledge and awareness on current and emerging border public health issues.
- Increased knowledge and awareness about Vector control or other current and emerging disease of the moment
- Gain a broad bird's eye view of the border and global of current and emerging diseases and vector control situation.
- Give the freshest updates of current and emerging disease of the moment.
- Establish contacts with key local, state, federal and international agencies involved in the fight against ongoing transmission.

- Network with colleagues from both sides of the border.
- Learn how an organization/agency can prepare for a Vector outbreak or of current and emerging disease.

Anticipated Outcomes

- Increase knowledge –Persons attending the Health Education Day Event will receive information about public health issues that affect the border.
- Increase knowledge on current and emerging border public health issues – All binational health council members will be better informed about public health issues that affect the border.
- All binational health council members will Promote joint actions to address public health needs of the population on both sides of the border.
- All binational health council members will work on solutions to address public health issues that might arise.
- Strengthen the collaboration and coordination between HIDAREY and the OBPH Office through meetings and by holding conference calls once a month to monitor, assess, and evaluate binational health council needs.
- Increased knowledge and awareness about Vector control
- Gain a broad bird’s eye view of the border and global Vector control virus situation.
- Get the freshest updates from Vector control experts.
- Establish contacts with key local, state, federal and international agencies involved in the fight against ongoing transmission.

Expected Deliverables:

The HIDAREY binational health council will:

- Meet all “Meeting Criteria Requirements” as listed on the Scope of Work
- will work with OBPH to develop and submit a final evaluation report which will include pictures and sign in sheets, agendas, and minutes of all meetings, as well as pictures and flyers of Health Education Day or Health Education event.
- An event or other non-COBINAS meeting cannot substitute an official COBINAS meeting for reimbursement.

FUNDING REQUEST

✓ FY25 (September 1, 2024-August 31, 2025)	
Meetings – Agenda, Sign-In Sheets and Minutes \$500.00 x 4	\$2,000.00
<i>Health Education Day or Binational Health Month (OCTOBER) event criteria mentioned above.</i>	\$7,700.00
Supplies, Copies, Printing, Incentives Educational Material, & Media	
Video and Calling Services	\$ 299.00
✓ Total for FY25	\$9,999.00

Vendor: TX ID# 74-6000717

Contact Information:

- ✓ **Name:** Dairen Sarmiento Rangel, Director
Address: 1304 S. 25th Avenue, Edinburg, Texas 78539
Telephone: (956) 383-6221
Fax:
Email: dairen.sarmiento@hchd.org

Department of State Health Services

Purchase Order

Dispatch via Print

Payment Terms Net 30	Freight Terms Prepaid & Allow	Ship Via NONE	Purchase Order HHSTX-5-0000363325
If advertised by informal bid, Invitation for Offer, or Request for Proposal; all specifications, terms, and conditions set forth in the advertisement and vendor's conforming responses become a part of this numbered purchase order. Contractor guarantees goods or services delivered meet or exceed numbered purchase order requirements.			Date 11/26/24
All shipments, shipping papers, invoices, and correspondence must be identified with our Purchase Order Number.			Revision 1
			Ship To: 1907 - Harlingen:601 W Sesame Dr DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES 601 W Sesame Dr Harlingen TX 78550 United States

Vendor: 1746000717 6
HIDALGO COUNTY
PO BOX 58
EDINBURG TX 785400058
United States

Bill To: Invoice-DSHS Fiscal Claims
DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
1100 W 49th St (RBB)
PO Box 149347
Austin TX 78756
United States

Fax: 512/458-7442
Email: invoices@dshs.texas.gov

Exempt Reason: INTERLOCAL CONTRACTS

Purchaser: Graham, Mary Ann 512/406-2487

Line-Sch	Inventory Item ID - Line Description	Class/Item	Quantity	UOM	PO Price	Extended Amt	Due Date
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FY25 Funding
EX/0 - Legal cite TGC 791 Interlocal
Requisition: 285855
Pricing per Project Proposal
Purchase Order Term: 09/01/2024 To 8/31/2025

This purchase order is contingent upon the continued availability of lawful appropriations by the Texas Legislature and may be canceled at any time in whole or part without penalty. HHS or the agency does not commit to ordering specific quantities of goods/services or dollar amounts with respect to this purchase order. The agency shall be obligated to pay for only those goods and/or services ordered and received by the agency. Any funds not utilized by 08/31/2025 are automatically canceled.

VID: 1746000717
Vendor: Hidalgo County
Eddie Olivarez
Eddie.olivarez@hchd.org
659-383-6221

Program Contact
Raven Keith
Raven.keith@dshs.texas.gov
956-421-5511

PCS contact
Mary Ann Graham
Maryann.graham@hhs.texas.gov

1-1	HIDAREY Hidalgo-Reynosa Binational Health Council	962-58	1.00	LOT	9999.00000	\$9,999.00	12/05/2024
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Schedule Total	\$9,999.00
Item Total for Line 1	\$9,999.00
Total PO Amount	\$9,999.00

Department of State Health Services

Purchase Order

Dispatch via Print

Payment Terms Net 30	Freight Terms Prepaid & Allow	Ship Via NONE	Purchase Order HHSTX-5-0000363325
If advertised by informal bid, Invitation for Offer, or Request for Proposal; all specifications, terms, and conditions set forth in the advertisement and vendor's conforming responses become a part of this numbered purchase order. Contractor guarantees goods or services delivered meet or exceed numbered purchase order requirements.			Date 11/26/24
All shipments, shipping papers, invoices, and correspondence must be identified with our Purchase Order Number.			Revision 2
			Ship To: 1907 - Harlingen:601 W Sesame Dr DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES 601 W Sesame Dr Harlingen TX 78550 United States

Vendor: 1746000717 6
HIDALGO COUNTY
PO BOX 58
EDINBURG TX 785400058
United States

Bill To: Invoice-DSHS Fiscal Claims
DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
1100 W 49th St (RBB)
PO Box 149347
Austin TX 78756
United States

Fax: 512/458-7442
Email: invoices@dshs.texas.gov

Exempt Reason: INTERLOCAL CONTRACTS

Purchaser: Graham, Mary Ann 512/406-2487

Line-Sch	Inventory Item ID - Line Description	Class/Item	Quantity	UOM	PO Price	Extended Amt	Due Date
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No substitutions or cancellations are permitted without prior approval by Health & Human Services Commission. If contractor fails to deliver by promised delivery date (or reasonable time thereafter) or fails to meet requirements, Health & Human Services Commission reserves the right to purchase elsewhere and charge an increased cost and handling to contractor.

Over shipments will not be accepted unless authorized by Buyer prior to shipment. The dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260 of the Texas Government Code must be used by the Health & Human Services Commission and Contractor to attempt to resolve all disputes arising under the contract.

Performance under this purchase order is acceptance of the attached affirmations and terms and conditions.

Authorized By

Mary Ann Graham CTED

12/04/2024



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Health and Human Services (HHS)

Uniform Terms and Conditions - Governmental Entity

Version 3.3

Published and Effective - November 2023

Responsible Office: Chief Counsel

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ARTICLE I. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETIVE PROVISIONS

1.1 DEFINITIONS

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

“Amendment” means a written agreement, signed by the Parties, which documents changes to the Contract.

“Contract” means the Signature Document, these Uniform Terms and Conditions, along with any attachments, and any Amendments, purchase orders, and Work Orders that may be issued by the System Agency.

“Deliverables” means the goods, services, Work, and Work Product to be provided to System Agency under the Contract.

“DSHS” means the Department of State Health Services.

“Effective Date” means the date on which the Contract takes effect.

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

“GAAP” means Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

“GASB” means the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

“HHSC” means the Health and Human Services Commission.

“Health and Human Services” or “HHS” includes HHSC and DSHS.

“HUB” means Historically Underutilized Business, as defined by Chapter 2161 of the Texas Government Code.

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

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

“Local Government” means a Texas governmental unit defined under and authorized to enter this contract by Texas Government Code, Chapter 791.

“Parties” means the System Agency and Performing Agency, collectively.

“Party” means either the System Agency or Performing Agency, individually.

“Performing Agency” means the State Agency or Local Government providing the goods or

services defined in this Contract.

“[Receiving Agency](#)” means HHSC or DSHS, as applicable, Agency receiving the benefit of the goods or services provided under this Contract.

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

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

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

“[State Agency](#)” means a Texas “Agency” as defined under Texas Government Code, Chapter 771.

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

“[State of Texas Textravel](#)” means the information maintained on the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts’ website relative to travel reimbursements under this Contract, if any.

“[System Agency](#)” means HHSC or DSHS, as applicable.

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

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

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

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

1.2 INTERPRETIVE PROVISIONS

- A. The meanings of defined terms include the singular and plural forms.
- B. The words “hereof,” “herein,” “hereunder,” and similar words refer to this Contract as a whole and not to any particular provision, section, attachment, or schedule of this Contract unless otherwise specified.
- C. The term “including” is not limiting and means “including without limitation” and, unless otherwise expressly provided in this Contract, (i) references to contracts (including this Contract) and other contractual instruments shall be deemed to include all subsequent Amendments and other modifications, but only to the extent that such Amendments and other

modifications are not prohibited by the terms of this Contract, and (ii) references to any statute, rule, or regulation are to be construed as including all statutory and regulatory provisions consolidating, amending, replacing, or supplementing the statute or regulation.

- D. The captions and headings of this Contract are for convenience of reference only and do not affect the interpretation of this Contract.
- E. All attachments, including those incorporated by reference, and any Amendments are considered part of the terms of this Contract.
- F. This Contract may use several different limitations, regulations, or policies to regulate the same or similar matters. All such limitations, regulations, and policies are cumulative.
- G. Unless otherwise expressly provided, reference to any action of the System Agency or by the System Agency by way of consent, approval, or waiver will be deemed modified by the phrase “in its sole discretion.”
- H. Time is of the essence in this Contract.

ARTICLE II. PAYMENT PROVISIONS

2.1 PAYMENT

Payment shall be made in accordance with Government Code, Chapter 771, Government Code, Chapter 791, or Government Code, Chapter 2251.051, as applicable.

2.2 ANCILLARY AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

- A. Except as otherwise provided in the Contract, no ancillary expenses incurred by the Performing Agency in connection with its provision of the services or Deliverables will be reimbursed by the System Agency. Ancillary expenses include, but are not limited to costs associated with transportation, delivery, and insurance for each Deliverable.
- B. When the reimbursement of travel expenses is authorized by the Contract, all such expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with the rates set by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts’ *Textravel* guidelines which can currently be accessed at:
<https://fmx.cpa.texas.gov/fmx/travel/texttravel/>

2.3 NO QUANTITY GUARANTEES

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

2.4 TAXES

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

ARTICLE III. STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING

3.1 EXCESS OBLIGATIONS PROHIBITED

The Contract is subject to termination or cancellation, without penalty to the System Agency, either in whole or in part, subject to the availability of state funds. System Agency is a state agency whose authority and appropriations are subject to actions of the Texas Legislature. If System Agency

becomes subject to a legislative change, revocation of statutory authority, or lack of appropriated funds that would render either System Agency's or Performing Agency's delivery or performance under the Contract impossible or unnecessary, the Contract will be terminated or cancelled and be deemed null and void. In the event of a termination or cancellation under this Section, System Agency will not be liable to Performing Agency for any damages that are caused or associated with such termination, or cancellation, and System Agency will not be required to give prior notice.

3.2 NO DEBT AGAINST THE STATE

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

3.3 DEBT AND DELINQUENCIES

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

3.4 REFUNDS AND OVERPAYMENTS

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

ARTICLE IV. WARRANTY, AFFIRMATIONS, ASSURANCES, AND CERTIFICATIONS

4.1 WARRANTY

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

- i. Repair or replace all defective or damaged Work;
- ii. Refund any payment Performing Agency received from System Agency for all defective or damaged Work and, in conjunction therewith, require Performing Agency to accept the return of such Work; and,

- iii. Take necessary action to ensure that Performing Agency's future performance and Work conform to the Contract requirements.

4.2 CONTRACT AFFIRMATIONS

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

4.3 FEDERAL ASSURANCES

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

4.4 FEDERAL CERTIFICATIONS

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

ARTICLE V. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

5.1 OWNERSHIP OF WORK PRODUCT

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

- E. The foregoing does not apply to Incorporated Pre-existing Works or Third Party IP that are incorporated in the Work Product by Performing Agency. Performing Agency shall provide System Agency access during normal business hours to all Vendor materials, premises, and computer files containing the Work Product.

5.2 PERFORMING AGENCY’S PRE-EXISTING WORKS

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

5.3 THIRD PARTY IP

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

5.4 AGREEMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES AND SUBCONTRACTORS

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

5.5 DELIVERY UPON TERMINATION OR EXPIRATION

No later than the first calendar day after the termination or expiration of the Contract or upon System Agency’s request, Performing Agency shall deliver to System Agency all completed, or partially completed, Work Product, including any Incorporated Pre-existing Works, and any and all versions thereof. Performing Agency’s failure to timely deliver such Work Product is a material breach of the Contract. Performing Agency will not retain any copies of the Work Product or any

documentation or other products or results of Performing Agency's activities under the Contract without the prior written consent of System Agency.

5.6 SURVIVAL

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

5.7 SYSTEM AGENCY DATA

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

ARTICLE VI. PROPERTY

6.1 USE OF STATE PROPERTY

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

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

6.2 DAMAGE TO GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

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

6.3 PROPERTY RIGHTS UPON TERMINATION OR EXPIRATION OF CONTRACT

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

ARTICLE VII. RECORD RETENTION, AUDIT, AND CONFIDENTIALITY

7.1 RECORD MAINTENANCE AND RETENTION

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

7.2 AGENCY’S RIGHT TO AUDIT

- A. Performing Agency shall make available at reasonable times and upon reasonable notice, and for reasonable periods, work papers, reports, books, records, supporting documents kept current by Performing Agency pertaining to the Contract for purposes of inspecting, monitoring, auditing, or evaluating by System Agency and the State of Texas. Performing Agency shall ensure these same requirements are included in all subcontracts.
- B. In addition to any right of access arising by operation of law, Performing Agency and any of

Performing Agency's affiliate or subsidiary organizations, or subcontractors shall permit the System Agency or any of its duly authorized representatives, as well as duly authorized federal, state or local authorities, unrestricted access to and the right to examine any site where business is conducted or services are performed, and all records, which includes but is not limited to financial, client and patient records, books, papers or documents related to this Contract. Performing Agency shall permit the System Agency or any of its duly authorized federal, state, or local authorities unrestricted access to and the right to examine all external contracts and/or pricing models or methodologies related to the Contract. Performing Agency shall ensure these same requirements are included in all subcontracts.

- C. If the Contract includes federal funds, federal agencies that shall have a right of access to records as described in this section include: the federal agency providing the funds, the Comptroller General of the United States, the General Accounting Office, the Office of the Inspector General, and any of their authorized representatives. In addition, agencies of the State of Texas that shall have a right of access to records as described in this section include: the System Agency, HHSC, HHSC's contracted examiners, the State Auditor's Office, the Texas Attorney General's Office, and any successor agencies. Each of these entities may be a duly authorized authority.
- D. If deemed necessary by the System Agency or any duly authorized authority, for the purpose of oversight, including, but not limited to, reviews, inspections, audits and investigations, Performing Agency shall produce original documents related to this Contract.
- E. The System Agency and any duly authorized authority shall have the right to audit billings both before and after payment, and all documentation that substantiates the billings and payments related to the Contract, including those related to a Subcontractor.
- F. Performing Agency shall include the System Agency's and any of its duly authorized representatives', as well as duly authorized federal, state, or local authorities, unrestricted right of access to, and examination of, sites and information related to this Contract in any subcontract it awards.

7.3 RESPONSE/COMPLIANCE WITH AUDIT OR INSPECTION FINDINGS

- A. Performing Agency must act to ensure its and its subcontractors' compliance with all corrections necessary to address any finding of noncompliance with any law, regulation, audit requirement, or generally accepted accounting principle, or any other deficiency identified in any audit, review, inspection or investigation of the Contract and the services and Deliverables provided. Any such correction will be at Performing Agency's or its Subcontractor's sole expense. Whether Performing Agency's action corrects the noncompliance shall be solely the decision of the System Agency.
- B. As part of the services, Performing Agency must provide to System Agency upon request a copy of those portions of Performing Agency's and its subcontractors' internal audit reports relating to the services and Deliverables provided to the State under the Contract.
- C. Performing Agency shall include the requirement to provide to System Agency (and any of its duly authorized federal, state or local authorities) internal audit reports related to this Contract in any Subcontract it awards. Upon request by System Agency, Performing Agency shall enforce this requirement against its Subcontractor. Further, Performing Agency shall include in any Subcontract it awards a requirement that all Subcontractor Subcontracts must also include these provisions.

7.4 STATE AUDITOR'S RIGHT TO AUDIT

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

7.5 CONFIDENTIALITY

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

ARTICLE VIII. CONTRACT REMEDIES AND EARLY TERMINATION

8.1 CONTRACT REMEDIES

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

- i. suspending all or part of the Contract;
- ii. requiring the Performing Agency to take specific actions in order to remain in compliance with the Contract;
- iii. recouping payments made by the System Agency to the Performing Agency found to be in error;
- iv. suspending, limiting, or placing conditions on the Performing Agency's continued performance of Work; or
- v. imposing any other remedies, sanctions, or penalties authorized under this Contract or permitted by federal or state law.

8.2 TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

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

8.3 TERMINATION FOR CAUSE

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

i. Material Breach

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

ii. Failure to Maintain Financial Viability

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

8.4 PERFORMING AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SYSTEM AGENCY'S TERMINATION COSTS

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

ARTICLE IX. GENERAL PROVISIONS

9.1 AMENDMENT

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

9.2 INSURANCE

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

compliance with all requirements.

9.3 LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY

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

9.4 LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

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

9.5 CHANGE IN LAWS AND COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

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

9.6 E-VERIFY PROGRAM

Performing Agency certifies that for contracts for services, Performing Agency shall utilize the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system during the term of the Contract to determine the eligibility of:

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

9.7 PERMITTING AND LICENSURE

At Performing Agency's sole expense, Performing Agency shall procure and maintain for the duration of this Contract any state, county, city, or federal license, authorization, insurance, waiver, permit, qualification, or certification required by statute, ordinance, law, or regulation to be held by Performing Agency to provide the goods or services required by this Contract. Performing Agency shall be responsible for payment of all taxes, assessments, fees, premiums, permits, and licenses required by law. Performing Agency shall be responsible for payment of any such government obligations not paid by its subcontractors during performance of this Contract.

9.8 SUBCONTRACTORS

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

9.9 INDEPENDENT PERFORMING AGENCY

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

9.10 GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE

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

9.11 SEVERABILITY

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

9.12 SURVIVABILITY

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

9.13 FORCE MAJEURE

Neither Party shall be liable to the other for any delay in, or failure of performance of, any requirement included in the Contract caused by force majeure. The existence of such causes of delay or failure shall extend the period of performance until after the causes of delay or failure have been removed provided the non-performing party exercises all reasonable due diligence to perform. Force majeure is defined as acts of God, war, fires, explosions, hurricanes, floods, failure of transportation, or other causes that are beyond the reasonable control of either party and that by exercise of due foresight such party could not reasonably have been expected to avoid, and which, by the exercise of all reasonable due diligence, such party is unable to overcome.

9.14 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

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

9.15 NO IMPLIED WAIVER OF PROVISIONS

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

9.16 MEDIA RELEASES

- A. Performing Agency shall not use System Agency's name, logo, or other likeness in any press release, marketing material, or other announcement without System Agency's prior written

approval. System Agency does not endorse any vendor, commodity, or service. Performing Agency is not authorized to make or participate in any media releases or public announcements pertaining to this Contract or the services to which they relate without System Agency's prior written consent, and then only in accordance with explicit written instruction from System Agency.

- B. Performing Agency may publish, at its sole expense, results of Performing Agency performance under the Contract with the System Agency's prior review and approval, which the System Agency may exercise at its sole discretion. Any publication (written, visual, or sound) will acknowledge the support received from the System Agency and any Federal agency, as appropriate.

9.17 NO MARKETING ACTIVITIES

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

9.18 PROHIBITION ON NON-COMPETE RESTRICTIONS

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

9.19 SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

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

9.20 ENTIRE CONTRACT AND MODIFICATION

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

9.21 COUNTERPARTS

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

9.22 CIVIL RIGHTS

- A. Performing Agency shall comply with all applicable state and federal anti-discrimination laws, including:
 - i. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000d, *et seq.*);
 - ii. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. §794);
 - iii. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §12101, *et seq.*);
 - iv. Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. §6101, *et seq.*);
 - v. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681, *et seq.*);
 - vi. Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. §2011, *et seq.*); and
 - vii. The System Agency's administrative rules, as set forth in the Texas Administrative Code, to the extent applicable to this Agreement.
- B. Performing Agency shall comply with all amendments to these laws, and all requirements imposed by the regulations issued pursuant to these laws. These laws provide in part that no persons in the United States may, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political beliefs, or religion, be excluded from participation in or denied any service or other benefit provided by Federal or State funding, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination.
- C. Performing Agency shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and its implementing regulations at 45 C.F.R. Part 80 or 7 C.F.R. Part 15, prohibiting a Performing Agency from adopting and implementing policies and procedures that exclude or have the effect of excluding or limiting the participation of clients in its programs, benefits, or activities on the basis of national origin. Civil rights laws require Performing Agency to provide alternative methods for ensuring access to services for applicants and recipients who cannot express themselves fluently in English. Performing Agency shall take reasonable steps to provide services and information, both orally and in writing and electronically, in appropriate languages other than English, to ensure that persons with limited English proficiency are effectively informed and can have meaningful access to programs, benefits, and activities.
- D. Performing Agency shall post applicable civil rights posters in areas open to the public informing clients of their civil rights and including contact information for the HHS Civil Rights Office. The posters are available on the HHS website at:
<http://hhscx.hhsc.texas.gov/system-support-services/civil-rights/publications>
- E. Performing Agency shall comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulations at 28 CFR Subpart G § 42.503, and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and its implementing regulations at 28 CFR Subpart B §35.130 which includes requiring Performing Agency to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures when the modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability, unless the Performing Agency can demonstrate that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity.
- F. Performing Agency shall comply with federal regulations regarding equal treatment for faith-based organizations under 45 C.F.R. Part 87 or 7 C.F.R. Part 16, as applicable. Performing Agency shall not discriminate against clients or prospective clients on the basis of religion or religious belief and shall provide written notice to beneficiaries of their rights.
- G. Upon request, Performing Agency shall provide the HHSC Civil Rights Office with copies of the Performing Agency's civil rights policies and procedures.
- H. Performing Agency must notify HHSC's Civil Rights Office of any civil rights complaints received relating to its performance under this Contract. This notice must be delivered no more than ten (10) calendar days after receipt of a complaint. This notice must be directed to:

HHSC Civil Rights Office
701 W. 51st Street, Mail Code W206
Austin, Texas 78751
Phone Toll Free: (888) 388-6332
Phone: (512) 438-4313
Fax: (512) 438-5885.

9.23 ENTERPRISE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

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

9.24 DISCLOSURE OF LITIGATION

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

9.25 NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES

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

9.26 BINDING EFFECT

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

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