

THE STATE OF TEXAS §  
§  
COUNTY OF HIDALGO §

**CONTRACT FOR SERVICE  
C-25-0138-08-05**

THIS CONTRACT is made and entered into this 5th day of August 2025, by and between the **County of Hidalgo, Texas** by and through the **Hidalgo County Commissioners Court** (the "**County**"), and **JBI, Ltd. dba Justice Benefits, Inc.**("Company").

**WHEREAS**, County requested responses to notices for Request for Proposals (RFP) for: "**Consulting Services for Health & Human Services Department for Public Health Provider Charity Care Program Funding Project**" for the **County** (the "**Services**"). A copy of the procurement packet, including applicable specifications, is attached hereto as **Exhibit "A"** (the "**Procurement Packet**"), and is incorporated herein for all purposes;

**WHEREAS**, Company submitted a response to provide services in accordance with the specifications as proposed. A copy of the Company's response to the Procurement Packet is attached hereto as **Exhibit "B"** (the "**Response**"), and is incorporated herein for all purposes;

**WHEREAS**, County has determined that Company has submitted the lowest and best bid to meet County's requirements for the Service, as herein described.

**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 Commissioners Court of County awards this contract to Company.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions hereinafter set forth, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. County and Company hereby agree that this Contract is entered into in order to provide the Services to County. 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 **Exhibit "B"** Company's Response. Services shall be performed within Hidalgo County. The Company will not begin to work or incur costs until authorized in writing by the County with the release of an authorized Purchase Order or other appropriate written authorization by the County 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. County reserves the right to evaluate any services provided by the Company and to reject the same if not in compliance with the specifications as provided in **Exhibits “A” and “B”**. If the County finds it necessary to require changes in the work provided because of errors made by the Company, the County shall require the Company to correct the work at no cost to the County and without amendment to the Agreement. Further, Hidalgo County 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 **four (4) year(s)**, commencing on **August 5, 2025** and expiring on **August 4, 2029**, unless sooner terminated. The term of this agreement may be extended at the County’s sole discretion for **two (2) additional one (1) year term(s)** under the same rates, terms and conditions. Hidalgo County also reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period, under the same rates, terms, and conditions for the unforeseen delay in award of new bid for the next contract term.

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

5. **Licenses/Certifications.** 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, including the State of Texas, during the term hereof to provide the Services. Company further represents that it is qualified to perform and execute the services described above. If such license or permit is suspended or revoked, this Contract shall automatically be terminated and Company shall immediately notify the County. Company shall provide the County with all current state certifications, permits, and/or licenses with applicable seals, or as otherwise required by the State of Texas.

6. **Equipment.** If applicable, Company shall provide a sufficient number of trucks, vehicles, personnel and equipment available to safely and efficiently provide the Services. 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. **Independent Contractor.** The Company must comply with all applicable Hidalgo County policies and with any applicable federal, state, or local laws, regulations, orders, or ordinances applicable to the Services provided by Company under this Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, Company represents and maintains that Company is an Independent Contractor and is not an employee of the County, or any agency thereof, and represents and warrants that Company does not desire or request any fringe benefits provided to employees of

County, and/or any agency of the County, including but not limited to benefits associated with Hidalgo County's Civil Service Program. This Contract and the performance by the Parties hereunder does not create an agency relationship or master-servant relationship. Company agrees to be responsible for any federal income tax, withholding or social security tax liability that might arise from payments received hereunder. Company will incur no financial obligation on behalf of the County without prior written approval of the County. Company will be responsible for all personal and professional expenses, including, but not limited to, membership fees and dues and expenses of attending conventions and meetings. The County will have no right to direct or control the details, manner or means by which Company or its affiliates provide the Services, except as otherwise set forth in this Agreement. Company agrees to not take any action that is detrimental to, or not in the best interest of the County.

8. **Termination.** County may terminate this Agreement without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice.

9. **Non-Exclusive Services of Company.** Hidalgo County reserves the right to request this Product, Good and/or service from other sources other than the Company and shall not be in violation of any terms or conditions of this Agreement.

10. **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, Company'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 the County 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 County. 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 the County as an additional insured. Company shall notify County 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 County upon request. Company will be considered in breach of contract should the Company fail to maintain an insurance policy in the minimum limits of liability and requirements identified above while performing services for and under this Agreement, and will be subject to default and immediate termination of the Agreement. Additionally, Company covenants and agrees to use its best efforts to maintain an insurance policy in the minimum limits of liability and requirements identified above until one year following the conclusion of this Agreement.

11. **INDEMNIFICATION.** COMPANY SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD COUNTY, ITS ELECTED OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS HARMLESS FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, ACTIONS, LIABILITY, DAMAGES, LOSSES AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING COSTS OF JUDGMENTS, SETTLEMENTS, COURT COSTS, AND ATTORNEYS' FEES, REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF SUCH CLAIM OR ACTION) CAUSED BY, RESULTING FROM, OR ALLEGING NEGLIGENT OR INTENTIONAL ACTS OR OMISSIONS OR ANY FAILURE TO PERFORM ANY OBLIGATION UNDERTAKEN OR ANY COVENANT IN THIS CONTRACT, WHETHER SUCH ACT, OMISSION, OR FAILURE WAS THE COMPANY'S OR THAT OF ANY PERSON PROVIDING SERVICES HEREUNDER THROUGH OR FOR THE COMPANY. UPON WRITTEN NOTICE FROM THE COUNTY, THE COMPANY WILL RESIST AND DEFEND AT ITS OWN EXPENSE, AND BY COUNSEL REASONABLY SATISFACTORY TO COUNTY, ANY SUCH CLAIM OR ACTION. THE COMPANY WILL CARRY PROPER INSURANCE WITH THE COUNTY AS AN ADDITIONAL NAMED INSURED. THIS INDEMNIFICATION CLAUSE SHALL SURVIVE THIS AGREEMENT AND BE ENFORCEABLE AS A SEPARATE AGREEMENT IN THE EVENT ITS SURVIVAL AND ENFORCEMENT BECOME NECESSARY.

12. **Notice.** Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, all notices, demands, requests, or communications required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall either be (i) personally delivered against a written receipt, or (ii) sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid and addressed to the parties at the addresses set forth below, or at such other addresses as may have been theretofore specified by written notice delivered in accordance herewith:

If to County:           The County of Hidalgo  
                                  Attn: County Judge  
                                  100 E. Cano, 2nd Floor  
                                  Edinburg, Texas 78539

If to Company:         JBI, Ltd. dba Justice Benefits, Inc.  
                                  Attn: Makenna Parsons  
                                  1711 E Belt Line Rd  
                                  Coppell, Texas 75019

Each notice, demand, request, or communication which shall be delivered or mailed in the manner described above shall be deemed sufficiently given for all purposes at such time as it is personally delivered to the addresses or if mailed at such time as it is deposited in the United States mail.

13. **GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

- a. **Assignment.** Except as otherwise herein provided, Company shall not assign the obligations or rights under this Agreement to any person without the prior written consent of County.
- b. **Conflict with Applicable Laws.** Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to require the commission of any act contrary to law, and whenever there is any conflict between any provision of this Agreement and any present or future law, ordinance or administrative, executive or judicial regulation, order or decree, or amendment thereof, contrary to which the

parties have no legal right to contract, the latter shall prevail, but in such event, the affected provision or provisions of this Agreement shall be modified only to the extent necessary to bring them within the legal requirements and only during the time such conflict exists. 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.

- c. **No Waiver.** No waiver by County of any breach of any provision of this Agreement shall be deemed to be a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach of the same or any other provision hereof.
- d. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, and all obligations of the parties created hereunder are performable in Hidalgo County, Texas. The Company hereby consents to personal jurisdiction in Hidalgo County, Texas.
- e. **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.
- f. **Commitment of Current Revenues Only.** In the event that, during any term hereof, the Commissioners Court does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of County under this Agreement, County may terminate this Agreement upon ninety (90) days written notice to Company. County 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 County. *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 Commissioner's Court does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of County under this Agreement, County may terminate this Agreement upon ninety (90) days written notice to Company, County 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 County in accordance with the Texas Local Government Code.
- g. **Immunities.** Nothing in this Agreement is intended to and County does not hereby waive, release or relinquish any right to assert any of the defenses County enjoys by virtue of the state or federal constitution, laws, rules or regulations, and any sovereign, official or qualified immunity available to County as to any claim or action of any person, entity, or individual against County.

- h. **Headings.** The headings and captions contained in this Agreement are solely for convenient reference and shall not be deemed to affect the meaning or interpretation of any provision or paragraph hereof.
- i. **Gender and Number.** All pronouns used in this Agreement shall include the other gender, whether used in the masculine, feminine or neuter gender, and the singular shall include the plural whenever and as often as may be appropriate.
- j. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and each party acknowledges that neither has made (either directly or through any agent or representative) any representations or agreements in connection with this Agreement not specifically set forth herein. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by an agreement in writing executed by County and Company, and not otherwise.
- k. **Purchasing Ethics.** Company represents and warrants it has not, during the process of being awarded this contract violated the following ethical standards of County and, upon and after the execution of this Agreement, agrees to abide by the following ethical standards of County:
  - i. 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 County, or for any elected official, department head or employee or former elected official, department head or employee of County, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, entity or organization, a gratuity or an office 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 proposal therefore pending before any department or agency of County.
  - ii. 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 County, or any person associated therewith, as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.
- l. **Void Contract.** Company understands that an awarded contract may immediately become void if the County determines that a lack of compliance with applicable policies and/or statutes has occurred in the procurement process.
- m. **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.

- n. **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 Agreement.
- o. **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, County 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.
- p. **Authority to Execute.** The execution and performance of this Agreement by County and Company have been duly authorized by all necessary laws, resolutions, or corporate action, and this Agreement constitutes the valid and enforceable obligations of County and Company in accordance with its terms.

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

**EXECUTED** as of the day and year first written above.

**APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT ON August 5, 2025.**

**Agenda Item No. 100188**

**Executive Office: \_\_\_\_\_**

**VENDOR:**

JBI, Ltd. dba Justice Benefits, Inc.

**COUNTY:**

COUNTY OF HIDALGO, Texas

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Richard F. Cortez, County Judge

**APPROVED AS TO FORM**

Office of the Hidalgo County  
Criminal District Attorney,  
Toribio "Terry" Palacios

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADA NAME, Assistant District Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arturo Guajardo, Jr., County Clerk

**ATTACHMENTS:**

(If Applicable)

**SUPPLEMENTAL SIGNATURES:**

(If Applicable)

# EXHIBIT “A”

REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

PROCUREMENT PACKET

# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**RFP No.: 25-0138-07-09-05**

## **CONSULTING SERVICES FOR HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROVIDER CHARITY CARE PROGRAM FUNDING PROJECT**

**Acceptance Due Date: July 9, 2025 at 3:00 pm**

Project Contact Information:

**Pedro Cuadros, CTCD**, Contract Specialist II  
(956) 318-2626 Ext: 4859  
pedro.cuadros@co.hidalgo.tx.us

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**Consulting Services for Health & Human Services Department for**  
**Public Health Provider Charity Care Program Funding Project**

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- E - HUB Declaration
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## 1. INVITATION LETTER

### 1.1. Summary

RELEASE DATE: Saturday, June 28, 2025

RESPONSE SUBMISSION DATE/TIME: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 3:00 pm

**RE: HIDALGO COUNTY - REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**RFP NO.:25-0138-07-09-05** –Consulting Services for Health & Human Services Department for Public Health Provider Charity Care Program Funding Project

Dear Prospect Offeror:

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department welcomes and appreciates your interest and participation. For your review and consideration, enclosed 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. All times referenced in this procurement packet are Central Standard Time – CST.

If assistance is required, please do not hesitate to call the Purchasing Department at (956) 318-2626.

Sincerely,

Ignacio Amezcua, MBA, CTCM, CTCD

Hidalgo County Purchasing Director



### 1.2. Contact Information

**Project Contact:**

**Olga Garza**

Contracts Division Manager

2802 S. Business Highway 281

Edinburg, TX 78539

Email: [olga.garza@co.hidalgo.tx.us](mailto:olga.garza@co.hidalgo.tx.us)

Phone:  [\(956\) 318-2626](tel:(956)318-2626) Ext: 4882

Request For Proposal #25-0138-07-09-05

Title: Consulting Services for Health & Human Services Department for Public Health Provider Charity Care Program Funding Project

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**Procurement Contact:**

**Pedro Cuadros, CTCD**

Contract Specialist II

2812 S. Business Hwy. 281

Edinburg, TX 78539

Email: [pedro.cuadros@co.hidalgo.tx.us](mailto:pedro.cuadros@co.hidalgo.tx.us)

Phone:  [\(956\) 318-2626](tel:(956)318-2626) Ext: 4859

**Department:**

Health Department & Human Services

1.3. Timeline

<b>Release Project Date</b>	June 28, 2025
<b>Question Submission Deadline</b>	July 1, 2025, 5:00pm
<b>Question Response Deadline</b>	July 3, 2025, 5:00pm

<p><b>Proposal Submission Deadline</b></p>	<p>July 9, 2025, 3:00pm</p> <p>(All times referenced in this procurement packet are Central Standard Time –CST)</p> <p>The proposal opening is open to the public. Proposal opening participants may attend the proposal opening in person at the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department (or designated location) or via a live stream (link below) or by calling in on the day of the event. 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.</p> <p>Live stream: <a href="https://hidalgocounty.zoom.us/j/86775896463?pwd=WC1qR8a6BraHHZavf9L2IJ7a3CfwAZ.1">https://hidalgocounty.zoom.us/j/86775896463?pwd=WC1qR8a6BraHHZavf9L2IJ7a3CfwAZ.1</a></p> <p>Meeting ID: 867 7589 6463</p> <p>Passcode: 165320</p> <p>Dial by your location: +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)</p> <p>To find your local number: <a href="https://hidalgocounty.zoom.us/u/kb7e7EHQ96">https://hidalgocounty.zoom.us/u/kb7e7EHQ96</a></p> <p>Join by SIP: <a href="mailto:86775896463@zoomcrc.com">86775896463@zoomcrc.com</a></p>
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## 2. SUBMISSION DETAILS

### 2.1. SUBMISSION OPTIONS & REQUIREMENTS

Respondents have two (2) options for submitting a response. Respondents shall submit their response using one (1) of the following methods (**DO NOT** duplicate submittals by submitting both an electronic and hard copy response. Respondents shall select one only (1) method to respond):

- A. Submit responses electronically via the PORTAL: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/co-hidalgo-tx> on or before Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 3:00 pm. **OR;**
- B. Submit one (1) hard copy and one (1) USB in original PDF format via personal hand-delivery or delivery service on or Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 3:00 pm.

Any Proposal received after this deadline will not be accepted and will be returned unopened to the sender.

### 2.2. HAND DELIVERED SUBMISSION

When hand delivering the packet, Proposer should make sure that the package is stamped with the date and time received by the Hidalgo County Purchasing staff.

#### **DELIVER TO:**

##### US Postal Mail Address:

- Ignacio Amezcua, MBA, CTCM, CTCD, Purchasing Director
- ATTN: Pedro Cuadros, CTCD, Contract Specialist II
- Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
- Administration Building
- 2812 S. Business Hwy 281
- Edinburg, Texas 78539

##### Physical Address:

- Ignacio Amezcua, MBA, CTCM, CTCD, Purchasing Director
- ATTN: Pedro Cuadros, CTCD, Contract Specialist II
- Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
- Administration Building
- 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
- Edinburg, Texas 78539

#### **FIRM INSTRUCTIONS**

Responses to this procurement packet shall be formatted and organized in the following order for consistency and easy screening:

- All submissions must be typed, single-spaced, and printed one-sided on 8 ½” by 11” paper.
- One (1) hard copy, marked “ORIGINAL” and one (1) USB in PDF format. The original document must be submitted with a Cover Page containing the information listed in the Submission Outline/Checklist, under the Submission Cover Page.
- The complete response must be sealed in an appropriately sized envelope or box for delivery to the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department, per instructions in the Procurement Packet Submission paragraph of the Legal Notice section contained within this procurement packet.
- All documents must be labeled with the firm’s name and the RFP number. Responses that are not identified with the RFP number on the outside, will be at risk of rejection.

### **SUBMISSION OUTLINE/CHECKLIST**

To assist in ensuring all submissions received are complete, it is recommended for the Offeror to use this Submission Outline as a Checklist prior to submitting a response. All Responses must be submitted in the following order with the guidelines provided within this solicitation. **For the hand delivery option, the solicitation packet and all required documents can be found under the [#ATTACHMENTS](#) section:**

- A. Table of Contents
- B. Required Confirmations/Documents
  1. Legal Notice Declaration - **(Confirmation)**
  2. Insurance and Bid Bond Requirements
    - a. Proof of Insurance - **(Document)**
    - b. Insurance Requirement Acknowledgement - **(Confirmation)**
    - c. Bid Bond Acknowledgment - **(Document)**
    - d. Project Requirements Acknowledgement - **(Confirmation)**
  3. Conflict of Interest Questionnaire
    - a. CIQ Form - Copy of County Clerk File with fee receipt (when applicable) **(Document)**
  4. Vendor Acknowledgment and HUB Declaration
    - a. Vendor Acknowledgment - **(Confirmation)**
    - b. HUB Declaration - **(Document)**
  5. Certification Regarding Debarment
    - a. Signed Certification - **(Document)**
    - b. SAM.gov Registration Acknowledgement - **(Document)**

6. Title VI Appendices
  - a. Title VI Appendices [A -E] - **(Confirmation)**
7. Required Contract Clauses For Contracts Under Federal Award
  - a. Byrd Anti-Lobbying Contract Clause - **(Document)**
  - b. 2 CFR 200 Certification - **(Document)**
8. FHWA 1273
  - a. FHWA 1273 **(Confirmation)**
9. Proposer's Affidavit - **(Document)**
10. Draft Agreement - **(Confirmation)**
11. Deficiencies and Deviations Form **(Document- If Applicable)**
12. References - **(Document)**
13. Addenda (when applicable; see Addenda under Legal Notice) - **(Confirmation)**
14. Company/Firm Response - **(Document)**
  - a. Cover Sheet
    - i. Company Name, Company Address, Company Phone Number
    - ii. Project Name: Consulting Services for Health & Human Services Department for Public Health Provider Charity Care Program Funding Project
    - iii. Procurement Number: 25-0138-07-09-05
    - iv. Opening Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025
    - v. Opening Time: 3:00 pm

**(Confirmation)** = A confirmation is required for this section.

**(Document)** = A document submission is required for this section.

### 2.3. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will only accept electronic responses that are submitted via the PORTAL: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/co-hidalgo-tx>. The COUNTY will NOT accept telegraphic, emailed, nor responses submitted via facsimile.

\*When submitting a response electronically, the firm will be required to complete all the sections found in this solicitation in order for the submission to be valid.

### **3. 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 solicitation. Further, the Respondent is responsible for providing any and all relevant information necessary to submit a response. Failure to do so will be at the Respondent's risk and may result in rejection of the response 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 proposal package is complete.

#### **3.1. INTRODUCTION**

Hidalgo County (hereinafter referred to as "COUNTY") is seeking qualified respondents interested in providing services for the "Consulting Services for Health & Human Services Department for Public Health Provider Charity Care Program Funding Project". Proposals will be received in accordance with the requirements attached hereto as "**Requirements/Specifications**". The response should address all requirements.

#### **3.2. PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING**

If there will be a Pre-Proposal meeting the information will be included in Section 1 – Invitation Letter/Timeline.

#### **3.3. AWARD**

No award can be made until approved by Hidalgo County Commissioners Court. This RFP does not obligate Hidalgo County 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 and may be terminated at any time prior to execution of an agreement.

(a) Before awarding any contract, Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will verify, using the Federal System for Award Management (SAM) and the Texas Comptroller's Debarred Vendor List, that the offeror recommended for contract award has no unsatisfactory performance history that would prohibit awarding them a contract.

(b) The contract will be awarded to that responsible offeror(s) whose offer, conforming to the solicitation, will be most advantageous to the county, price and other factors considered. A responsible offeror is one who affirmatively demonstrates to the County that the offeror has adequate financial resources and the requisite capacity, capability, and facilities to perform the contract within the delivery period or period of performance, has a satisfactory record of performance on other comparable projects, has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics, and is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive award under the solicitation and laws or regulations applicable to this procurement.

(c) The County reserves the right to accept other than the lowest offer, reject any or all offers in part or in

total for any reason, to accept any offer if considered best for its interest, and to waive informalities and minor irregularities in offers received.

(d) The County may accept any item or group of items of any offer, unless the offeror qualifies the offer by specific limitations. Unless otherwise provided in Pricing Schedule, offers may not be submitted for any quantities less than those specified, and the County reserves the right to make an award on any item for a unit quantity less than the quantity offered at the unit prices offered unless the offeror specifies otherwise in the offer.

(e) The County's execution of the Contract shall be deemed to result in a binding contract without further action by the offeror.

(f) The County may, within the time specified therein, accept any offer or part thereof, as provided in (c) above, whether or not there are negotiations subsequent to its receipt, unless the offer is withdrawn by written notice received by the County prior to award.

(g) The County may award a contract, based on initial offers received, without discussion of such offers. Accordingly, each initial offer should be submitted on the most favorable terms from a price and technical standpoint, which the offeror can submit to the County.

### 3.4. TERM

It is intended that the initial contract term will be for four (4) year term commencing on the date approved by Commissioners Court; with the County's option to renew/extend for an additional two (2) one (1) year term(s), under the same rates, terms, and conditions.

### 3.5. SUBMISSION OPTIONS & REQUIREMENTS

Respondents have two (2) options for submitting a response and shall select only one (1) method to respond. Please see Section 2 – Submission Details above for submission options, procedures, and requirements. Any Proposal received after the provided deadline will not be accepted and will be returned unopened to the sender.

### 3.6. PROPOSAL OPENING STREAMING

Please find the proposal opening information included in Section 1 – Invitation Letter

### 3.7. HAND DELIVERED SUBMISSION

If Respondent chooses to hand deliver its submission, whether personally or via delivery service, it must follow the procedures and requirements set for in Section 2 – Submission Details above.

### 3.8. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

If Respondent chooses to submit its response electronically, it must follow the procedures and requirements set for in Section 2 – Submission Details above.

### 3.9. SIGNING OF SUBMISSION

In order to be considered, all submittals **must** be signed by an authorized representative of the firm. **For hardcopy submissions, please sign the original in blue ink and ensure the copy is clearly labeled. For electronic submissions, please ensure all appropriate certifications are marked.**

### 3.10. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions must be submitted via the PORTAL'S Question and Answer Tab (Q&A) no later than Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 5:00 pm. Responses to properly submitted questions will be published in the PORTAL and emailed to all planholders who are listed as a Follower in the PORTAL. Telephone inquiries will not be accepted.

### 3.11. RESTRICTIVE OR AMBIGUOUS REQUIREMENTS

It is the responsibility of the Proposer to review the procurement packet and to notify the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department if the requirements are formulated in a manner that would unnecessarily restrict competition or request clarification of any requirements that are ambiguous. Any such protest or question regarding the requirements or proposal procedures must be received in writing via the PORTAL'S Q&A Tab by the deadline stated for Questions and Answers.

### 3.12. COST OF SUBMISSION

Hidalgo County will not be liable for any costs incurred by the vendor in preparing a response to this procurement packet. Each Proposer 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. Hidalgo County 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.

### 3.13. WAIVING OF INFORMALITIES

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

### 3.14. NOTICE OF COMMUNICATION

***All communications by a vendor to the county, its officials, and department heads regarding this procurement shall be done through the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department.*** No vendor, 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 vendor outside of a posted meeting of the governing body, a regular meeting of a standing or appointed committee, or negotiation with a vendor which has been specifically authorized by the governing body.

## 4. 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 County of Hidalgo (hereinafter referred to as “Hidalgo County” and “County” or any other governing body/agency for which the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department has been authorized to perform procurement services. The Hidalgo County Purchasing Department webpage may be found at <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/143/Purchasing-Department>.

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's interpretation shall govern. Referenced appendices may be subject to change.

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.

### 4.1. ACCEPTANCE OF SUBMISSION

Receipt of the submission shall under no circumstance obligate Hidalgo County 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 ninety (90) days after opening. Hidalgo County is not responsible for any missing, lost, or late submissions.

### 4.2. ACCESS TO RECORDS

In special circumstances, Vendor may be required to allow duly authorized representatives of Hidalgo County, 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 County.

### 4.3. 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 Auditor’s Office in order to establish an account with the County for payment, including information requested on Hidalgo County **"Vendor Acknowledgment"** on this procurement packet. This information must be on file with the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department and the Hidalgo County Auditor’s Office. Failure to provide this information may result in a delay in payment and/or back-up withholding as required by the Internal Revenue Service.

#### 4.4. ADDENDA

When specifications interpretations, amendments, corrections or changes are revised, the Hidalgo County Purchasing 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 Purchasing Department. Offeror must sign in blue ink and include it in the returned submission package.

#### 4.5. 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 County of Hidalgo County Commissioners Court (hereinafter referred to as "Commissioners Court"), or other applicable governing body.

#### 4.6. AWARD

Hidalgo County reserves the right to award this contract on the basis determined on the Procurement Overview, and when applicable, listed on "**Company/Firm Response**", 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 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 reserves the right to seek the services of the next lowest bidder(s) and/or qualified Offeror(s). In such event, Hidalgo County shall charge the Awarded Vendor the difference for any additional cost of such item. Hidalgo County reserves the right to add or delete items during the term of the contract under the same rates and conditions.

#### 4.7. COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS

The County 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 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:

**4.7.1 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.

**4.7.2 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.

**4.7.3 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 "**Project Requirements Acknowledgment**". Responses submitted without the required bond or cashier's checks may be deemed unresponsive, thus disqualified from participation.

**4.7.4 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.

**4.7.5 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.

**4.7.6 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 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 <http://www.sam.gov> with their response.

**4.7.7 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 County.

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

**4.7.8 Disclosure of Conflict of Interest.**

**4.7.8.1 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.

**4.7.8.2 Certificate of Interested Parties (Form 1295).** Hidalgo County 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](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.

**4.7.8.3 Collusion.** The Offeror affirms that by responding to any solicitation made by Hidalgo County, 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 County believes that collusion exists among the Offerors, and/or the County believes prices provided by the Offerors are inappropriately unbalanced. "**Proposer's Affidavit**" must be included in the response.

**4.7.8.4 Consultants Excluded from Competition.** An outside Consultant or Contractor is prohibited from submitting a response for goods or services requested on a Hidalgo County 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.

**4.7.8.5 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 no later than the seventh business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. Hidalgo County Clerk contact information may be found at <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/161/CountyClerks-Office>. **Completion and submission of Form CIQ is the sole responsibility of the Offeror.** Additionally, the Offeror must immediately notify Hidalgo County if the information provided in its response changes at any time.

**4.7.8.6 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 County the Federal Standard Form LLL titled "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying" as detailed in "2 C.F.R. § 200".

**4.7.9. 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 County 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.

**4.7.10 Disqualification of Offeror.** By submitting a response to this request, an Offeror offering to sell supplies, materials, services, or equipment to Hidalgo County 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.

**4.7.11 Ethical Business Practices.** Hidalgo County 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, who believes they have witnessed any suspected ethical violation or fraud immediately report the allegations to the Hidalgo County Purchasing Director, 2802 S. BUS HWY 281, Edinburg, TX 78539, (956) 318-2626, ignacio.amezcua@co.hidalgo.tx.us.

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will conduct a prompt and thorough investigation. At the conclusion of the investigation, Hidalgo County Purchasing 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.

#### 4.8. COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS (CONTINUED)

**4.8.1 Historically Underutilized Business/Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.** The County 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 County's procurement process. The County encourages the use of these enterprises both as prime and subcontractors as listed in "**HUB Declaration**".

When federal funds are expended by the County, the County will take affirmative steps set forth in 2 CFR200.321 to assure that small, minority, women-owned businesses and labor surplus area owned firms are used when possible. Pursuant to 2 CFR 321, the County 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 County to award a contract other than as required by law and Hidalgo County 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.

**4.8.2 Independent Contractor.** Offeror must comply with all applicable Hidalgo County policies and with any applicable federal, state, or local laws, regulations, orders, or ordinances applicable to the Services provided by Offeror under a contract entered into by the parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, Offeror represents and maintains that Offeror is an Independent Contractor and is not an employee of the County, or any agency thereof, and represents and warrants that Offeror does not desire or request any fringe benefits provided to employees of County, and/or any agency of the County, including but not limited to benefits associated with Hidalgo County's Civil Service Program. Any contract entered into between the parties and the performance of the same does not create an agency relationship or master servant relationship. Offeror agrees to be responsible for any federal income tax, withholding or social security tax liability that might arise from payments received under a contract. Offeror will incur no financial obligation on behalf of the County without prior written approval of the County. Offeror will be responsible for all personal and professional expenses, including, but not limited to, membership fees and dues and expenses of attending conventions and meetings. The County will have no right to direct or control the details, manner or means by which Offeror or its affiliates provide the Services, except as otherwise set forth in this packet and/or any contract entered into by the parties. Offeror agrees to not take any action that is detrimental to, or not in the best interest of the County.

**4.8.3 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).

**4.8.4 Texas Public Information Act.** The Offeror understands and agrees that Hidalgo County 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 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 will make reasonable efforts to provide Offeror notice in accordance with the Act in the event the County 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 County as part of its response to this procurement packet are not confidential. Additionally, Offeror provides its affirmative consent to the disclosure of its email addresses, including from its employees, officers, and agents acting on its behalf, that are provided to Hidalgo County. 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.

**4.8.5 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. The Hidalgo County Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan may be found at <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/2071/Title-VINondiscrimination-Plan>.

#### 4.9. CONTRACT OBLIGATION

Before a contract becomes binding on Hidalgo County or the Offeror, it must be awarded by the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court, signed by the Hidalgo County Judge, funds for it must be certified by the Hidalgo County Auditor, and an official Hidalgo County Purchase Order must be issued for it by the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department. Elected officials, department heads, other County employees or representatives are NOT authorized to sign agreements for Hidalgo County, 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.

#### 4.10. CONTRACT RENEWALS

Any extension or renewal of the agreement entered into by the parties are made at the County's sole discretion and under the same rates, terms and conditions as the initial agreement, or as amended.

#### 4.11. 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 Purchasing Department, until new services can be completely operational. The successful respondent acknowledges its responsibility to cooperate fully with the replacement vendor and Hidalgo County 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. 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.

#### 4.12. 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. Failure by the Vendor to notify the County 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 County shall not be obligated to pay the Vendor the difference between the contract price and the price adjustment.

#### 4.13. COUNTY APPROVED HOLIDAYS

The Offeror is advised that official County business will not be conducted on approved County holidays. The link of approved holidays can be found on: <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/115/County-Holidays>.

#### 4.14. 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 County, 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 Purchasing Department, or authorized Hidalgo County 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 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 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 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. Additionally, Hidalgo County 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.

#### 4.15. FISCAL FUNDING

Hidalgo County 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 County 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.

**4.15.1 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 County budget for this fiscal year only. Hidalgo County, 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 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. All charges and physical activity related to delivery, installation, removal and re-delivery shall be the responsibility of the Vendor

**4.15.2 Grant Funding.** Any contract entered into by the County that is to be paid from grant funds shall be limited to payment from the grant funding, and the Offeror understands that the County has not set aside any County 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, County contracts subject to assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), require inclusion of the contract terms found in "2 C.F.R. § 200 ". It is the County's intention to comply with FEMA requirements; therefore, any conflict in terms should be resolved as such.

#### 4.16. 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.

#### 4.17. 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 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 County does not agree to binding arbitration and does not waive its right to a jury trial.

#### 4.18. 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 160and164), 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.

#### 4.19. INDEMNIFICATION

**COMPANY SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD COUNTY, ITS ELECTED OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS HARMLESS FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, ACTIONS, LIABILITY, DAMAGES, LOSSES AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING COSTS OF JUDGMENTS, SETTLEMENTS, COURT COSTS, AND ATTORNEYS' FEES, REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF SUCH CLAIM OR ACTION) CAUSED BY, RESULTING FROM, OR ALLEGING NEGLIGENT OR INTENTIONAL ACTS OR OMISSIONS OR ANY FAILURE TO PERFORM ANY OBLIGATION UNDERTAKEN OR ANY COVENANT IN THIS CONTRACT, WHETHER SUCH ACT, OMISSION, OR FAILURE WAS THE COMPANY'S OR THAT OF**

**ANY PERSON PROVIDING SERVICES HEREUNDER THROUGH OR FOR THE COMPANY. UPON WRITTEN NOTICE FROM THE COUNTY, THE COMPANY WILL RESIST AND DEFEND AT ITS OWN EXPENSE, AND BY COUNSEL REASONABLY SATISFACTORY TO COUNTY, ANY SUCH CLAIM OR ACTION. THE COMPANY WILL CARRY PROPER INSURANCE WITH THE COUNTY AS AN ADDITIONAL NAMED INSURED. THIS INDEMNIFICATION CLAUSE SHALL SURVIVE THIS AGREEMENT AND BE ENFORCEABLE AS A SEPARATE AGREEMENT IN THE EVENT ITS SURVIVAL AND ENFORCEMENT BECOME NECESSARY.**

#### 4.20. INSPECTIONS & TESTING

Hidalgo County 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 County 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 County'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 County. Items that are not picked up within one (1) week after notification shall be deemed a donation to the County and may be used or disposed of at the County's discretion, without waiver of any other rights of the County as to the items' nonconformity.

#### 4.21. 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 County as part of this response. (See "**Insurance Requirements**"). Prior to award, Hidalgo County must be listed as a Certificate Holder to the policies.

#### 4.22. 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. The awarded vendor will be required to execute an agreement with Hidalgo County which finalizes the terms and conditions set forth in their response, best and final offer, and any negotiations between the Offeror and Hidalgo County. The agreement is subject to review and amendment by the Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office.

#### 4.23. MAINTENANCE

Maintenance required for equipment proposed should be available in Hidalgo County by a manufacturer-authorized maintenance facility. Costs for this service shall be shown on "**Company/Firm Response**". If Hidalgo County 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.

#### 4.24. MARKET VOLATILITY AND UNIT PRICE ADJUSTMENTS

When applicable, Hidalgo County 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 County Purchasing Agent, the County 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 County Purchasing Agent.
  - 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 Purchasing Agent on the mailing lists for such publications so that the Purchasing Agent can monitor said changes. Such membership shall be at no cost to the County.
  - notify the County 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 County 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 County 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 County may at its own discretion, conduct temporary price adjustment reviews at any time.
- The County Purchasing Agent retains the right to determine whether or not such proposed price changes are in the best interest of the County.
- The County 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 County 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 County 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 County Purchasing Department shall have sole discretion whether to grant the price increase extension.
- The County Purchasing Agent and/or the County Auditor 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 County too, shall have discretion to unilaterally reduce, eliminate or extend a price adjustment to the Vendor at any time upon written notice from the County to the Vendor demonstrating justification for such reduction, elimination or extension of the price adjustment.

#### 4.25. MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS

Under the "Hazardous Communication Act", commonly known as the "Texas Right to Know Act", an Offeror must provide to the County 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.

#### 4.26. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR RESPONSIBLE PROSPECTIVE RESPONDENTS

With their submitted response, the Offeror must affirmatively demonstrate their responsibility as listed on "**Requirements/Specifications**". A prospective respondent, by submitting a response, represents to County that it meets the requirements listed.

#### 4.27. NAME BRANDS

Specifications may reference name brands and model numbers. It is not the intent of Hidalgo County 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 shall act as sole judge in determining equality and acceptability of products offered.

#### 4.28. 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.

#### 4.29. 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 County, and, if applicable, the receipt by County of satisfactory evidence that all subcontractors and material men have been paid.

#### 4.30. PERFORMANCE ENFORCEMENT

Hidalgo County 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 County. Hidalgo County 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 County 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.

#### 4.31. POST-AWARD DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS

Title and Risk of Loss of goods shall not pass to Hidalgo County until Hidalgo County 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 County 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 this procurement packet and/or on the Purchase Order as a "Deliver To:" address.

#### 4.32. 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 County will payon 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. Nocharges may be billed to Hidalgo County unless such costs are explicitly included in the agreement or contract. For billing and payment questions please contact the Hidalgo County Auditor's Office, 2808 S. Business Hwy. 281, Edinburg, Texas 78539, (956) 318-2511.

#### 4.33. PROCEDURES FOR VENDOR PROTEST

Any potential Offeror has the right to protest a solicitation packet or contract award. Details for these procedures can be found on our County website: <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/143/Purchasing-Department>. The Vendor also understands that an awarded contract may immediately become void if the County determines that a lack of compliance with applicable policies and/or statutes has occurred at any time, whether in the procurement process, or after award.

#### 4.34. PROCUREMENT PACKET FORM COMPLETION

When submitting procurement packet response, Respondents must follow the procedures and requirements provided within the procurement packet, including, but not limited to those found in the Invitation Letter, Submission Details and Procurement Overview. An authorized representative of the Offeror should complete all necessary response documentation. **Failure to complete required forms or provide required information and/or to follow procedures and/or requirements may be cause to reject the entire response.**

#### 4.35. PROCUREMENT PACKET SUBMISSION

Offeror must comply with the following procurement packet submission procedures.

**4.35.1** Offeror must submit all completed responses in accordance with the provisions, procedures and requirements provided within the procurement packet, including, but not limited to those found in the Invitation Letter, Submission Details and Procurement Overview by the date and time indicated therein. **Failure to follow packet submission requirements may be cause to reject the entire response. Late submissions will not be accepted for any reason.**

**4.35.2 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.

#### 4.36. 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, "**Vendor Acknowledgment**".

#### 4.37. PURCHASE ORDER AND DELIVERY

The successful Offeror shall not deliver products or provide services without a Hidalgo County Purchase Order, signed by the Hidalgo County Purchasing Director, or an authorized agent of the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department. When applicable, the fastest, most reasonable delivery time shall be indicated by the Offeror in the proper place on "**Company/Firm Response**". 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, without prejudice to other remedies provided by law. **Where delivery times are critical, Hidalgo County 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 Purchasing Director.

#### 4.38. QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFEROR

Offeror's failure to qualify or maintain qualifications throughout the term of this agreement shall release Hidalgo County from all obligations to the Offeror with regard to the services. In such an event, Hidalgo County may elect to engage another qualified firm or reject all submissions and re-advertise.

#### 4.39. RECYCLED MATERIALS

Hidalgo County 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 will be the sole judge in determining product preference application.

#### 4.40. REFERENCES

If applicable, Offeror must provide a total of four (4) references in each response to a solicitation requested by Hidalgo County. **One of the four references listed should be of a project that was canceled. If Offeror has not had a project canceled, then please indicate so.** 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 "**Reference Form**". 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. If Offeror has not had a project canceled, then please indicate so.

#### 4.41. SCANNED OR RE-TYPED RESPONSE

If in its response, Offeror either electronically scans, re-types, or in some way reproduces the County's published procurement packet, then in the event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of the County's published procurement packet, or any portion thereof, and the terms and provisions of the response made by the Offeror, the County's procurement packet **as published** shall control. Furthermore, if an alteration of any kind to the County'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 according to the instructions contained within this procurement packet.**

#### 4.42. 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.

#### 4.43. 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.

#### 4.44. 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 Commissioners Court, or applicable governing body.

#### 4.45. TAXES

Hidalgo County is exempt from all federal excise, state, and local taxes unless otherwise stated in this document. Hidalgo County 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 Purchasing Department, and signed by the Agent, or authorized Purchasing Department representative.

#### 4.46. TERM OF CONTRACTS

If the contract is intended to cover a specific time period, the term will be specified in the **Procurement Overview**. Awarded contract will be in effect until (a) the term expires, or (b) participation is terminated by County 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 County with thirty (30) days written notice prior to cancellation with or without cause, unless otherwise stated in the executed agreement.

#### 4.47. TERMINATION

Hidalgo County 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 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's satisfaction and/or to meet all other obligations and requirements. Hidalgo County may terminate the contract without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice, unless otherwise stated in the executed agreement.

#### 4.48. TERMINATION FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATIONS

Hidalgo County 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.

#### 4.49. USAGE REPORTS

Hidalgo County 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 department, description of each service purchased, quantity of each service purchased, per unit cost and total amount of all services purchased.

#### 4.50. WAIVER OF SUBROGATION

Offeror and Offeror's insurance carrier waive any and all rights whatsoever with regard to subrogation against Hidalgo County 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.

#### 4.51. 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 County 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 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 may correct at the Offeror's expense.

#### 4.52. 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.

## 5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

No.	Evaluation Criteria	Scoring Method	Weight (Points)
1.	<p><b>Executive Summary</b></p> <p>Firm proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the respondent's background, including the number of years in business, size and financial stability, along with compliance of the RFP instructions.</p>	Points Based	15 <i>(15% of Total)</i>
2.	<p><b>Experience</b></p> <p>Demonstrate client satisfaction and candidate's familiarity with the required experience and expertise</p>	Points Based	15 <i>(15% of Total)</i>
3.	<p><b>Project Understanding &amp; Methodology</b></p> <p>Firm understanding of the project Scope of Work, its complexity and commitment of adequate resources to satisfy all project elements and sequences of steps and time that will be necessary to satisfactorily complete all task outlined in Scope of Work</p>	Points Based	25 <i>(25% of Total)</i>
4.	<p><b>Capacity of Performance</b></p> <p>Provides appropriate evidence of adequate staffing</p>	Points Based	25 <i>(25% of Total)</i>
5.	<p><b>Proposal Pricing</b></p> <p>The proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the overall cost effectiveness and clarity in identifying/explaining costs.</p>	Points Based	20 <i>(20% of Total)</i>

## 6. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION DOCUMENTS

- Firms must complete the following sections.
- If the submission is electronic, please proceed with completing all sections. Required documentation will need to be downloaded, completed, and uploaded.
- If the submission is a hard copy, please print the entire packet and complete all sections manually. Required documentation will need to be printed, completed, and included as part of the submission.
- **Failure to submit a complete response may result in the rejection of the response as non-conforming.**

### 6.1. I confirm, that I will be submitting my response electronically.\*

Please confirm and proceed with the electronic submission requirements.

Please confirm

\*Response required

### 6.2. LEGAL NOTICE DECLARATION\*

**TO:** Ignacio Amezcua, MBA, CTCM, CTCD, Purchasing Director

**ATTN:** Pedro Cuadros, CTCD, Contract Specialist II

Hidalgo County Administration Building/Purchasing Department

2802 S. Business Hwy. 281

Edinburg, Texas 78539

**RE:** 25-0138-07-09-05 - Consulting Services for Health & Human Services Department for Public Health Provider Charity Care Program Funding Project

By providing a response to this solicitation, we acknowledge receipt of all of the pages of in this procurement packet. We understand that Hidalgo County 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 County cannot execute a contract for goods or services without this declaration.

Please confirm

\*Response required

### 6.3. REQUIREMENTS/SPECIFICATIONS\*

Refer to "**Requirements/Specifications**" in the [#ATTACHMENTS](#) section. Confirm that you have read, understood, and agree with the "**Requirement/Specifications**".

Please confirm

\*Response required

### 6.4. PROOF OF INSURANCE\*

#### **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 provided 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.

- 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.
- 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 will only accept certificates of insurance on an Acord form (below).**
- 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.

**ACORD 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, FAX, FAC. No., ADDRESS, INSURER(A) AFFORDING COVERAGE, NAIC #

**INSURED:** 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.

LINE	TYPE OF INSURANCE	PERIOD (Month/Year)	POLICY NUMBER	EXPIRES (MM/DD/YYYY)	COVERAGE	LIMITS
	GENERAL LIABILITY				EACH OCCURRENCE	\$
	COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY				EXCESS TO RETIRED PREMISES (If applicable)	\$
	CLAIM-MADE OCCUR				MED EXP (Any one person)	\$
					PERSONAL & ADV INJURY	\$
	GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIED PER POLICY				GENERAL AGGREGATE	\$
					PRODUCTS - COMMERCE AGG.	\$
	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY				COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (See Section)	\$
	ANY OWNED AUTOS				BODILY INJURY (Per person)	\$
	HIRED AUTOS				BODILY INJURY (Per accident)	\$
	UMBRELLA LINE				PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per aggregate)	\$
	EXCESS LINE				EACH OCCURRENCE	\$
					AGGREGATE	\$
	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY				WC STATUS - TORY LIMITS	OTH PR
					EL EACH ACCIDENT	\$
					EL DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE	\$
					EL DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT	\$

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

**CERTIFICATE HOLDER:** Hidalgo County, 100 E. Cano, Suite 201, Edinburg, TX 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

ACORD 25 (2010/05) © 1988-2010 ACORD CORPORATION. All rights reserved.

Please provide or upload your Certificate of Liability Insurance depending on your method of submission.

\*Response required

**6.5. INSURANCE REQUIREMENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT\***

I, an authorized representative for of my company, the company submitting this response, hereby acknowledge receipt of the County's required insurance limits. Said requirements:

- will be acquired within 10 working days after notification from Purchasing Department of award of the project by the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court;

- will acquire additional amount needed to meet the County's requirements within 10 working days after notification from Purchasing Department of award of the project by the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court; currently carry the following:
  - Professional Liability (Errors & Omissions)
  - Automobile Liability
  - General Liability
- have already been met, see attached copy of certificate of insurance.

**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.

Please confirm

\*Response required

**6.6. BID BOND ACKNOWLEDGMENT\***

A Bid Bond for 5% of the project will be required. **The original Bid Bond (Physical Document) will have to be submitted to the Purchasing Department as part of the complete submission.** Payment and Performance Bonds are subject to Texas Local Government Code requirements, if required, the respondent will be advised at the time of award.

\*Please download the below documents, complete, and upload.

- [Bid Bond Acknowledgment.pdf](#)

\*Response required

**6.7. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS ACKNOWLEDGMENT\***

This is to certify that I, an authorized representative of my company, 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** (upload copies here) so that, if my company is awarded this project, I may be eligible to enter into a contract with Hidalgo County 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.

Please confirm

\*Response required

#### 6.8. CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE\*

Please download the below documents, complete, and upload.

- [COI Questionnaire.pdf](#)

\*Response required

#### 6.9. VENDOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT\*

**Please read and acknowledge the required steps necessary to do business with Hidalgo County:**

##### **Step 1:**

**OpenGov** will now serve as the primary source for all Hidalgo County solicitation postings, electronic bidding, and contract management. Any reliance on other information or sources not directly downloaded from OpenGov may result in a submission that is not in compliance.

##### **Link can be found below:**

-<https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/co-hidalgo-tx>

##### **Step 2:**

**ConsiderMe (Vendor Enrollment Solution)** is an innovative tool that facilitates the needs of Hidalgo County to secure qualified vendors. Local, state, and national vendors can apply using the vendor registration form in the link below.

-<https://www.hidalgocounty.us/2912/Potential-Vendors-ConsiderMe>

\*The Vendor Registration Form does not guarantee a contract or agreement, however, it does guarantee your service or goods will be added to the list of potential vendors available to Hidalgo County.

Please confirm

\*Response required

#### 6.10. HUB DECLARATION\*

Please download the below documents, complete, and upload.

- [HUB Declaration.pdf](#)

\*Response required

### 6.11. CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT\*

Please download the below documents, complete, and upload.

- [Certification Regarding Deb...](#)

\*Response required

### 6.12. SAM.GOV REGISTRATION\*

Please enter your company's Legal Name and/or dba Name

\*Response required

### 6.13. FORM 1295\*

Please provide a Form 1295.

- <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/filinginfo/QuickFileAReport.php>
- Reference Consulting Services for Health & Human Services Department for Public Health Provider Charity Care Program Funding Project and 25-0138 on section 3 of the form.
- Be sure to complete section 6 of the form, in order to be valid.

\*Response required

### 6.14. Title VI Appendices - (Please confirm that you have read, understood and agree)\*

#### APPENDIX A

#### THE TITLE VI CONTRACTOR ASSURANCES

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "contractor") agrees as follows:

- 1. Compliance with Regulations:** The contractor will comply with the Regulations relative to nondiscrimination in federally assisted programs of the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, as they may be amended from time to time, which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.
- 2. Nondiscrimination:** The contractor, with regard to the work performed by it during the contract, will not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, income or Limited English Proficiency in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment. The contractor will not participate directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by the Acts and Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers any activity, project, or program set forth in Appendix B of 49 CFR Part 21.
- 3. Solicitations for Subcontracts, Including Procurements of Materials and Equipment:** In all solicitations, either by bidding, or negotiation made by the contractor for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurements of materials, or leases of equipment, each potential subcontractor or supplier will be notified by the contractor of the contractor's obligations under this contract and Acts and the Regulations relative to Non-discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

**4. Information and Reports:** The contractor will provide all information and reports required by the Acts, the Regulations, and directives issued pursuant thereto and will permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined by the Recipient or the federal funding agency (FHWA or FTA) to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Acts, Regulations, and instructions. Where any information required of a contractor is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish this information, the contractor shall so certify to the Recipient or the Federal Funding Agency, as appropriate, and will set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.

**5. Sanctions for Non-compliance:** In the event of the contractor's non-compliance with the Nondiscrimination provisions of this contract, the Recipient will impose such contract sanctions as it or the Federal Funding Agency may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to:

a. withholding contract payments to the contractor under the contract until the contractor complies; and/or

b. cancelling, terminating, or suspending a contract, in whole or in part.

**6. Incorporation of Provisions:** The contractor will include the provisions of paragraphs one through six in every subcontract, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Acts, the Regulations and directives issued pursuant thereto. The contractor will take action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as the Recipient or the Federal Funding Agency may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance. Provided, that if the contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation by a subcontractor, or supplier because of such direction, the contractor may request the Recipient to enter into any litigation to protect the interests of the Recipient. In addition, the contractor may request the United States to enter into the litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

## APPENDIX B

### CLAUSES FOR DEEDS TRANSFERRING UNITED STATES PROPERTY

The following clauses will be included in deeds effecting or recording the transfer of real property, structures, or improvements thereon, or granting interest therein from the United States pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 4:

NOW, THEREFORE, the U.S. Department of Transportation as authorized by law and upon the condition that the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** will accept title to the lands and maintain the project constructed thereon in accordance with (Name of Appropriate Legislative Authority), the Regulations for the Administration of (Naming of Appropriate Program), and the policies and procedures prescribed by the (Federal Highway Administration) of the U.S. Department of Transportation in accordance and in compliance with all requirements imposed by Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Non-discrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S Department of Transportation pertaining to and effectuating the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252; 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4), does hereby remise, release, quitclaim and convey unto the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** all the right, title and interest of the U.S. Department of Transportation in and to said lands described in Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(HABENDUM CLAUSE)

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said lands and interests therein unto **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** and its successors forever, subject, however, to the covenants, conditions, restrictions and reservations herein contained as follows, which will remain in effect for the period during which the real property or structures are used for a purpose for which Federal financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits and will be binding on the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO**, its successors and assigns.

The **COUNTY OF HIDALGO**, in consideration of the conveyance of said lands and interests in lands, does hereby covenant and agree as a covenant running with the land for itself, its successors and assigns, that (1) no person will on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination with regard to any facility located wholly or in part on, over, or under such lands hereby conveyed [ , ] [and] \* (2) that the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** will use the lands and interests in lands and interests in lands so conveyed, in compliance with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and as said Regulations and Acts may be amended[, and (3) that in the event of breach of any of the above-mentioned non-discrimination conditions, the Department will have a right to enter or re-enter said lands and facilities on said land, and that above described land and facilities will thereon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the U.S. Department of Transportation and its assigns as such interest existed prior to this instruction]. \*

(\*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary in order to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

#### APPENDIX C

#### CLAUSES FOR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED OR IMPROVED UNDER THE ACTIVITY, FACILITY, OR PROGRAM

The following clauses will be included in deeds, licenses, leases, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(a):

A. The (grantee, lessee, permittee, etc. as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree [in the case of deeds and leases add "as a covenant running with the land"] that:

1. In the event facilities are constructed, maintained, or otherwise operated on the property described in this (deed, license, lease, permit, etc.) for a purpose for which a U.S. Department of Transportation activity, facility, or program is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits, the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will maintain and operate such facilities and services in compliance with all requirements imposed by the Acts and Regulations (as may be amended) such that no person on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities.

B. With respect to licenses, leases, permits, etc., in the event of breach of any of the above Nondiscrimination covenants, **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** will have the right to terminate the (lease, license, permit, etc.) and to enter, re-enter, and repossess said lands and facilities thereon, and hold the same as if the (lease, license, permit, etc.) had never been made or issued.\*

C. With respect to a deed, in the event of breach of any of the above Non-discrimination covenants, the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** will have the right to enter or re-enter the lands and facilities thereon, and the above described lands and facilities will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** and its assigns. \*

(\*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to make clear the purpose of Title VI.

#### **APPENDIX D**

##### **CLAUSES FOR CONSTRUCTION/USE/ACCESS TO REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED UNDER THE ACTIVITY, FACILITY OR PROGRAM**

The following clauses will be included in deeds, licenses, permits, or similar instruments/agreements entered into by **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(b)”

A. The (grantee, licensee, permittee, etc., as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree (in the case of deeds and leases add, “as a covenant running with the land”) that (1) no person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities, (2) that in the construction of any improvements on, over, or under such land, and the furnishing of services thereon, no person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination, (3) that the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will use the premises in compliance with all other requirements imposed by or pursuant to the List of discrimination Acts And Authorities.

B. With respect to (licenses, leases, permits, etc.), in the event of breach of any of the above nondiscrimination covenants, **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** will have the right to terminate the (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) and to enter or re-enter and repossess said land and the facilities thereon, and hold the same as if said (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) had never been made or issued.\*

C. With respect to deeds, in the event of breach of any of the above nondiscrimination covenants, **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** and its assigns.\*

(\*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

#### **APPENDIX E**

##### **TITLE VI LIST OF PERTINENT NONDISCRIMINATION ACTS AND AUTHORITIES**

During the performance of this contract, the Contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the “Contractor”) agrees to comply with the following non-discrimination statutes and authorities; including but not limited to:

##### **Pertinent Nondiscrimination Authorities**

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin);

- 49 CFR part 21 (Non-discrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation—Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964);
- The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, (42 USC § 4601) (prohibits unfair treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired because of Federal or Federal-aid programs and projects);
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC § 794 et seq.), as amended (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability); and 49 CFR part 27;
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 USC § 6101 et seq.) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of age);
- Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982 (49 USC § 471, Section 47123), as amended (prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, or sex);
- The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (PL 100-209) (broadened the scope, coverage and applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, by expanding the definition of the terms “programs or activities” to include all of the programs or activities of the Federal-aid recipients, sub-recipients and contractors, whether such programs or activities are Federally funded or not);
- Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities (42 USC §§ 12131 – 12189) as implemented by U.S. Department of Transportation regulations at 49 CFR parts 37 and 38;
- The Federal Aviation Administration’s Nondiscrimination statute (49 USC § 47123) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex);
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, which ensures nondiscrimination against minority populations by discouraging programs, policies, and activities with disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations;
- Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, and resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination because of limited English proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with Title VI, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to your programs (70 Fed. Reg. at 74087 to 74100);
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, which prohibits you from discriminating because of sex in education programs or activities (20 USC 1681 et seq).

Please confirm

\*Response required

## [6.15. REQUIRED CONTRACT CLAUSES FOR NON-FEDERAL ENTITY CONTRACTS UNDER FEDERAL AWARDS\\*](#)

Please download the below documents, complete, and upload.

- [2\\_CFR\\_200.pdf](#)

\*Response required

#### 6.16. [FHWA 1273\\*](#)

Refer to "FHWA 1273" in the [#ATTACHMENTS](#) section. Confirm that you have read, understood and agree with "FHWA 1273."

Please confirm

\*Response required

#### 6.17. [PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT OF NON-COLLUSION, NON-CONFLICT OF INTEREST, AND ANTI-LOBBYING\\*](#)

Please download the below documents, complete, and upload.

- [Proposer's Affidavit.pdf](#)

\*Response required

#### 6.18. [DRAFT AGREEMENT\\*](#)

Refer to "Draft Agreement" in the [#ATTACHMENTS](#) section. Confirm that you read, understood, and agree with "Draft Agreement."

Please confirm

\*Response required

#### 6.19. [DEFICIENCIES AND DEVIATIONS FORM\\*](#)

Please download the below documents, complete, and upload.

- [Deficiencies and Deviations...](#)

\*Response required

#### 6.20. [REFERENCE FORM\\*](#)

Please download the below documents, complete, and upload.

- [Reference Form.pdf](#)

\*Response required

#### 6.21. [COMPANY/FIRM RESPONSE\\*](#)

Please upload your response to this RFP as requested in *Requirements/Specifications*.

\*Response required

**Specifications / Requirements**  
**Hidalgo County**  
**“CONSULTING SERVICES FOR HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH PROVIDER CHARITY CARE PROGRAM FUNDING PROJECT”**  
**RFP NO.: 25-0138-07-09-05**

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Hidalgo County is requesting sealed proposals from experienced firms with the background, experience, skills and capability to provide Consulting Services for state funding eligible for The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Public Health Provider – Charity Care Program (PHP-CCP) which allows qualified providers to receive reimbursement for the cost of delivering healthcare services, including behavioral health services, immunizations, and other preventative services when those costs are not reimbursed by another source. The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to solicit responses that result in a contract with one or more qualified Respondent(s) who can demonstrate that they have the resources, experience and qualifications to perform the services described herein.

**OVERVIEW:**

Hidalgo County is seeking a qualified vendor to provide consulting services to access to state funds eligible for HHSC & PHP-CCP for Hidalgo County. The vendor must have the resources and capabilities to plan, access, draft, and submit a plan to the HHSC & PHP-CCP.

**SPECIFICATIONS / SCOPE OF SERVICES / REQUIREMENTS**

The following are the minimum requirements and/or specifications that will be acceptable to Hidalgo County. These requirements and/or specifications may be equal to or better. Any proposal that does not meet the minimum requirements and/or specifications will be rejected, including but not limited to:

1. Develop Financial Assistance Policy and Charity Care Policy. The policy must follow the guidelines illustrated in the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA). A comprehensive policy to include:
  - Charity Care and Uninsured Related Definitions
  - Effective Date (must be on or before the cost reporting period)
  - Eligibility Criteria
  - Eligibility Determination Methodology
  - Community Communication Plan
  - Regulatory Requirements
  - List of Participating Providers
  
2. Prepare and complete a Public Health Provider Cost Report Annually (due 45 days after the end of the cost report period (October 1)).
  - Only costs for charity care services delivered in the program year and not reimbursed by another source are eligible for reimbursement.
  - Costs report will include only allocable expenditures
  - Cost reports may not include costs for services delivered to persons who are incarcerated at the time of the services or costs for services delivered by an institution for Mental Diseases.

3. Develop Cost-To-Charge Ratio
4. Prepare and complete **DSHS STAIRS Steps 1 and 2 – Entity Data**
  - Entity Identification
  - General Information
5. Prepare and complete **DSHS STAIRS Step 3 -Contract Management**
  - Verify contracts for requested reports.
  - Enter other Business components (other contracts, grants or business relationship with the State of Texas or any other entity of funding source)
  - Verify Business Component Summary
6. Prepare and complete **DSHS STAIRS Step 4 – General Information**
  - Primary National Provider Identification Number (NPI)
  - Reporting Period (October 1 – September 30)
  - Associated Texas Provider Identification Numbers (TPIs)
  - Associated National Provider Identification Number (NPIs)
  - Review the most recently received Provider Adjustment Report and make the necessary revisions when preparing this report
  - Prepare an approved Cost Allocation Plan.
  - Provide a list of personnel cost worksheets that support the CAP, otherwise attach in detail the allocation methodology that will be used for allocating costs on the cost report.
  - Provide a list of personnel cost worksheets that support your CAP, otherwise attach in detail the allocation methodology that will be used for allocating costs on the cost report.
7. Prepare and complete **DSHS STAIRS Step 5 – General and Statistical**
  - Charity Care Reimbursements
  - Total Billed Charges Associated with Charity Care
  - Total Uninsured Billed Charges (excluding charity care)
  - Total Billed Charges associated with Medicaid FFS Paid claims
  - Total Billed Charges associated with MCO paid claims
  - Medicare costs
  - Other Third-Party Insurance Coverage
  - Self-pay, County/City Indigent Recipient Program Costs
  - Total Charges (All Sources)
  - Total Charity Care Encounters
  - Medicaid Clients Served
  - All Clients Served (Medical + Non-Medical)
8. Prepare and complete **DSHS STAIRS Step 6 – Payroll and Benefits**
  - All personnel - related expenditures and hours for the job classifications identified
  - Provide supporting documentation

9. Prepare and complete **DSHS STAIRS Step 7 – Payroll Taxes and Federal Funding Reductions**
    - Employer FICA
    - Other payroll taxes
    - Unemployment taxes and compensation
    - Federal and other funding reductions (grants, donations, appropriations)
    - Identify the expenditures for any individual employee/contractor that must have a portion of their salary and/or benefits reduced from allowable expenditures on the cost report.
  
  10. Prepare and complete **DSHS STAIRS Step 8.a – Depreciation Expense & Purchase of Depreciable Assets**
    - Asset Description
    - Month/Year Placed in Service
    - Month/Year of disposal
    - Years useful life
    - Historical costs
    - Salvage Value
    - Prior Period Accumulated Depreciation
    - Depreciation for Reporting Period
    - Determine whether to expense or depreciate a purchased item
  
  11. Prepare and complete **DSHS STAIRS Step 8.b – Facility, Operations and Other Costs**
    - Identify other operating costs not related to the job classifications in Step 6
    - Support services or other
  
  12. Prepare and complete **DSHS STAIRS Step 9 – Preparer Verification**
    - Summarize all service costs
    - Only allocable expenditures related to Charity Care as defined and approved in the Texas Healthcare Transformation and Quality Improvement 1115 Waiver Program will be included for supplemental payment.
  
  13. Prepare and complete **DSHS STAIRS Step 10 – Report Certifications**
    - Cost Report Certification signed by an individual legally responsible for conduct of the provider, such as the authorized agent.
  
  14. Prepare and complete **DSHS STAIRS Step 11 – Report Certifications**
    - Claimed Expenditures are allocable and allowable to the State Medicaid program under Title XIX of the Social Security Act and in accordance with all procedures, instructions, and guidance issued by the single state agency and in effect during the cost report year.
  
  15. Cost Report Submission/ Review Process
    - Assist with DSHS informal reviews of specific items
    - Assist with DSHS formal appeals
-

16. Follow the following Texas Administrative Code (TAC)
  - 1TAC Sections 355.101-107 (Cost Determination Process)
  - 1TAC Section 355.110 (Informal Reviews and Formal Appeals)
  - 1TAC Section 355.8217 (Payments to Public Health Providers for Charity Care)

In addition, the Respondent will review the policies and procedures used by the County to identify such additional Federal, State, and other revenue sources, if any, as may be available to the County through participation in new programs or expansion of existing PHP-CCP. These efforts may include any of the following activities: advising the County of the reimbursement opportunity, preparing or enhancing the claim, preparing or assisting with submittal packages, preparing audit files, assisting the County with submittals, assisting the County should it be audited for claims on which the vendor assisted, or other related federal revenue enhancement activities. The Respondent will continually monitor for new opportunities of funding. Whenever a new federal or state reimbursement opportunity arises, the respondent will notify the County of that opportunity.

Consultant should be well informed of Code of Federal Regulations 2 (CFR) 200 (Uniform Guidance), as well as understandings of various state rules and regulations.

The consultant(s) awarded a contract shall maintain adequate records to justify all charges, expenses, and costs incurred in estimating and performing the work for at least three (3) years after completion of the later of final grant closeout or final audit of any project work performed under contract resulting from this RFP. The County shall have access to all records, documents and information collected and/or maintained by others in the course of the administration of the agreement. Successful awardees will be expected to comply with applicable Federal and State grant requirements relating to program's invoices.

The respondent shall provide a narrative of the firm's qualities, experience, and capabilities of personnel. Firm qualifications must include, at minimum but not limited the following:

- **Relevant Experience** – Recent experience demonstrating current capacity and expertise in assisting agencies in administering programs and other state or locally funded grant programs; or other federally funded grant programs.
- **Project Approach** – Describe the approach and methodology that will be used to accomplish the work herein.
- **Qualifications of Staff** - Describe the composition and structure of the firm and include the names of persons with an interest in the firm. Key project staff of the proposing firm must have three years' experience, working in the field of grant consulting and should be available during normal working hours.
- **Key Staff** – The Respondent shall include a list of the proposed staff that will perform the work required if awarded this contract and a summary of staff qualifications. Provide resume representative of staff likely to be assigned to this project. An organizational chart and management plan should be included in this section. The Respondent shall also include minimum qualifications for each class of employee of the project team and identify his or her role on the team.

- **Technical Approach** - Provide a description of the respondent’s approach to the project, to include Start-up procedures or requirements.

**PRICING**

Provide pricing for the proposed consulting services for Hidalgo County. Pricing should be presented in the format shown below.

On a separate page, identify all itemized services required that will be provided. Respondent shall provide a detailed description and quantity of each item and provide a detailed description of how services will affect the project.

<u>Item No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
1	Advise the County of the Reimbursement Opportunity	\$ _____
2	Prepare or enhancing the claim	\$ _____
3	Prepare the submittal package	\$ _____
4	Prepare audit files	\$ _____
5	Assist County with submittals	\$ _____
6	Assist County should it be audited for claims which the company assisted	\$ _____
Total		\$ _____

**OPTIONAL / VALUE ADDED SERVICES**

Vendors may propose optional or value-added services described in the specifications and/or listed on the Pricing Chart mentioned above of this RFP by services not identified in this RFP. At a minimum, discuss service capabilities and reasons why it would be valuable for this project.



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. County reserves the right to evaluate any services provided by the Company and to reject the same if not in compliance with the specifications as provided in **Exhibits “A” and “B”**. If the County finds it necessary to require changes in the work provided because of errors made by the Company, the County shall require the Company to correct the work at no cost to the County and without amendment to the Agreement. Further, Hidalgo County 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 **four (4) year(s)**, commencing on **Month 00, 2025** and expiring on **Month 00, 202X**, unless sooner terminated. The term of this agreement may be extended at the County’s sole discretion for **two (2) additional one (1) year term(s)** under the same rates, terms and conditions. Hidalgo County also reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period, under the same rates, terms, and conditions for the unforeseen delay in award of new bid for the next contract term.

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

5. **Licenses/Certifications.** 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, including the State of Texas, during the term hereof to provide the Services. Company further represents that it is qualified to perform and execute the services described above. If such license or permit is suspended or revoked, this Contract shall automatically be terminated and Company shall immediately notify the County. Company shall provide the County with all current state certifications, permits, and/or licenses with applicable seals, or as otherwise required by the State of Texas.

6. **Equipment.** If applicable, Company shall provide a sufficient number of trucks, vehicles, personnel and equipment available to safely and efficiently provide the Services. 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. **Independent Contractor.** The Company must comply with all applicable Hidalgo County policies and with any applicable federal, state, or local laws, regulations, orders, or ordinances applicable to the Services provided by Company under this Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, Company represents and maintains that Company is an Independent Contractor and is not an employee of the County, or any agency thereof, and represents and warrants that Company does not desire or request any fringe benefits provided to employees of

County, and/or any agency of the County, including but not limited to benefits associated with Hidalgo County's Civil Service Program. This Contract and the performance by the Parties hereunder does not create an agency relationship or master-servant relationship. Company agrees to be responsible for any federal income tax, withholding or social security tax liability that might arise from payments received hereunder. Company will incur no financial obligation on behalf of the County without prior written approval of the County. Company will be responsible for all personal and professional expenses, including, but not limited to, membership fees and dues and expenses of attending conventions and meetings. The County will have no right to direct or control the details, manner or means by which Company or its affiliates provide the Services, except as otherwise set forth in this Agreement. Company agrees to not take any action that is detrimental to, or not in the best interest of the County.

8. **Termination.** County may terminate this Agreement without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice.

9. **Non-Exclusive Services of Company.** Hidalgo County reserves the right to request this Product, Good and/or service from other sources other than the Company and shall not be in violation of any terms or conditions of this Agreement.

10. **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, Company'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 the County 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 County. 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 the County as an additional insured. Company shall notify County 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 County upon request. Company will be considered in breach of contract should the Company fail to maintain an insurance policy in the minimum limits of liability and requirements identified above while performing services for and under this Agreement, and will be subject to default and immediate termination of the Agreement. Additionally, Company covenants and agrees to use its best efforts to maintain an insurance policy in the minimum limits of liability and requirements identified above until one year following the conclusion of this Agreement.

11. **INDEMNIFICATION.** COMPANY SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD COUNTY, ITS ELECTED OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS HARMLESS FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, ACTIONS, LIABILITY, DAMAGES, LOSSES AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING COSTS OF JUDGMENTS, SETTLEMENTS, COURT COSTS, AND ATTORNEYS' FEES, REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF SUCH CLAIM OR ACTION) CAUSED BY, RESULTING FROM, OR ALLEGING NEGLIGENT OR INTENTIONAL ACTS OR OMISSIONS OR ANY FAILURE TO PERFORM ANY OBLIGATION UNDERTAKEN OR ANY COVENANT IN THIS CONTRACT, WHETHER SUCH ACT, OMISSION, OR FAILURE WAS THE COMPANY'S OR THAT OF ANY PERSON PROVIDING SERVICES HEREUNDER THROUGH OR FOR THE COMPANY. UPON WRITTEN NOTICE FROM THE COUNTY, THE COMPANY WILL RESIST AND DEFEND AT ITS OWN EXPENSE, AND BY COUNSEL REASONABLY SATISFACTORY TO COUNTY, ANY SUCH CLAIM OR ACTION. THE COMPANY WILL CARRY PROPER INSURANCE WITH THE COUNTY AS AN ADDITIONAL NAMED INSURED. THIS INDEMNIFICATION CLAUSE SHALL SURVIVE THIS AGREEMENT AND BE ENFORCEABLE AS A SEPARATE AGREEMENT IN THE EVENT ITS SURVIVAL AND ENFORCEMENT BECOME NECESSARY.

12. **Notice.** Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, all notices, demands, requests, or communications required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall either be (i) personally delivered against a written receipt, or (ii) sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid and addressed to the parties at the addresses set forth below, or at such other addresses as may have been theretofore specified by written notice delivered in accordance herewith:

If to County:           The County of Hidalgo  
                                  Attn: County Judge  
                                  100 E. Cano, 2nd Floor  
                                  Edinburg, Texas 78539

If to Company:        Company Name:  
                                  Attn:  
                                  Address  
                                  City, State, Zip Code

Each notice, demand, request, or communication which shall be delivered or mailed in the manner described above shall be deemed sufficiently given for all purposes at such time as it is personally delivered to the addresses or if mailed at such time as it is deposited in the United States mail.

13. **GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

- a. **Assignment.** Except as otherwise herein provided, Company shall not assign the obligations or rights under this Agreement to any person without the prior written consent of County.
- b. **Conflict with Applicable Laws.** Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to require the commission of any act contrary to law, and whenever there is any conflict between any provision of this Agreement and any present or future law, ordinance or administrative, executive or judicial regulation, order or decree, or amendment thereof, contrary to which the

parties have no legal right to contract, the latter shall prevail, but in such event, the affected provision or provisions of this Agreement shall be modified only to the extent necessary to bring them within the legal requirements and only during the time such conflict exists. 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.

- c. **No Waiver.** No waiver by County of any breach of any provision of this Agreement shall be deemed to be a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach of the same or any other provision hereof.
- d. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, and all obligations of the parties created hereunder are performable in Hidalgo County, Texas. The Company hereby consents to personal jurisdiction in Hidalgo County, Texas.
- e. **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.
- f. **Commitment of Current Revenues Only.** In the event that, during any term hereof, the Commissioners Court does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of County under this Agreement, County may terminate this Agreement upon ninety (90) days written notice to Company. County 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 County. *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 Commissioner's Court does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of County under this Agreement, County may terminate this Agreement upon ninety (90) days written notice to Company, County 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 County in accordance with the Texas Local Government Code.
- g. **Immunities.** Nothing in this Agreement is intended to and County does not hereby waive, release or relinquish any right to assert any of the defenses County enjoys by virtue of the state or federal constitution, laws, rules or regulations, and any sovereign, official or qualified immunity available to County as to any claim or action of any person, entity, or individual against County.

- h. **Headings.** The headings and captions contained in this Agreement are solely for convenient reference and shall not be deemed to affect the meaning or interpretation of any provision or paragraph hereof.
- i. **Gender and Number.** All pronouns used in this Agreement shall include the other gender, whether used in the masculine, feminine or neuter gender, and the singular shall include the plural whenever and as often as may be appropriate.
- j. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and each party acknowledges that neither has made (either directly or through any agent or representative) any representations or agreements in connection with this Agreement not specifically set forth herein. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by an agreement in writing executed by County and Company, and not otherwise.
- k. **Purchasing Ethics.** Company represents and warrants it has not, during the process of being awarded this contract violated the following ethical standards of County and, upon and after the execution of this Agreement, agrees to abide by the following ethical standards of County:
  - i. 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 County, or for any elected official, department head or employee or former elected official, department head or employee of County, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, entity or organization, a gratuity or an office 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 proposal therefore pending before any department or agency of County.
  - ii. 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 County, or any person associated therewith, as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.
- l. **Void Contract.** Company understands that an awarded contract may immediately become void if the County determines that a lack of compliance with applicable policies and/or statutes has occurred in the procurement process.
- m. **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.

- n. **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 Agreement.
- o. **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, County 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.
- p. **Authority to Execute.** The execution and performance of this Agreement by County and Company have been duly authorized by all necessary laws, resolutions, or corporate action, and this Agreement constitutes the valid and enforceable obligations of County and Company in accordance with its terms.

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

**EXECUTED** as of the day and year first written above.

**APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT ON** Month 00, 20.

**Agenda Item No.**                     

**Executive Office:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VENDOR:**  
Company Name

**COUNTY:**  
COUNTY OF HIDALGO, Texas

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name, Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Richard F. Cortez, County Judge

**APPROVED AS TO FORM**  
Office of the Hidalgo County  
Criminal District Attorney,  
Toribio "Terry" Palacios

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADA NAME, Assistant District Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arturo Guajardo, Jr., County Clerk

**ATTACHMENTS:**  
(If Applicable)

**SUPPLEMENTAL SIGNATURES:**  
(If Applicable)

# EXHIBIT “B”

COMPANY’S RESPONSE

**RFP NUMBER: 25-0138-07-09-05**

**JUSTICE BENEFITS, INC.**

**Consulting Services for Health & Human Services  
Department for Public Health Provider  
Charity Care Program Funding Project**

Wednesday July 9, 2025

Justice Benefits, Inc (JBI, Ltd) is pleased to submit this proposal for Consulting Services for Health & Human Services Department for Public Health Provider Charity Care Program Funding Project. JBI is committed to working effectively and efficiently with Hidalgo County Health and Human Services to claim reimbursements from the Charity Care Program.

JBI has built strong relationships at both County and State levels and is contracted with over 600 local governments nationwide. JBI has specialized in Federal Funding since 1997. JBI has been partnered with Texas Health entities since 2008 for Medicaid Administrative Claiming. In 2024, we expanded our services to assist departments with the Charity Care Program. JBI looks forward to assisting Hidalgo County Health and Human Services with this reimbursement opportunity.

If you have any questions or need further clarification about any aspect of the proposal, please do not hesitate to call me at (972) 406-3745. We appreciate the opportunity to assist the staff of Hidalgo County.

*Authorized Contact:*

Makenna Parsons

Regional Vice President  
Office: 972-406-3745  
Email: mparsons@jbi-ltd.com  
Address: 1711 E. Belt Line Road  
Coppell, TX 75019



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# JUSTICE BENEFITS, INC. RFP 25-0138-07-09-05

## CONSULTING SERVICES FOR CHARITY CARE PROGRAM FUNDING PROJECT

Hidalgo County Health and Human Services, Texas

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Justice Benefits, Inc. (JBI) is pleased to submit this proposal to provide consulting services for Hidalgo County Health and Human Services. As a nationally recognized company, incorporated in 1997, JBI has successfully worked with state and local agencies to implement and enhance federal funding programs. Our expertise in federal reimbursement programs spans multiple departments, including health departments, sheriff offices, probation departments, and district attorneys' offices.

At JBI, we understand the value of maximizing Charity Care funding to support Hidalgo County in delivering high-quality health services to the uninsured population. We are committed to providing high-quality services, utilizing industry-leading technologies, top-tier expertise, and proven best practices to ensure that the county secures the maximum federal funding for which it is eligible.

The Charity Care program requirements detail the need for transparent policies, accurate claiming methodologies and appropriate supporting documentation, highlighting the need for strong internal controls. JBI will work closely with the agency to ensure the program is built to satisfy these requirements and that claims are submitted in compliance with Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) guidelines. Our full-service solutions include:

- **Program Planning & Project Development:** Assisting the agency in developing Charity Care documents, reports, and standard operating processes in accordance with program guidelines.
- **Claims Processing & Compliance:** Conducting thorough financial reviews to identify all eligible expenses and completing the financial claim for program reimbursement.
- **Financial Analysis & Reporting:** Delivering detailed revenue estimates, budget projections, and cost analyses to support financial planning.
- **Training & Support:** Educating staff on reimbursable functions and costs, developing tailored strategies to enhance funding opportunities.
- **Audit & Documentation Assistance:** Preparing all necessary documentation, providing compliance guidance, and offering audit support to ensure ongoing program success.

Our mission is to establish and maintain a successful partnership with Hidalgo County Health and Human Services by providing comprehensive support in accessing and maximizing federal funding opportunities. JBI is dedicated to delivering customized services that meet the department's specific needs, ensuring compliance, and optimizing financial outcomes. We look forward to collaborating closely with Hidalgo County to exceed expectations and drive lasting success.



## EXPERIENCE

For nearly 30 years, JBI has specialized in federal reimbursement programs and Time Study Solutions for various departments. As described in this proposal, JBI possesses the expertise required to implement and maintain Charity Care claiming successfully. JBI's experience specifically with reimbursement programs for health and human services entities spans across multiple states. Further details and specific projects are outlined in this proposal.

## PROJECT UNDERSTANDING & METHODOLOGY

### OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

1. **Development of Financial Assistance Policy and Charity Care Policy:** JBI will create a comprehensive policy that includes definitions related to charity care and uninsured patients, effective dates, eligibility criteria, and determination methodologies. Additionally, we will develop a community communication plan, ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, and provide a list of participating providers.
2. **Preparation and Completion of Public Health Provider Cost Report Annually:** Our team will prepare the annual cost report, ensuring that only eligible costs for charity care services are included. We will exclude costs for services provided to incarcerated individuals or by institutions for mental diseases, and ensure all expenditures are allocable.
3. **Development of Cost-To-Charge Ratio:** JBI will develop a cost-to-charge ratio to accurately reflect the relationship between costs incurred and charges billed for services provided.
4. **Completion of DSHS STAIRS Steps 1-11:** JBI will handle all steps required by DSHS STAIRS, including entity data, contract management, general information, statistical data, payroll and benefits, payroll taxes and federal funding reductions, depreciation expenses, facility and operations costs, preparer verification, and report certifications.
5. **Cost Report Submission/Review Process:** Our team will assist with the submission of cost reports and provide support during informal reviews and formal appeals conducted by DSHS.
6. **Compliance with Texas Administrative Code (TAC):** JBI will ensure full compliance with relevant sections of the Texas Administrative Code, including cost determination processes, informal reviews and formal appeals, and payments to public health providers for charity care.

**Additional Services:** JBI will review the County's policies and procedures to identify additional revenue sources and continuously monitor for new funding opportunities, notifying the County as they arise.

### FINANCIAL SERVICES

JBI's Financial Team has decades of training on the complexities of federal grants and cost compiling. Each fiscal year, JBI will compile a Charity Care cost report on behalf of the County. The Charity Care claim is a compilation of data from many sources. Payroll, expenditures, and revenue information will be provided by the client. JBI specializes in capturing all costs allocable to the Charity Care Program. JBI will customize each cost report to the County's organizational structure and accounting systems. JBI will:

- Review County's Charity Care Policy and Application to ensure compliance with program guidelines
- Review County's Chargemaster and assist with necessary changes



- Analyze revenues to ensure there is no duplication of costs claimed
- Analyze expenditures for maximized reimbursement potential
- Review payroll data to ensure all reimbursement opportunities are included
- Provide continuous follow-up with staff on any missing information or needed documentation to ensure maximized reimbursement potential
- Compile a completed claim for the County to approve
- Ensure all deadlines are met
- Implement an audit procedure and quality assurance process to ensure all costs are being claimed accurately.

## **TRAINING & PROGRAM PLANNING**

JBI will educate staff on reimbursable activities and compliance requirements. Routine check-in meetings are conducted starting in the implementation phase and continuing throughout the fiscal year. This allows JBI to walk through each step of the claiming process with the County. JBI will provide the financial training materials needed for program understanding and program planning.

## **CLAIM SUPPORT & PROJECT PLAN**

Below is our project plan, outlining the 6 steps that our Charity Care team will follow to implement this program in Hidalgo County successfully and efficiently. All of JBI's services follow HHSC, HMFA, and Federal guidelines.

### **PHASE ONE**

#### **1.1 Establish Charity Care Committee**

- Determine which agency staff would be appropriate to attend regular and on-going Charity Care meetings (administration, supervisors, frontline staff, fiscal, IT)
- Introduce JBI team (project implementation, financial support, technical assistance)
- Establish a "kick-off" meeting date for initial program explanation and needs assessment
- JBI team will schedule regular and on-going meetings to guide the agency through the process to build the Charity Care program
- Create meeting agendas for check-in call discussions
- Provide action items for respective agencies
- Answer questions and provide technical assistance
- Provide call re-cap summaries and schedule next check-ins

#### **1.2 Develop and approve Charity Care & Financial Assistance Policy**

- Draft Charity Care & Financial Assistance Policy in accordance with the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) guidelines and 1 TAC §355.8217
- Draft policy sections (definitions, eligibility, communication, participating providers)
- Define key terms: Charity Care, Medically Necessary, Uninsured, etc.
- Define FPL thresholds and sliding scale percentages for eligibility
- Determine how policy will be communicated to the public



- Determine what units and providers perform eligible services and will be included in the Charity Care program
- Present draft to leadership for approval
- Review draft with legal counsel
- Publish policy on internal system and public facing website with an effective date prior to the start of the Charity Care program

### **1.3 Define eligibility, application process, approval timelines**

#### **1.4 Develop Charity Care Application process and forms**

- Develop Charity Care Application and check list of required documents
- Define FPL thresholds and sliding scale percentages
- Designate protocols for clients unable to provide required documents (affidavit of no income, etc.)
- Determine application format best suited for client needs and current agency practices (e.g., paper form provided at intake, electronic application completed on tablet)
- Translate into required languages (e.g., Spanish, Vietnamese)
- Distribute via website, front desk, and patient portal |
- Set standard timeline for approval (e.g., 30 days)
- Set standard timeline for client re-screenings (e.g., 6 months, 1 year)
- Present draft application to leadership for approval
- Review draft application with legal counsel
- Publish application in coordination with the Charity Care policy and post to public facing website
- Create SOP for staff collecting and processing Charity Care applications

#### **1.5 Develop Charity Care Chargemaster**

- Define services eligible for Charity Care reimbursement
- Develop or update the agency Chargemaster that aligns with area financial demographics
- Ensure Electronic Health Records systems are updated to reflect Chargemaster fees for services provided
- Ensure Electronic Health Records systems have the ability to report the amount of Charity Care services provided within a specified timeframe

#### **1.6 Develop Community Communication Plan**

- Draft multilingual communication templates of Charity Care Policy and Application
- Post signage in registration and waiting areas
- Publish policy summary on patient billing statements
- Train front desk staff to explain availability of program



### **1.7 Create provider participation list**

- Determine which clinics provide eligible services
- Gather associated provider staff and locations
- Create and maintain a master participation list for cost report supporting documentation and to be uploaded into the STAIRS system

## **PHASE 2 – INFRASTRUCTURE SETUP**

### **2.1 Configure EHR/Billing System for Charity Care tracking**

- Review agency Electronic Health Record systems to understand documentation fields for all client types (self-pay, private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, no insurance, etc.)
- Add Charity Care indicator to patient accounts
- Track Charity Care application status (approved/denied/date of last screen)
- Program system to tag Charity Care charges
- Program system to remind frontline staff of Charity Care re-screens needed
- Test reporting tools for data extraction (Charges Billed and Charity Care file exports)
- Document user training and workflows

### **2.2 Develop staff training**

- Create presentation and handouts
- Schedule in-person and/or virtual training sessions
- Solicit questions and provide technical assistance
- Track participation and collect feedback

## **PHASE 3**

### **3.1 Develop Cost-to-Charge Ratio (CCR)**

- Develop charge master with county.
- Pull data from billing for total charges by department
- Calculate direct and indirect costs for each service line
- Use Medicare CCR methodology
- Document source data and methodologies utilized

### **3.2 Create Personnel Cost Worksheets**

- List all staff assigned to Charity Care services
- Pull staff salary and benefit costs
- Link each position to a cost center

### **3.3 Documentation standards for allowable costs**



- Document all allowable/unallowable expenses
- Create documentation SOPs (payroll reports, general ledgers, transaction details)
- Records will be securely stored using JBI's government-encrypted software up to seven years.

#### **PHASE 4 and 5 – DSHS STAIRS SYSTEM PROVIDER DATA AND COST REPORT SUBMISSION**

- **Entity Data:** Entity identification and general information.
- **Contract Management:** Verification of contracts and business components.
- **General Information:** Reporting period details, provider identification numbers, and cost allocation plan.
- **General and Statistical Data:** Charity care reimbursements, billed charges, and client data.
- **Payroll and Benefits:** Documentation of personnel-related expenditures.
- **Payroll Taxes and Federal Funding Reductions:** Details of payroll taxes and funding reductions.
- **Depreciation Expense & Purchase of Depreciable Assets:** Asset descriptions and depreciation details.
- **Facility, Operations, and Other Costs:** Identification of other operating costs. Allocate costs claimed in accordance with 2 CFR 200 guidelines. Attach in detail the allocation methodology used for allocating costs.
- **Preparer Verification:** Summarization of service costs
- **Report Certifications:** Certification of cost report by an authorized agent.

#### **PHASE 6 – PROGRAM MONITORING, AUDITS & COMMUNICATION**

- Review any policy changes in TAC or federal regulations
- Update Charity Care Policy as internal policies/guidelines change
- Document all revisions and effective dates
- Regularly assess program participation and areas of improvement
- Discuss potential program expansion efforts
- Share updates with agency during regular and on-going program check-in calls
- Assist with any and all federal/state audits

### **AUDIT SUPPORT**

JBI attends and stays current on all state Charity Care trainings to ensure that the most recent information is being carried out at the County level.

JBI will come on-site to assist the County through any state or federal audit that they may undergo.

JBI will assist the agency in providing citations and audit responses as necessary.

JBI will assist the agency in developing and implementing corrective action plans as necessary.



# CAPACITY OF PERFORMANCE

## KEY TEAM MEMBERS

JBI staff are proficient, experienced, and capable of meeting the requirements set forth in the Hidalgo County proposal. JBI has a dedicated Charity Care Claiming Team, which will be responsible for the accuracy and quality of these funding streams for Hidalgo County Health and Human Services. This team is led by trained experts who will ensure that all claiming processes and procedures are executed with an optimal level of professionalism and success. The team attends and remains current with all State Charity Care trainings to ensure that the most recent information is implemented at the County level.

### **Amy Hoffmann**

#### **Senior Vice President, Financials**

**Length of Service with JBI:** Over 20 Years

**Job Description:** Responsible for leading and managing JBI's Financial Team in the preparation, review, and submission of counties' Charity Care Claims. This role ensures compliance with federal, state, and local regulations while maximizing reimbursement opportunities.

#### **Education:**

Florida Atlantic University

Bachelor of Business Administration

#### **Training:**

Cost Principles: 2 CFR Part 220, 225, 230, and FAR 31.2

Developing IDC Proposals & CAPs for State, Local & Tribal Under 2 CFR 225

#### **Qualifications & Experience:**

A highly skilled financial professional with extensive experience in Medicaid and Title IV-E claiming processes. Demonstrated ability to provide strategic guidance and technical support to ensure accurate, efficient, and timely preparation of federal reimbursement claims. Key responsibilities include:

- Oversee the accuracy and integrity of all financial procedures and data related to claim preparation.
- Supervise and mentor Financial Team members, providing ongoing training to maintain high performance standards.
- Ensure timely and precise completion of all financial documentation in accordance with federally approved processes.
- Maintain comprehensive and organized records to support all claims and communications.
- Monitor compliance with all applicable financial regulations and best practices.

#### **Relevant Experience:**

- Delivered full-spectrum accounting services for local governments in Florida.
- Established and maintained Governmental Fund Accounting Systems in accordance with the Uniform Accounting System, as prescribed by the Department of Financial Services.



- Generated monthly financial reports, including balance sheets and income statements with budget-to-actual variance analysis.
- Managed accounts payable processes and prepared documentation for presentation to Boards of Supervisors.
- Developed annual budgets for managerial review and Board approval.
- Submitted proposed budgets to local governing authorities in compliance with statutory timelines.
- Prepared year-end journal entries to support independent financial audits.
- Administered checking accounts with qualified public depositories designated by governing Boards.
- Ensured full compliance with financial statutes, including:
- Completion of annual financial audits within 12 months of fiscal year-end.
- Distribution of audit reports to relevant governmental bodies.
- Submission of annual public depositor reports.

## **Ashley Baker**

### **Senior Vice President, Federal Reimbursement Programs**

**Length of Service with JBI:** Over 17 Years

**Job Description:** Responsible for assisting Counties with building and implementing their Charity Care programs. This role ensures agencies' Charity Care programs and standard operating procedures are built to align with HHSC program guidelines.

#### **Education:**

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

University of North Texas

Concentration: Finance

#### **Certifications:**

Cost Principles: 2 CFR Part 220, 225, 230, and FAR 31.2

Developing IDC Proposals & CAPs for State, Local & Tribal Under 2 CFR 225

Ms. Baker is a seasoned expert with over 17 years of experience in federal reimbursement programs, specializing in program compliance and claim optimization for Medicaid Administrative Claiming, Charity Care and Title IV-E Foster Care programs.

In her current role as a Senior Vice President, she leads a team of professionals who guide local and state agencies in maximizing their federal funding opportunities. Ms. Baker has a long history of advising agencies on federal program guidelines, building strong audit support, and streamlining the drawdown process. Her extensive experience working with health departments, probation agencies and child welfare offices ensures she delivers actionable insights and strategic support to her clients, ultimately driving significant improvements in federal reimbursements.

#### **Relevant Experience:**

- Leadership in the Texas Medicaid Administrative Claim Program



- Leads a team responsible for assisting Health Departments in Texas draw down over \$26 million in Medicaid funds since 2016. Her oversight ensures agency claims are prepared in accordance with HHSC guidelines and withstand federal and state audits.
- Charity Care Program Implementation
- Consulted with several Texas Health Departments to help build agencies' Charity Care Programs. Provided ongoing technical support and advice to ensure the programs were built in compliance with HHSC guidelines.
- Expansion of Title IV-E Legal Representation
- Collaborated with a state Office of the Child Advocate to design and implement a state-wide Title IV-E Legal Representation pilot program, now available to all counties in the State. This program supports the provision of eligible dependency representation and has resulted in increased participation across the state.
- Consultation and reimbursement consultation  
Consulted with a State Office of Family Representation and Advocacy to enhance their Title IV-E claiming efforts. Through strategic partnership with JBI, Ms. Baker helped increase the state's average quarterly claim reimbursements by 40%, significantly improving the efficiency and effectiveness of their reimbursement process.

## **DAYNA GAMBLE**

### **Vice President of IV-E Financials**

**Length of Service with JBI:** 19 Years

**Job Description:** Manages Financial Unit that assists in the compilation and review of all Title IV-E Claims. Dayna has compiled these claims at JBI for over 16 years and has worked with agencies of all sizes.

Mrs. Gamble is trained and qualified to ensure state and local agencies receive the highest level of financial assistance in Title IV-E claiming processes and procedures. Through extensive knowledge and experience, she assists and provides support to ensure that federal reimbursement claims are prepared and completed with accuracy and efficiency in order to maximize claiming reimbursement opportunities.

#### **Qualifications/Experience:**

- Ensure claiming procedures are completed at the highest level of accuracy.
- Ensure all financial data is submitted and financial claims are prepared and completed accurately.
- Ensure all claims go through a quality control process
- Responsible for providing consistent and continuous training to Financial Operations Team.
- Responsible for internal audits for financials department
- Maintain and ensure accurate documentation support on any and all correspondence and information.
- Responsible for utilizing federally approved process and procedures to ensure all claiming is accurate and precise.

#### **Relevant Experience:**

- Analyzed current and past financial data for the Internal Revenue Service.
- Reviewed financial performance and identified trends.
- Reviewed current financial performances and identified trends.
- Prepared financial reports on the cases for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission within the Internal Revenue Service.
- Developed financial models and provided financial forecasts.



- Developed initiatives and policies that improved financial growth.
- Prepared annual budget for managers.

## PROPOSAL PRICING

JBI completes its contracts on a “no risk”, administrative fee basis. JBI will complete the proposed project as outlined in this proposal, which includes Program Implementation, Claims Processing & Compliance, Financial Analysis & Reporting, Training & Support, and Audit & Documentation Assistance. During this engagement, JBI will also look out for additional Federal revenue optimization opportunities within the County. The County has no risk with JBI’s contract.

JBI’s administrative fee is twenty-two percent (22%) on all amounts generated from this program. JBI will be paid its fees upon receipt of related Charity Care funds by the County once a contract is signed by the County. This is an all-encompassing fee, including all services rendered, payable upon submission by JBI, and acceptance by the county, of an invoice, in a form approved by the county.

Item No.	Description	Total Price
1	Advise the county of the reimbursement opportunity	<u>N/A</u>
2	Prepare or enhancing the claim	<u>N/A</u>
3	Prepare the submittal package	<u>N/A</u>
4	Prepare audit files	<u>N/A</u>
5	Assist county with submittals	<u>N/A</u>
6	Assist county should it be audited for claims which the company assisted	<u>N/A</u>
7	Separate service for full consulting services for Medicaid Administrative Claiming	<u>22%</u>
<b>Total</b>		<u><b>22%</b></u>



## **CLOSING**

JBI has specialized in federal reimbursement programs for almost three decades. We have a proven track record of assisting health agencies in Texas with drawing down funds since 2008.

We will continue to identify new funding opportunities that benefit other departments in the County. As you may know, we have experience implementing programs in other states, filing claims with juvenile probation departments, county prosecutors, county sheriffs, and local health departments - all of which have demonstrated significant benefits to eligible counties.

JBI looks forward to establishing a successful partnership with Hidalgo County on this revenue optimization opportunity. We are committed to delivering the highest level of expertise and results, just as we have for our existing clients throughout the state and beyond.



**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: C. Robin Liu

Title: C.O.O.

Telephone Number: 972-406-3722

Date: June 30, 2025

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

# CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

# FORM CIQ

For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

### OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

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.

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

JBI, LTD

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

June 30, 2025  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## DEFICIENCIES AND DEVIATIONS FORM

**This form must be signed and included in your submission.**

- The Respondent is to list ALL deficiencies and deviations from the Requirements or Specifications as outlined in this solicitation packet.
- Unless specifically listed below, the response will be considered to be in FULL compliance with this solicitation as released by Hidalgo County Purchasing Department.
- It is the Offeror's responsibility to submit a response that meets all minimum specifications stated within this solicitation. Because of the variations in manufacturer's conditions, the Offeror must compare their product with the required listed minimum specifications and identify any deviations.
- The Offeror should note that a descriptive brochure of the model is supplemental information, but is not sufficient nor acceptable as proper identification of deviations from written specifications.
- If awarded, and a deviation is identified after the fact, the awarded vendor assumes the responsibility and agrees to meet and fulfill all stipulated requirements of this solicitation at no additional expense to Hidalgo County.

JBI, Ltd.

Company Name



Signature of Authorized Company Official

C. Robin Liu

Name of Authorized Company Official

Chief Operating Officer

Title of Authorized Company Official

a bid bond is not applicable to this project - this agreement is dependent on the department's participation, program revenues, Medicaid population, and more.

Project Requirements Acknowledgement: none applicable

2-CFR-200 Form: Appendix A, 44 CFR part 18 is N/A

References: Project contract details - we are under contractual obligation to not release this information. contract period and cost are not included in the form

If necessary, please use additional sheets.

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**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?:  Texas Building & Procurement Commission  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**APPENDIX J  
PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT**

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

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF HIDALGO

Affiant, C. Robin Liu for JBI, LTD, 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.

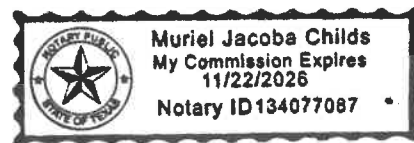
(3) Affiant, further states their officers, employees, or agents have not, and will not attempt to lobby, directly or indirectly, the Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court between proposal submission date and award by the Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court.

(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:  C.R.O.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8<sup>TH</sup> day of July, 2025.

 Muriel J. Childs  
Notary Public



My commission expires: 11/22, 2026

# **APPENDIX “H”**

**(IF APPLICABLE)**

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

**&**

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

## **2 C.F.R. § 200.327 & 2 C.F.R. PART 200, APPENDIX II, REQUIRED CONTRACT CLAUSES FOR NON-FEDERAL 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 (Nonprocurement 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](http://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 nonprocurement 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 nonprocurement 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](http://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 entity 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 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 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 non-ferrous 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 County of Hidalgo, 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 officials without specific FEMA or applicable Federal entity pre-approval. See DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, v3.0, ¶ 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 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:



## REFERENCE FORM

Respondent's involvement with reference checks is not permitted. Only Hidalgo County Purchasing 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  
Date

### 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



# JBI LTD

Unique Entity ID <b>D66YHCFTPMD5</b>	CAGE / NCAGE <b>9KZT2</b>	Purpose of Registration <b>All Awards</b>
Registration Status <b>Active Registration</b>	Expiration Date <b>Jan 9, 2026</b>	
Physical Address <b>1711 E Belt Line RD Coppell, Texas 75019-9606 United States</b>	Mailing Address <b>1711 E Belt Line RD Coppell, Texas 75019-9606 United States</b>	

## Business Information

Doing Business as <b>(blank)</b>	Division Name <b>(blank)</b>	Division Number <b>(blank)</b>
Congressional District <b>Texas 24</b>	State / Country of Incorporation <b>Texas / United States</b>	URL <b>(blank)</b>

## Registration Dates

Activation Date <b>Jan 13, 2025</b>	Submission Date <b>Jan 9, 2025</b>	Initial Registration Date <b>May 8, 2023</b>
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## Entity Dates

Entity Start Date <b>Dec 31, 1999</b>	Fiscal Year End Close Date <b>Dec 31</b>
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## Immediate Owner

CAGE <b>(blank)</b>	Legal Business Name <b>(blank)</b>
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## Highest Level Owner

CAGE <b>(blank)</b>	Legal Business Name <b>(blank)</b>
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## Executive Compensation

Registrants in the System for Award Management (SAM) respond to the Executive Compensation questions in accordance with Section 6202 of P.L. 110-252, amending the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (P.L. 109-282). This information is not displayed in SAM. It is sent to USAspending.gov for display in association with an eligible award. Maintaining an active registration in SAM demonstrates the registrant responded to the questions.

## Proceedings Questions

Registrants in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) respond to proceedings questions in accordance with FAR 52.209-7, FAR 52.209-9, or 2. C.F.R. 200 Appendix XII. Their responses are displayed in the responsibility/qualification section of SAM.gov. Maintaining an active registration in SAM.gov demonstrates the registrant responded to the proceedings questions.

## Exclusion Summary

Active Exclusions Records?

**No**

## SAM Search Authorization

I authorize my entity's non-sensitive information to be displayed in SAM public search results:

**Yes**

## Entity Types

### Business Types

Entity Structure <b>Partnership or Limited Liability Partnership</b>	Entity Type <b>Business or Organization</b>	Organization Factors <b>(blank)</b>
Profit Structure <b>For Profit Organization</b>		

**Socio-Economic Types**

Check the registrant's Repts & Certs, if present, under FAR 52.212-3 or FAR 52.219-1 to determine if the entity is an SBA-certified HUBZone small business concern. Additional small business information may be found in the SBA's Dynamic Small Business Search if the entity completed the SBA supplemental pages during registration.

**Financial Information**

Accepts Credit Card Payments **No** Debt Subject To Offset **No**

EFT Indicator **0000** CAGE Code **9KZT2**

**Points of Contact**

**Electronic Business**

☒ **Christine R Liu** **1711 E Belt Line Road**  
**Coppell, Texas 75019**  
**United States**

Teresa Wolf 1711 E. Belt Line Road  
Coppell, Texas 75019  
United States

**Government Business**

☒ **Christine R Liu** **1711 E. Belt Line Road**  
**Coppell, Texas 75019**  
**United States**

**Service Classifications**

**NAICS Codes**

Primary NAICS Codes NAICS Title  
**Yes 541990 All Other Professional, Scientific, And Technical Services**

**Disaster Response**

Yes, this entity appears in the disaster response registry.

No, this entity does not require bonding to bid on contracts.

Bonding Levels	Dollars
	<b>(blank)</b>

States **Any** Counties **(blank)** Metropolitan Statistical Areas **(blank)**

# EXHIBIT “C”

CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE