

**PUBLIC UTILITIES VENDOR AGREEMENT
COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The purpose of the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program ("CEAP") funded from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program ("LIHEAP") grant is to maintain an energy supply to heat and cool the residences of eligible low-income clients.

The Energy Services provider ("Vendor"), agrees to honor the purpose of the CEAP grant and to accept pledges of payment from CEAP agencies only for certified customers to whom Vendor continues to provide energy services. The Energy Assistance Provider ("Agency"), agrees to make payments only for eligible low-income clients.

This vendor agreement is by and between:

Webb County, A political subdivision of the State of Texas for the Community Action Agency and
Energy Assistance Provider (Agency)
Rhythm Energy

(Vendor)

Vendor and Agency agree to assist customers in the following counties: WEBB COUNTY

This agreement shall be effective from the 1st day of JAN 2025 for a period not to exceed two years from the effective date. Either party may terminate this agreement by written notice. Such written notice of termination shall not affect any obligation by either party incurred prior to the receipt of such notice. Notice shall be sent via certified mail with return receipt requested.

Rhythm Ops, LLC.

(Vendor Name)

Rhythm Ops., LLC ; PO BOX 735903 ; DALLAS, TX 75373-5903 (Payments)

(Vendor Mailing Address)

WEBB COUNTY C/O Webb County CAA.

(Agency Name)

520 Reynolds, 2nd Floor, Laredo, Texas 78040

(Agency Mailing Address)

The Agency named above represents and warrants to Vendor that it is a subrecipient of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs ("TDHCA") and as such is authorized and has received funding from the TDHCA to provide bill payment assistance service for eligible low-income households.

The Vendor named above represents and warrants that it will apply any payments received from Agency to the account of the customer that the Agency has determined to be eligible under the CEAP guidelines and such is a "Certified Customer".

Vendor will, with reference to a Certified Customer:

- Extend the CEAP applicant's energy service for up to five business days while the Agency determines whether the CEAP applicant is eligible pursuant to the CEAP guidelines.
- Upon accepting pledge from Agency for Certified Customer, continue or restore energy service to Certified Customer with no increases in charges, service charges or other charges affecting the total cost of the bill, except as allowed by the stated tariff cost registered with the Public Utility Commission "PUC" and/or Texas Railroad Commission.
- In the event the full past due balance is not paid by the Agency, the Certified Customer must pay the remaining balance on or before the disconnect date stated in the customer's Disconnect Notice required by PUC regulations in order to avoid disconnection or be eligible for reconnection. Nothing in this agreement requires the Vendor to reconnect the customer upon receipt of a pledge that does not cover the full past due balance or if the customer has already been disconnected by the time the pledge is received by the Vendor.
- Invoice the Certified Customer in accordance with Vendor's normal billing practices.
- Upon verbal or written request from Agency, provide at no cost to the Agency the Certified Customer's billing and usage history for previous twelve months, or available history plus monthly estimates if less than twelve months of billing history and usage is available. Vendor will transmit such billing history via electronic mail or facsimile as soon as possible, but no later than forty-eight hours following the request.
- Work with Agency and Certified Customer to explore the feasibility of offering flexible payment arrangements that may include, without limitation, waiving security deposits, reconnect fees, application fees, and all other fees whenever possible.
- Not discriminate against Certified Customer in price or services, including the availability of deferred payment plans, level or average payment plans, discount, budget, advance payment or other credit plans.
- Not refuse to provide energy service or otherwise discriminate in the marketing and provision of energy service to any Certified Customer because of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, lawful source of income, level of income, disability, financial status, location

of customer in an economically distressed geographic area, or qualification for low-income or energy-efficiency services.

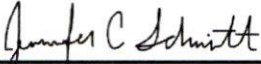
- Allow Agency forty-five days from the date of the pledge to forward payment to the Vendor. Vendor agrees not to consider the portion of the Certified Customer's account to be paid by the Agency delinquent if said payment is received within the above mentioned forty-five day period, and Vendor is provided with a verbal or signed pledge from the Agency within forty-five days of identifying a Certified Customer.
- Not interrupt service if Certified Customer is eligible under PUC regulations, or other state agency regulations (as applicable), and enters into an agreement with the Vendor concerning how the Certified Customer will pay the balance owed Vendor and the Certified Customer is meeting the obligation under such agreement.
- If the Agency has paid for an initial deposit or similar refundable instrument, upon the termination of service to the Certified Customer, the Vendor shall return funds including interest (after any balance owed) to the Agency in accordance with PUC regulations or 10 Texas Administrative Code §6.312(f) (as applicable).

The Agency will:

- Obtain written permission for Agency to request and have access to customer information, including confidential or personal account information, credit and payment history, from customers seeking Agency's assistance. Social Security numbers are not required for the CEAP program and may not be disclosed to Agency.
- Provide to Vendor, at Vendor's request, customer's written permission for Agency's access to customer information as stated above.
- Not provide pledges on behalf of a Certified Customer to Vendor without having adequate funds to pay such pledge.
- Pay pledges within forty-five days of making pledge to Vendor.
- Determine if a customer is a Certified Customer within five days of contacting Vendor.
- Provide Vendor a list of names, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of Agency staff designated to make pledges on behalf of the Agency and Certified Clients, if requested from Vendor.

The terms of any confidential transaction under this agreement or any other information exchanged by the Agency and Vendor relating to any transaction shall not be disclosed to any person not employed or retained by the Agency or Vendor, their affiliates, or brokers, except to the extent disclosure is 1) required by law; 2) necessary to disclose to the other party in connection with a dispute between the parties; 3) otherwise permitted by written consent of the other party; 4) required by guarantors to be disclosed; 5)

information which must be disclosed to a third party to transmit energy; 6) to meet reliability council, regulatory, administrative, judicial, governmental, or regulated commodity exchange requirements where necessary; or 7) information which was or is hereafter in the public domain (except by breach of this Agreement).

	1/28/2025
_____ Authorized Vendor Signature	_____ Date
Jennifer Schmitt	Sr Director of Operations
_____ Typed Name of Authorized Signature	_____ Title
1-866-279-9665 (All pledge inquiries via email please.)	
_____ Vendor (Area Code) Telephone Number	
PLEDGES@GOTRHYTHM.COM	
_____ Vendor Email Address	
	2/10/25
_____ Authorized Agency Signature	_____ Date
Tano E. Tijerina	Webb County Judge
_____ Typed Name of Authorized Signature	_____ Title
956-523-4600	
_____ Agency (Area Code) Telephone Number	

**Request for Taxpayer
Identification Number and Certification**

Go to www.irs.gov/FormW9 for instructions and the latest information.

Give form to the
requester. Do not
send to the IRS.

Before you begin. For guidance related to the purpose of Form W-9, see *Purpose of Form*, below.

Print or type. See Specific Instructions on page 3.	1 Name of entity/individual. An entry is required. (For a sole proprietor or disregarded entity, enter the owner's name on line 1, and enter the business/disregarded entity's name on line 2.) Rhythm Ops, LLC	
	2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above.	
	3a Check the appropriate box for federal tax classification of the entity/individual whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one of the following seven boxes. ☐ Individual/sole proprietor ☐ C corporation ☐ S corporation ☐ Partnership ☐ Trust/estate ☒ LLC. Enter the tax classification (C = C corporation, S = S corporation, P = Partnership) _____ Note: Check the "LLC" box above and, in the entry space, enter the appropriate code (C, S, or P) for the tax classification of the LLC, unless it is a disregarded entity. A disregarded entity should instead check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner. ☐ Other (see instructions) _____	4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3): Exempt payee code (if any) _____ Exemption from Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) reporting code (if any) _____ (Applies to accounts maintained outside the United States.)
	3b If on line 3a you checked "Partnership" or "Trust/estate," or checked "LLC" and entered "P" as its tax classification, and you are providing this form to a partnership, trust, or estate in which you have an ownership interest, check this box if you have any foreign partners, owners, or beneficiaries. See instructions _____ ☐	
	5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.). See instructions. 24 Greenway Plaza, Suite 610	Requester's name and address (optional)
6 City, state, and ZIP code Houston, TX 77046		
7 List account number(s) here (optional)		

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN*, later.

Social security number										
			-				-			
or										
Employer identification number										
8	5	-	1	2	6	2	5	1	1	

Note: If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. See also *What Name and Number To Give the Requester* for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

- The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and
- I am not subject to backup withholding because (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
- I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
- The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and, generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

Sign Here	Signature of U.S. person <i>Leonardo Salinas</i>	Date 02-03-2025
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General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future developments. For the latest information about developments related to Form W-9 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to www.irs.gov/FormW9.

What's New

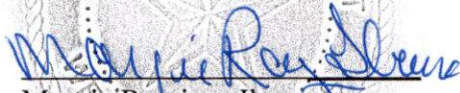
Line 3a has been modified to clarify how a disregarded entity completes this line. An LLC that is a disregarded entity should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner. Otherwise, it should check the "LLC" box and enter its appropriate tax classification.

New line 3b has been added to this form. A flow-through entity is required to complete this line to indicate that it has direct or indirect foreign partners, owners, or beneficiaries when it provides the Form W-9 to another flow-through entity in which it has an ownership interest. This change is intended to provide a flow-through entity with information regarding the status of its indirect foreign partners, owners, or beneficiaries, so that it can satisfy any applicable reporting requirements. For example, a partnership that has any indirect foreign partners may be required to complete Schedules K-2 and K-3. See the Partnership Instructions for Schedules K-2 and K-3 (Form 1065).

Purpose of Form

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS is giving you this form because they

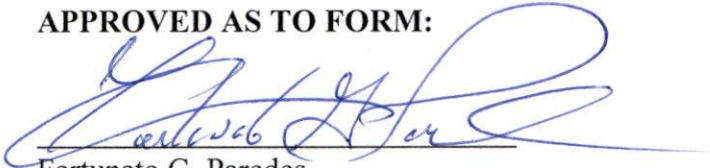
ATTESTED:

A blue ink signature of Margie Ramirez-Ibarra, written in a cursive style.

Margie Ramirez-Ibarra

Webb County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

A blue ink signature of Fortunato G. Paredes, written in a cursive style.

Fortunato G. Paredes

Assistant General Counsel

Civil Legal Division

The General Counsel, Civil Legal Division's Office may only advise or approve contracts or legal documents on behalf of its clients. It may not advise or approve a contract or legal document on behalf of other parties. Our review of this document was conducted solely from the legal perspective of our client. Our approval of this document was offered solely for the benefit of our client. Other parties should not rely on this approval, and should seek review and approval of their own respective attorney(s).

Passed and approved by the Webb County Commissioners Court
On Feb. 10th 2025 item No. 8c