



**AHS Secretary's Office**  
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## **SEALED BID REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

### **Technical Assistance for Home- and Community-Based Services Conflict of Interest in Vermont Medicaid**

**ISSUE DATE** July 25, 2022  
**BIDDERS CONFERENCE** August 11, 2022 – 1pm-2pm (EST)

Remote access: [https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting\\_MDU5MmRjZWYtMTBmOS00YzlkLTgzYTUtODdmYTZjNjUzZmZk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%2220b4933b-baad-433c-9c02-70edcc7559c6%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22f02f1755-3dd5-4c2a-89b3-d964f819705f%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_MDU5MmRjZWYtMTBmOS00YzlkLTgzYTUtODdmYTZjNjUzZmZk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%2220b4933b-baad-433c-9c02-70edcc7559c6%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22f02f1755-3dd5-4c2a-89b3-d964f819705f%22%7d)

Or call in (audio only): [+1 802-552-8456,,940318172#](tel:+18025528456940318172)

Phone Conference ID: 940 318 172#

**QUESTIONS DUE** August 14, 2022 – 4:30pm (EST)  
**RFP RESPONSES DUE BY** September 1, 2022 – 4:30pm (EST)

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL NOTIFICATIONS, RELEASES, AND ADDENDUMS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS RFP WILL BE POSTED AT:**

<http://www.bgs.state.vt.us/pca/bids/bids.php>

**THE STATE WILL MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO CONTACT INTERESTED PARTIES WITH UPDATED INFORMATION. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH BIDDER TO PERIODICALLY CHECK THE ABOVE WEBPAGE FOR ANY AND ALL NOTIFICATIONS, RELEASES AND ADDENDUMS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS RFP.**

**STATE CONTACT:** Diane Irish, Administrative Services Director  
**TELEPHONE:** (802) 585-5125  
**E-MAIL:** [Diane.Irish@vermont.gov](mailto:Diane.Irish@vermont.gov)

## 1. OVERVIEW:

### 1.1. SCOPE AND BACKGROUND:

1.1.1. **SCOPE:** Through this Request for Proposal (RFP) the Vermont Agency of Human Services (hereinafter the “State”) is seeking to establish a contract with a vendor that can provide technical assistance in home- and community-based services (HCBS) conflict of interest (COI). Technical assistance (TA) shall include:

#### 1.1.1.1. Project management

Contractor shall provide project management expertise throughout all phases of the project.

#### 1.1.1.2. Assessment of current HCBS systems

Contractor shall perform a comprehensive assessment of the State’s compliance with federal HCBS COI requirements at 42 CFR 441.730(b) which require states ensure the independence of entities performing evaluations of eligibility, needs assessments, and person-centered plan development. The needs assessment will build upon work that the State has already done with respect to assessing its five HCBS, or HCBS-like, programs<sup>1</sup>. The Contractor shall also conduct an inventory of care coordination/care management and assessment activities across health and human services programs.

#### 1.1.1.3. Stakeholder engagement

Contractor shall facilitate robust, comprehensive, and equitable stakeholder engagement which ensures that voices are heard from diverse and underserved populations as well as a range of HCBS providers and related community organizations. Stakeholder engagement activities will inform the recommendations for potential system improvements to eliminate or reduce conflict of interest.

#### 1.1.1.4. Recommendation of eligibility, assessment, and case management/person-centered planning system(s)

For all five HCBS or HCBS-like programs operated by the State, the contractor shall develop recommendations for eligibility, assessment, and case management/person-centered planning systems. Recommendations should align across programs where possible and must address compliance gaps identified in the needs assessment, reflect input obtained from stakeholders, and should include more than one solution to allow for cost/benefit decision-making.

#### 1.1.1.5. Implementation planning and execution

For all five HCBS or HCBS-like programs operated by the State, the contractor shall coordinate implementation planning and execution. Contractor shall ensure that the State is on track for implementation plan completion within the timeframe permitted by CMS (12/31/2025) or earlier. Implementation may occur in a staged approach based on program readiness and identified need to prioritize conflict of interest mitigation activities.

### 1.1.2. BACKGROUND:

Vermont’s Agency of Human Services operates five specialized programs under its Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 waiver (Global Commitment) demonstration that offer a combination of Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and rehabilitation services. The programs are as follows:

- 1) Choices for Care Program
- 2) Brain Injury Program
- 3) Developmental Disabilities Services Program
- 4) Community Rehabilitation and Treatment Program
- 5) Intensive Home- and Community- Based Services Program (formerly Enhanced Family Treatment)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dvha.vermont.gov/global-commitment-to-health/conflict-of-interest-home-and-community-based-services>

Over the last three years, the State has undergone an internal assessment<sup>2</sup> of its HCBS, or HCBS-like, programs and been engaged with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding its compliance with the conflict-of-interest provisions in the January 16, 2014, HCBS final rule (79 FR 2947). In October 2021, CMS informed the State that the Choice Model<sup>3</sup> proposed by the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) is not fully compliant with HCBS conflict-of-interest regulations. CMS determined that these programs are subject to federal HCBS conflict-of-interest regulations at 42 CFR 441.730(b) which require the state ensure the independence of entities performing evaluations of eligibility, needs assessments, and person-centered plan development:

*“The State must define conflict of interest standards that ensure the independence of individual and agency agents who conduct (whether as a service or an administrative activity) the independent evaluation of eligibility for State plan HCBS, who are responsible for the independent assessment of need for HCBS, or who are responsible for the development of the service plan.”*

Vermont has developed a timeline of activities and milestones to serve as its roadmap for compliance with the HCBS conflict-of-interest requirements by December 31, 2025. This HCBS conflict-of-interest plan is subject to CMS review and could be modified. The plan is available here: <https://dvha.vermont.gov/global-commitment-to-health/conflict-of-interest-home-and-community-based-services>.

- 1.2. **CONTRACT PERIOD:** Contracts arising from this RFP will be for a period of two years with an option to renew for up to two additional twelve-month periods. The State anticipates the start date will be October 15, 2022.
  - 1.3. **SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT:** All communications concerning this RFP are to be addressed in writing to the State Contact listed on the front page of this RFP. Actual or attempted contact with any other individual from the State concerning this RFP is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification.
  - 1.4. **BIDDERS' CONFERENCE:** A non-mandatory bidders' conference will be held remotely at the date and time indicated on the front page of this RFP.
    - 1.4.1. If there is a remote bidders' conference, and call-in information is not provided on the front page of the RFP, all potential bidders may send an e-mail to the State Contact with Bidder's firm and contact info and shall then be provided call-in details.
  - 1.5. **QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD:** Any vendor requiring clarification of any section of this RFP or wishing to comment on any requirement of the RFP must submit specific questions in writing no later than the deadline for question indicated on the first page of this RFP. Questions may be e-mailed to the point of contact on the front page of this RFP. Questions or comments not raised in writing on or before the last day of the question period are thereafter waived. At the close of the question period a copy of all questions or comments and the State's responses will be posted on the State's web site <http://www.bgs.state.vt.us/pca/bids/bids.php>. Every effort will be made to post this information as soon as possible after the question period ends, contingent on the number and complexity of the questions.
  - 1.6. **CHANGES TO THIS RFP:** Any modifications to this RFP will be made in writing by the State through the issuance of an Addendum to this RFP and posted online at <http://www.bgs.state.vt.us/pca/bids/bids.php>. Verbal instructions or written instructions from any other source are not to be considered.
2. **DETAILED REQUIREMENTS/DESIRED OUTCOMES:**
- 2.1. **DESIRED SERVICES:** The services/activities below apply to each of the five specialized programs unless stated otherwise. The Qualified bidder that becomes a contractor shall:
    - 2.1.1. **Develop the project plan and provide project management**  
Project management activities must include, but are not limited to:

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<sup>2</sup> <https://dvha.vermont.gov/global-commitment-to-health/conflict-of-interest-home-and-community-based-services>

<sup>3</sup> Choice Model: informed by feedback from consumers, families, guardians, advocacy organizations, and providers, DAIL proposed to allow individuals a choice: they could either receive integrated case management from the same provider of direct services, or they could receive conflict-free case management from someone who is independent from the provider of direct services. The proposal also included beneficiary protections such as options counseling.

- A. Development of the project plan in consultation with the State. The project plan should generally align with the State's draft HCBS Conflict of Interest Plan available here: <https://dvha.vermont.gov/global-commitment-to-health/conflict-of-interest-home-and-community-based-services>. Note that this plan is subject to CMS review and could be modified. Consideration should be made to initiating plan activities earlier where possible, and the project must include the organization and resources necessary to perform activities across the five programs.
- B. Provision of project management, including:
  - (i.) A single point of contact to the State for the work/project;
  - (ii.) Developing, monitoring, and updating a project work plan, including the facilitation of regularly scheduled status meetings, updating details on contract deliverables and timelines, and maintaining a decision log and issues log (including documentation of decisions made and issue resolutions);
  - (iii.) Collaborating with the state leadership team and other key stakeholders to gather necessary information and to, where possible, build consensus during the preparation of the deliverables;
  - (iv.) Managing both draft and final deliverables, including all project version control;
  - (v.) Using an agreed upon tool/site for collaboration and storage of all project documents, including all source documents utilized or reviewed for research purposes cataloged using an agreed upon naming convention; and
  - (vi.) Providing bi-weekly status reports of the work/project throughout all phases.

### 2.1.2. Assess the current HCBS system with respect to conflict of interest

Assessment activities must include, but are not limited to:

- A. Gather and analyze available data regarding program eligibility, assessment, person-centered plan development, and delivery of services. Data sources could include but are not limited to NCI-AD, Wellsky Aging and Disability, and claims data.
- B. Describe and map current system policies and requirements pertaining to eligibility, assessment, person-centered plan development, and delivery of services. Mapping must consider how individuals experience the process.
- C. Conduct inventory of care coordination/case management and assessment activities across health and human services to allow the State to consider how potential changes impact goals to increase care integration, eliminate duplication, and improve access to services across the care continuum. The inventory shall describe:
  - (i.) Who is coordinating care, for whom, and consistent with which program requirements?
  - (ii.) What is the scope of focus (e.g. care needs) and activity within each care coordination/care management service?
  - (iii.) What assessment tools are used and what is the scope of each assessment?
  - (iv.) What are the qualifications of care management entities and assessors?
  - (v.) What data management and exchange tools are utilized and for what purpose?
- D. Assess current workforce capacity to inform feasible system change options.
- E. Provide a gap analysis of current compliance with federal HCBS COI requirements.
- F. Analyze the scope of HCBS provided in the DMH specialized programs: inventory the services and supports offered and assess whether the services are rehabilitative in nature. This analysis will support decisions related to changing the service delivery model.
- G. Develop report that summarizes and analyzes the findings of the HCBS system assessment.

### 2.1.3. Conduct stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement activities must include, but are not limited to:

- A. Develop a person-centered stakeholder engagement plan that ensures diverse stakeholders are engaged and voices are heard throughout the process, with an emphasis on consumer voices and the provision of safe spaces for input. The plan must include but is not limited to convening an advisory group and conducting regional stakeholder meetings. The plan must indicate how

individuals with HCBS needs and their families will be meaningfully included in the process and what accessibility options will be offered, including an emphasis on plain language. In-person and virtual engagement options should be provided. Consideration must be made for stakeholders across all five programs.

- B. Advisory Committee: the advisory committee facilitated by the contractor will consist of representatives across the specialized programs. The committee will be used to provide input on key aspects of potential changes before State recommendations are made. For example, solicit input on activities performed by a case manager versus a community support provider.
  - (i.) Acknowledging that this works spans five programs, consideration should be made to the formation of sub-groups and/or tailored agendas to ensure that committee members are only invited to discussions that are relevant to them. Committee members must receive compensation if they are not already being paid for their time.
- C. Contractor shall work closely with existing program networks and advocacy organizations to ensure broad and accessible outreach to stakeholders.
- D. Upon approval, contractor shall implement the stakeholder engagement plan with the support of State agency staff. Implementation must include but is not limited to:
  - (i.) Development and maintenance of a publicly-facing, 508 complaint website which provides key information on the project;
  - (ii.) The creation and management of a time-limited listserv to update interested stakeholders on the project and any opportunities to participate.
  - (iii.) Handling meeting logistics;
  - (iv.) Facilitating stakeholder meetings using staff who are adept at engaging diverse stakeholders, including individuals with HCBS needs;
  - (v.) Preparing accessible meeting materials in advance such that participants can review beforehand, including providing meeting minutes timely;
  - (vi.) Coordinating interpreter and translation services (ASL and other languages as needed. Most common language among VT Medicaid consumers: Arabic, Burmese, Dari, French, Kirundi, Nepali, Pashto, Somali, and Spanish) along with other supports as necessary to ensure stakeholder opportunities are accessible; and
  - (vii.) Other activities included in the approved stakeholder engagement plan (e.g. development of letters, interview guides, surveys, reports, etc).
- E. Facilitation of ongoing stakeholder engagement throughout the project to ensure awareness and transparency. This must include the creation and management of a time-limited listserv to update interested stakeholders on the project and any opportunities to participate. This could include letters, notices, webinars, meetings, regional forums, etc.

#### **2.1.4. Develop recommendation of eligibility, assessment, and case management/person-centered planning system(s)**

The development of recommendations must include, but is not limited to, the following components:

- A. Development of an HCBS COI options document which provides cost/benefit analysis for program transformation that is federally compliant, addresses gaps identified in the HCBS COI assessment, and reflects input gathered via stakeholder engagement.
- B. Facilitation of decision-making sessions with a State leadership group to determine program solutions for conflict of interest. This shall include a plan for finding consensus within the group for alignment across programs where possible.
- C. Development of a final HCBS COI recommendation report that reflects the program solutions that will be implemented.

#### **2.1.5. Facilitate implementation planning and execution**

Facilitation of implementation planning and execution activities must include, but is not limited to:

- A. Stakeholder engagement: Creation of stakeholder engagement materials to report on planned program changes. Materials will be accessible and produced for diverse audiences, including consumers, providers, advocates, State leadership, and the VT legislature. Contractor shall facilitate meetings and forums with stakeholders to summarize work to date and convey implementation plan. Contractor shall continue to engage stakeholders throughout implementation planning and execution to ensure awareness and to gather key input on implementation details.
- B. State law, policy, and procedure updates: Technical assistance in amending state laws, policies, and procedures to reflect programs changes and ensure federal compliance. This may include technical assistance to amend State Plan or Vermont’s 1115 Global Commitment to Health Demonstration.
- C. Collaboration with the State and other contractors on development of a reimbursement/financing model that aligns with HCBS COI program solutions. The State intends to use existing contractor support for ratesetting work. However, it is expected that the successful bidder to this RFP will be capable of coordinating this work as part of the larger conflict of interest project.
- D. Development of an oversight and training model for HCBS providers (provision of training is not a part of this grant).
- E. Procurement: Technical assistance in drafting the requests for proposals for conducting independent assessments, case management, provider training, etc.
- F. Facilitate orientation webinars, meetings, and other materials to ensure stakeholders are aware of and prepared for program transitions.
- G. Readiness review: develop criteria and a rubric to assess operational readiness to implement program solutions and complete readiness review.
- H. Other implementation planning and execution activities as necessary. Bidders are encouraged to recommend other key activities that are necessary to ensure the successful transition to a fully compliant HCBS system of care.

2.2. **DESIRED DELIVERABLES:** The qualified Bidder that becomes a Contractor shall complete the following:

<b>Task/Deliverable Schedule for Technical Assistance*</b>	<b>Anticipated Dates of Completion*</b>
Contract Start	10/15/2022
Bi-weekly Project Management Status Reports	N/A, ongoing
Project Plan	11/1/2022
Stakeholder Engagement Plan	12/1/2022
HCBS COI Assessment Report	2/1/2023
HCBS COI Options Document	5/1/2023
HCBS COI Recommendation Report	7/1/2023
Draft Implementation Plan	1/1/2024
Final Implementation Plan	10/1/2024
Interim Implementation Report	4/1/2025
Post-Implementation Report	1/1/2026

\* This chart is intended only to provide an estimate of anticipated dates and deliverables. Dates and deliverables will be finalized in the contract and are subject to change based on CMS review and requirements.

**3. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

3.1. **PRICING:** Bidders must price the terms of this solicitation at their best pricing. Any and all costs that Bidder wishes the State to consider must be submitted for consideration. If applicable, all equipment

pricing is to include F.O.B. delivery to the ordering facility. No request for extra delivery cost will be honored. All equipment shall be delivered assembled, serviced, and ready for immediate use, unless otherwise requested by the State.

- 3.1.1. Prices and/or rates shall remain firm for the initial term of the contract. The pricing policy submitted by Bidder must (i) be clearly structured, accountable, and auditable and (ii) cover the full spectrum of materials and/or services required.
  - 3.1.2. **Cooperative Agreements.** Bidders that have been awarded similar contracts through a competitive bidding process with another state and/or cooperative are welcome to submit the pricing in response to this solicitation.
  - 3.1.3. **Retainage.** In the discretion of the State, a contract resulting from this RFP may provide that the State withhold a percentage of the total amount payable for some or all deliverables, such retainage to be payable upon satisfactory completion and State acceptance in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract.
- 3.2. **STATEMENT OF RIGHTS:** The State shall have the authority to evaluate Responses and select the Bidder(s) as may be determined to be in the best interest of the State and consistent with the goals and performance requirements outlined in this RFP. The State of Vermont reserves the right to obtain clarification or additional information necessary to properly evaluate a proposal. Failure of vendor to respond to a request for additional information or clarification could result in rejection of that vendor's proposal. To secure a project that is deemed to be in the best interest of the State, the State reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids, in whole or in part, with or without cause, and to waive technicalities in submissions. The State also reserves the right to make purchases outside of the awarded contracts where it is deemed in the best interest of the State.
- 3.2.1. **Best and Final Offer (BAFO).** At any time after submission of Responses and prior to the final selection of Bidder(s) for Contract negotiation or execution, the State may invite Bidder(s) to provide a BAFO. The state reserves the right to request BAFOs from only those Bidders that meet the minimum qualification requirements and/or have not been eliminated from consideration during the evaluation process.
  - 3.2.2. **Presentation.** An in-person or webinar presentation by the Bidder may be required by the State if it will help the State's evaluation process. The State will factor information presented during presentations into the evaluation. Bidders will be responsible for all costs associated with providing the presentation.
- 3.3. **WORKER CLASSIFICATION COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS:** In accordance with Section 32 of The Vermont Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Act No. 54), Bidders must comply with the following provisions and requirements.
- 3.3.1. **Self Reporting:** For bid amounts exceeding \$250,000.00, Bidder shall complete the appropriate section in the attached Certificate of Compliance for purposes of self-reporting information relating to past violations, convictions, suspensions, and any other information related to past performance relative to coding and classification of workers. The State is requiring information on any violations that occurred in the previous 12 months.
  - 3.3.2. **Subcontractor Reporting:** For bid amounts exceeding \$250,000.00, Bidders are hereby notified that upon award of contract, and prior to contract execution, the State shall be provided with a list of all proposed subcontractors and subcontractors' subcontractors, together with the identity of those subcontractors' workers compensation insurance providers, and additional required or requested information, as applicable, in accordance with Section 32 of The Vermont Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Act No. 54). This requirement does not apply to subcontractors providing supplies only and no labor to the overall contract or project. This list **MUST** be updated and provided to the State as additional subcontractors are hired. A sample form is available online at <http://bgs.vermont.gov/purchasing-contracting/forms>. **The subcontractor reporting form is not required to be submitted with the bid response.**
- 3.4. **EXECUTIVE ORDER 05-16: CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS IN STATE PROCUREMENTS:**
- For bid amounts exceeding \$25,000.00 Bidders are requested to complete the Climate Change Considerations in State Procurements Certification, which is included in the Certificate of Compliance for this RFP.

After consideration of all relevant factors, a bidder that demonstrates business practices that promote clean energy and address climate change as identified in the Certification, shall be given favorable consideration in the competitive bidding process. Such favorable consideration shall be consistent with and not supersede any preference given to resident bidders of the State and/or products raised or manufactured in the State, as explained in the Method of Award section. But, such favorable consideration shall not be employed if prohibited by law or other relevant authority or agreement.

3.5. **METHOD OF AWARD:** Awards will be made in the best interest of the State. The State may award one or more contracts and reserves the right to make additional awards to other compliant bidders at any time if such award is deemed to be in the best interest of the State. All other considerations being equal, preference will be given first to resident bidders of the state and/or to products raised or manufactured in the state, and then to bidders who have practices that promote clean energy and address climate change, as identified in the applicable Certificate of Compliance.

3.5.1. **Evaluation Criteria:** Consideration shall be given to the Bidder's project approach and methodology, qualifications and experience, ability to provide the services within the defined timeline, cost, and/or success in completing similar projects, as applicable, and to the extent specified below.

3.5.1.1. **Minimum Qualifications for Bidders:** Bidders who do not meet and demonstrate minimum qualifications, in the State's sole discretion, will be rejected as non-responsive and will not receive further consideration. Any Proposal that is rejected as nonresponsive will not be evaluated or scored.

The Bidder must have leadership staff (including any subcontractor lead staff) with skills, experience, and knowledge of:

- (i.) Evidence-based, best practice approaches to person-centered planning and HCBS conflict-of-interest in the domains of mental health, developmental disabilities, brain injury, aging, and physical disabilities,
- (ii.) Diverse and accessible stakeholder engagement, including engaging with members of socially disadvantaged communities in culturally aware and trauma-informed ways,
- (iii.) Medicaid policies and processes, particularly in HCBS and State Plan rehabilitative programming,
- (iv.) Federal law, regulations, and policy guidance,
- (v.) Medicaid claims and data systems,
- (vi.) Integrated, whole-person care delivery systems,
- (vii.) Conducting needs assessments,
- (viii.) Project management,
- (ix.) Decision-making for complex problems with diverse stakeholder needs, and
- (x.) Benefit design/implementation planning.
- (xi.) The Bidder must have experience working with a governmental agency within the past five (5) years.

3.5.2. **Proposal Scoring:** Proposals will be scored according to the following criteria:

Criteria	Maximum Points
Project Plan	5 points
Needs Assessment	15 points
Stakeholder Engagement	20 points
Implementation Design Planning and Execution	20 points
Qualifications	20 points



Budget	20 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 points</b>

- 3.6. **CONTRACT NEGOTIATION:** Upon completion of the evaluation process, the State may select one or more Vendors with which to negotiate a contract, based on the evaluation findings and other criteria deemed relevant for ensuring that the decision made is in the best interest of the State. In the event State is not successful in negotiating a contract with a selected Vendor, the State reserves the option of negotiating with another Vendor, or to end the proposal process entirely.
- 3.7. **COST OF PREPARATION:** Bidder shall be solely responsible for all expenses incurred in the preparation of a response to this RFP and shall be responsible for all expenses associated with any presentations or demonstrations associated with this request and/or any proposals made.
- 3.8. **CONTRACT TERMS:** The selected bidder(s) will be expected to sign a contract with the State, including the Standard Contract Form and Attachment C as attached to this RFP for reference. If IT Attachment D is included in this RFP, terms may be modified based upon the solution proposed by the Bidder, subject to approval by the Agency of Digital Services.
- 3.8.1. **Business Registration.** To be awarded a contract by the State of Vermont a vendor (except an individual doing business in his/her own name) must be registered with the Vermont Secretary of State's office <http://www.sec.state.vt.us/tutor/dobiz/forms/fcregist.htm> and must obtain a Contractor's Business Account Number issued by the Vermont Department of Taxes <http://tax.vermont.gov/>.
- 3.8.2. The contract will obligate the bidder to provide the services and/or products identified in its bid, at the prices listed.
- 3.8.3. **Payment Terms.** All invoices are to be rendered by the Contractor on the vendor's standard billhead and forwarded directly to the institution or agency ordering materials or services and shall specify the address to which payments will be sent. Payment terms are Net 30 days from receipt of an error-free invoice with all applicable supporting documentation. Percentage discounts may be offered for prompt payments of invoices; however, such discounts must be in effect for a period of 30 days or more in order to be considered in making awards.
- 3.8.4. **Quality.** If applicable, all products provided under a contract with the State will be new and unused, unless otherwise stated. Factory seconds or remanufactured products will not be accepted unless specifically requested by the purchasing agency. All products provided by the contractor must meet all federal, state, and local standards for quality and safety requirements. Products not meeting these standards will be deemed unacceptable and returned to the contractor for credit at no charge to the State.
4. **CONTENT AND FORMAT OF RESPONSES:** The content and format requirements listed below are the minimum requirements for State evaluation. These requirements are not intended to limit the content of a Bidder's proposal. Bidders may include additional information or offer alternative solutions for the State's consideration. However, the State discourages overly lengthy and costly proposals, and Bidders are advised to include only such information in their response as may be relevant to the requirements of this RFP.
- 4.1. The bid should include a Cover Letter and Technical Response and Price Schedule.
- 4.2. **COVER LETTER:**
- 4.2.1. **Confidentiality.** To the extent your bid contains information you consider to be proprietary and confidential, you must comply with the following requirements concerning the contents of your cover letter and the submission of a redacted copy of your bid (or affected portions thereof).
- 4.2.2. All responses to this RFP will become part of the contract file and will become a matter of public record under the State's Public Records Act, 1 V.S.A. § 315 et seq. (the "Public Records Act"). If your response must include material that you consider to be proprietary and confidential under the Public Records Act, your cover letter must clearly identify each page or section of your response that you consider proprietary and confidential. Your cover letter must also include a written explanation **for each marked section** explaining why such material should be considered exempt from public

disclosure in the event of a public records request, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c), including the prospective harm to the competitive position of the bidder if the identified material were to be released. Additionally, you must include a redacted copy of your response for portions that are considered proprietary and confidential. Redactions must be limited so that the reviewer may understand the nature of the information being withheld. It is typically inappropriate to redact entire pages, or to redact the titles/captions of tables and figures. Under no circumstances may your entire response be marked confidential, and the State reserves the right to disqualify responses so marked.

4.2.3. Exceptions to Contract Terms and Conditions. If a Bidder wishes to propose an exception to any terms and conditions set forth in the Standard Contract Form and its attachments, such exceptions must be included in the cover letter to the RFP response. Failure to note exceptions when responding to the RFP will be deemed to be acceptance of the State contract terms and conditions. If exceptions are not noted in the response to this RFP but raised during contract negotiations, the State reserves the right to cancel the negotiation if deemed to be in the best interests of the State. Note that exceptions to contract terms may cause rejection of the proposal.

4.3. **TECHNICAL RESPONSE**. In response to this RFP, a Bidder shall:

4.3.1. Provide a workplan for providing TA, including specific tasks and subtasks to be performed.

4.3.2. Provide details concerning your form of business organization, company size, and resources.

4.3.3. Describe your capabilities and particular experience relevant to the RFP requirements.

4.3.3.1. Identify all current or past State (Vermont Agency of Human Services) projects since 2010.

4.3.4. Identify the names of all subcontractors you intend to use, the portions of the work the subcontractors will perform, and address the background and experience of the subcontractor(s), as per RFP section 4.3.3 above.

4.3.5. Include resumes for the proposed staff who would meaningfully contribute to the deliverables.

4.3.6. Provide a description of project staffing such that is sufficient to address all deliverables successfully and on time across all five HCBS programs.

4.3.7. Limit the total number of pages for the technical response to 40 pages, exclusive of resumes and references. Margins and font size must be standard formatting.

4.4. **REFERENCES**. Provide the names, addresses, and phone numbers of at least three companies with whom you have transacted similar business in the last 12 months. You must include contact names who can talk knowledgeably about performance.

4.5. **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**: Provide a sample of any reporting documentation that may be applicable to the Detailed Requirements of this RFP.

4.6. **PRICE SCHEDULE**: Bidders shall submit their pricing information in the Price Schedule attached to the RFP.

4.7. **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**: This form must be completed and submitted as part of the response for the proposal to be considered valid.

## 5. **SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**:

5.1. **CLOSING DATE**: Bids must be received by the State by the due date specified on the front page of this RFP. Late bids will not be considered.

5.1.1. The State may, for cause, issue an addendum to change the date and/or time when bids are due. If a change is made, the State will inform all bidders by posting at the webpage indicated on the front page of this RFP.

5.2. **STATE SECURITY PROCEDURES**: Please be advised extra time will be needed when visiting and/or delivering information to State of Vermont offices. All individuals visiting State offices must present a valid government issued photo ID when entering the facility.

5.2.1. During the pendency of the State emergency relating to Covid-19, State office buildings may be locked or otherwise closed to the public. **Any delay caused by State Security Procedures will be at the bidder's own risk.**

**5.3. BID DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS:**

5.3.1. ELECTRONIC: Electronic bids will be accepted.

5.3.1.1. E-MAIL BIDS. Emailed bids will be accepted. Bids will be accepted via email submission to [Diane.Irish@vermont.gov](mailto:Diane.Irish@vermont.gov). Bids must consist of a single email with a single, digitally searchable PDF attachment containing all components of the bid. Multiple emails and/or multiple attachments may not be accepted. There is an attachment size limit of 40 MB. It is the Bidder's responsibility to compress the PDF file containing its bid if necessary in order to meet this size limitation.

5.3.1.2. FAX BIDS: Faxed bids will not be accepted.

**6. BID SUBMISSION CHECKLIST:**

- ✓ Cover Letter
- ✓ Technical Response
- ✓ Redacted Technical Response, if applicable
- ✓ References
- ✓ Price Schedule
- ✓ Signed Certificate of Compliance

**7. ATTACHMENTS:**

7.1. Certificate of Compliance

7.2. Price Schedule

7.3. Worker Classification Compliance Requirement; Subcontractor Reporting Form

7.4. Standard State Contract with its associated attachments, including but not limited to, Attachment C: Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants (December 15, 2017).

## CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

**For a bid to be considered valid, this form must be completed in its entirety, executed by a duly authorized representative of the bidder, and submitted as part of the response to the proposal.**

- A. **NON COLLUSION:** Bidder hereby certifies that the prices quoted have been arrived at without collusion and that no prior information concerning these prices has been received from or given to a competitive company. If there is sufficient evidence to warrant investigation of the bid/contract process by the Office of the Attorney General, bidder understands that this paragraph might be used as a basis for litigation.
- B. **CONTRACT TERMS:** Bidder hereby acknowledges that is has read, understands and agrees to the terms of this RFP, including Attachment C: Standard State Contract Provisions, and any other contract attachments included with this RFP.

C. **FORM OF PAYMENT:** Does Bidder accept the Visa Purchasing Card as a form of payment?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

D. **WORKER CLASSIFICATION COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT:** In accordance with Section 32 of The Vermont Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Act No. 54), the following provisions and requirements apply to Bidder when the amount of its bid exceeds \$250,000.00.

**Self-Reporting.** Bidder hereby self-reports the following information relating to past violations, convictions, suspensions, and any other information related to past performance relative to coding and classification of workers, that occurred in the previous 12 months.

Summary of Detailed Information	Date of Notification	Outcome

**Subcontractor Reporting.** Bidder hereby acknowledges and agrees that if it is a successful bidder, prior to execution of any contract resulting from this RFP, Bidder will provide to the State a list of all proposed subcontractors and subcontractors' subcontractors, together with the identity of those subcontractors' workers compensation insurance providers, and additional required or requested information, as applicable, in accordance with Section 32 of The Vermont Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Act No. 54), and Bidder will provide any update of such list to the State as additional subcontractors are hired. Bidder further acknowledges and agrees that the failure to submit subcontractor reporting in accordance with Section 32 of The Vermont Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Act No. 54) will constitute non-compliance and may result in cancellation of contract and/or restriction from bidding on future state contracts.

E. **Executive Order 05 – 16: Climate Change Considerations in State Procurements Certification**

**Bidder certifies to the following (Bidder may attach any desired explanation or substantiation. Please also note that Bidder may be asked to provide documentation for any applicable claims):**

1. Bidder owns, leases or utilizes, for business purposes, space that has received:
- Energy Star® Certification
  - LEED®, Green Globes®, or Living Buildings Challenge<sup>SM</sup> Certification
  - Other internationally recognized building certification:
- 

2. Bidder has received incentives or rebates from an Energy Efficiency Utility or Energy Efficiency Program in the last five years for energy efficient improvements made at bidder's place of business. Please explain:
- 

3. Please Check all that apply:
- Bidder can claim on-site renewable power or anaerobic-digester power ("cow-power"). Or bidder consumes renewable electricity through voluntary purchase or offset, provided no such claimed power can be double-claimed by another party.
  - Bidder uses renewable biomass or bio-fuel for the purposes of thermal (heat) energy at its place of business.
  - Bidder's heating system has modern, high-efficiency units (boilers, furnaces, stoves, etc.), having reduced emissions of particulate matter and other air pollutants.
  - Bidder tracks its energy consumption and harmful greenhouse gas emissions. What tool is used to do this? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Bidder promotes the use of plug-in electric vehicles by providing electric vehicle charging, electric fleet vehicles, preferred parking, designated parking, purchase or lease incentives, etc..
  - Bidder offers employees an option for a fossil fuel divestment retirement account.
  - Bidder offers products or services that reduce waste, conserve water, or promote energy efficiency and conservation. Please explain:
- 
- 

4. Please list any additional practices that promote clean energy and take action to address climate change:
- 
- 
-

**F. Acknowledge receipt of the following Addenda:**

Addendum No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Addendum No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Addendum No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Bidder Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Bidder (or Representative) (Type or Print)

**END OF CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

## PRICE SCHEDULE

**A. Fixed Price and Staff Hours per Deliverable:**

Deliverable Description	Hours	Fixed Price
Project Plan		\$
Stakeholder Engagement Plan		\$
HCBS COI Assessment Report		\$
HCBS COI Options Document		\$
HCBS COI Recommendation Report		\$
Draft Implementation Plan		\$
Final Implementation Plan		\$
Interim Implementation Report		\$
Post-Implementation Report		\$
Other deliverable(s) as proposed by contractor		\$
Total Project Cost		\$

**B. Hourly Labor Rates and Estimated Hours for Project:**

Service Category/Title of Positions	Hours	Hourly Rate
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$

Name of Bidder: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Bidder: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBCONTRACTOR REPORTING FORM**

**This form must be completed in its entirety and submitted prior to contract execution and updated as necessary and provided to the State as additional subcontractors are hired.**

The Department of Buildings and General Services in accordance with Act 54, Section 32 of the Acts of 2009 and for total project costs exceeding \$250,000.00 requires bidders to comply with the following provisions and requirements.

Contractor is required to provide a list of subcontractors on the job along with lists of subcontractor's subcontractors and by whom those subcontractors are insured for workers' compensation purposes. Include additional pages if necessary. This is not a requirement for subcontractor's providing supplies only and no labor to the overall contract or project.

<b>Subcontractor</b>	<b>Insured By</b>		<b>Subcontractor's Sub</b>	<b>Insured By</b>

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Failure to adhere to Act 54, Section 32 of the Acts of 2009 and submit Subcontractor Reporting: Worker Classification Compliance Requirement will constitute non-compliance and may result in cancellation of contract and/or forfeiture of future bidding privileges until resolved.

Send Completed Form to: Office of Purchasing & Contracting  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-3001



### Standard Contract Terms and conditions template

The following pages have a sample contract template that will be used if bidder is chosen as the winning bidder. Nothing needs to be filled out on these pages. This is just for your reference so that you can see what our contract terms and conditions look like. If you have exceptions to any of the terms and conditions, please state them in your RFP response per section 4.2.3 of the RFP.

## STANDARD CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

1. **Parties.** This is a contract for services between the State of Vermont, [REDACTED] (hereinafter called “State”), and [REDACTED], with a principal place of business in [REDACTED], (hereinafter called “Contractor”). Contractor’s form of business organization is [REDACTED]. It is Contractor’s responsibility to contact the Vermont Department of Taxes to determine if, by law, Contractor is required to have a Vermont Department of Taxes Business Account Number.

2. **Subject Matter.** The subject matter of this contract is services generally on the subject of [REDACTED]. Detailed services to be provided by Contractor are described in Attachment A.

3. **Maximum Amount.** In consideration of the services to be performed by Contractor, the State agrees to pay Contractor, in accordance with the payment provisions specified in Attachment B, a sum not to exceed \$ [REDACTED].00.

4. **Contract Term.** The period of Contractor’s performance shall begin on [REDACTED], 20 [REDACTED] and end on [REDACTED], 20 [REDACTED].

5. **Prior Approvals.** This Contract shall not be binding unless and until all requisite prior approvals have been obtained in accordance with current State law, bulletins, and interpretations.

6. **Amendment.** No changes, modifications, or amendments in the terms and conditions of this contract shall be effective unless reduced to writing, numbered and signed by the duly authorized representative of the State and Contractor.

7. **Termination for Convenience.** This contract may be terminated by the State at any time by giving written notice at least thirty (30) days in advance. In such event, Contractor shall be paid under the terms of this contract for all services provided to and accepted by the State prior to the effective date of termination.

8. **Attachments.** This contract consists of [REDACTED] pages including the following attachments which are incorporated herein:

Attachment A - Statement of Work

Attachment B - Payment Provisions

Attachment C – “Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants” a preprinted form (revision date 12/15/2017)

Attachment D - Other Provisions (if any)

Additional attachments may be lettered as necessary

9. **Order of Precedence.** Any ambiguity, conflict or inconsistency between the documents comprising this contract shall be resolved according to the following order of precedence:

(1) Standard Contract

(2) Attachment D (if applicable)

(3) Attachment C (Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants)

(4) Attachment A

(5) Attachment B

List other attachments, if any, in order of precedence

**WE THE UNDERSIGNED PARTIES AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THIS CONTRACT**

By the State of Vermont:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

By the Contractor:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACHMENT A – STATEMENT OF WORK**

The Contractor shall:

## ATTACHMENT B – PAYMENT PROVISIONS

The maximum dollar amount payable under this contract is not intended as any form of a guaranteed amount. The Contractor will be paid for products or services actually delivered or performed, as specified in Attachment A, up to the maximum allowable amount specified on page 1 of this contract.

1. Prior to commencement of work and release of any payments, Contractor shall submit to the State:
  - a. a certificate of insurance consistent with the requirements set forth in Attachment C, Section 8 (Insurance), and with any additional requirements for insurance as may be set forth elsewhere in this contract; and
  - b. a current IRS Form W-9 (signed within the last six months).
2. Payment terms are **Net 30** days from the date the State receives an error-free invoice with all necessary and complete supporting documentation.
3. Contractor shall submit detailed invoices itemizing all work performed during the invoice period, including the dates of service, rates of pay, hours of work performed, and any other information and/or documentation appropriate and sufficient to substantiate the amount invoiced for payment by the State. All invoices must include the Contract # for this contract.
4. Contractor shall submit invoices to the State in accordance with the schedule set forth in this Attachment B. Unless a more particular schedule is provided herein, invoices shall be submitted not more frequently than monthly.
5. Invoices shall be submitted to the State at the following address:
6. The payment schedule for delivered products, or rates for services performed, and any additional reimbursements, are as follows:

The State shall pay for services according to fixed monthly fees, with a 10% retainage. The State withholds 10% on each invoice, and upon the completion and acceptance of each project deliverable, it shall pay 10% of the cost of the deliverable.

Fixed Monthly Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Deliverable Description	10% Retainage	Total Price (including retainage)
Project Plan	\$	\$
Stakeholder Engagement Plan	\$	\$
HCBS COI Assessment Report	\$	\$
HCBS COI Options Document	\$	\$
HCBS COI Recommendation Report	\$	\$
Draft Implementation Plan	\$	\$
Final Implementation Plan	\$	\$
Interim Implementation Report	\$	\$
Post-Implementation Report	\$	\$
Other deliverable(s) as proposed by contractor	\$	\$
Total Retainage	\$	
Total Payment		\$

**ATTACHMENT C: STANDARD STATE PROVISIONS  
FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS  
REVISED DECEMBER 15, 2017**

**“Attachment C: Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants” (revision version dated December 15, 2017) constitutes part of this Agreement and is hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein and shall apply to the purchase of all goods and/or services by the State under this Agreement. A copy of this document is available online at: <https://bgs.vermont.gov/purchasing-contracting/forms>.**

ATTACHMENT E  
BUSINESS ASSOCIATE agreement

SOV CONTRACTor/Grantee/business associate: \_\_\_\_\_

SOV CONTRACT No. \_\_\_\_\_ CONTRACT Effective DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

THIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT (“AGREEMENT”) IS ENTERED INTO BY AND BETWEEN THE STATE OF VERMONT AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES, OPERATING BY AND THROUGH ITS **INSERT NAME OF AHS DEPARTMENT** (“COVERED ENTITY”) AND PARTY IDENTIFIED IN THIS AGREEMENT AS CONTRACTOR OR GRANTEE ABOVE (“BUSINESS ASSOCIATE”). THIS AGREEMENT SUPPLEMENTS AND IS MADE A PART OF THE CONTRACT OR GRANT (“CONTRACT OR GRANT”) TO WHICH IT IS ATTACHED. Covered Entity and Business Associate enter into this Agreement to comply with the standards promulgated under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”), including the Standards for the Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, at 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164 (“Privacy Rule”), and the Security Standards, at 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164 (“Security Rule”), as amended by Subtitle D of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH), and any associated federal rules and regulations.

The parties agree as follows:

1. **Definitions.** All capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined in this Agreement have the meanings set forth in 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164 as amended by HITECH and associated federal rules and regulations. Terms defined in this Agreement are italicized. Unless otherwise specified, when used in this Agreement, defined terms used in the singular shall be understood if appropriate in their context to include the plural when applicable.

“*Agent*” means an *Individual* acting within the scope of the agency of the *Business Associate*, in accordance with the Federal common law of agency, as referenced in 45 CFR § 160.402(c) and includes Workforce members and *Subcontractors*.

“*Breach*” means the acquisition, Access, Use or Disclosure of *Protected Health Information (PHI)* which compromises the Security or privacy of the *PHI*, except as excluded in the definition of *Breach* in 45 CFR § 164.402.

“*Business Associate*” shall have the meaning given for “Business Associate” in 45 CFR § 160.103 and means Contractor or Grantee and includes its Workforce, *Agents* and *Subcontractors*.

“*Electronic PHI*” shall mean *PHI* created, received, maintained or transmitted electronically in accordance with 45 CFR § 160.103.

“*Individual*” includes a Person who qualifies as a personal representative in accordance with 45 CFR § 164.502(g).

“*Protected Health Information*” (“*PHI*”) shall have the meaning given in 45 CFR § 160.103, limited to the *PHI* created or received by *Business Associate* from or on behalf of Covered Entity.

“*Required by Law*” means a mandate contained in law that compels an entity to make a use or disclosure of *PHI* and that is enforceable in a court of law and shall have the meaning given in 45 CFR § 164.103.

“*Report*” means submissions required by this Agreement as provided in section 2.3.

“*Security Incident*” means the attempted or successful unauthorized Access, Use, Disclosure, modification, or destruction of Information or interference with system operations in an Information System relating to *PHI* in accordance with 45 CFR § 164.304.

“*Services*” includes all work performed by the *Business Associate* for or on behalf of Covered Entity that requires the Use and/or Disclosure of *PHI* to perform a *Business Associate* function described in 45 CFR § 160.103.

“*Subcontractor*” means a Person to whom *Business Associate* delegates a function, activity, or service, other than in the capacity of a member of the workforce of such *Business Associate*.

“*Successful Security Incident*” shall mean a *Security Incident* that results in the unauthorized Access, Use, Disclosure, modification, or destruction of information or interference with system operations in an Information System.

“*Unsuccessful Security Incident*” shall mean a *Security Incident* such as routine occurrences that do not result in unauthorized Access, Use, Disclosure, modification, or destruction of information or interference with system operations in an Information System, such as: (i) unsuccessful attempts to penetrate computer networks or services maintained by *Business Associate*; and (ii) immaterial incidents such as pings and other broadcast attacks on *Business Associate*'s firewall, port scans, unsuccessful log-on attempts, denials of service and any combination of the above with respect to *Business Associate*'s Information System.

“*Targeted Unsuccessful Security Incident*” means an *Unsuccessful Security Incident* that appears to be an attempt to obtain unauthorized Access, Use, Disclosure, modification or destruction of the Covered Entity's *Electronic PHI*.

## **2. Contact Information for Privacy and Security Officers and Reports.**

2.1 *Business Associate* shall provide, within ten (10) days of the execution of this Agreement, written notice to the Contract or Grant manager the names and contact information of both the HIPAA Privacy Officer and HIPAA Security Officer of the *Business Associate*. This information must be updated by *Business Associate* any time these contacts change.

2.2 Covered Entity's HIPAA Privacy Officer and HIPAA Security Officer contact information is posted at: <https://humanservices.vermont.gov/rules-policies/health-insurance-portability-and-accountability-act-hipaa>

2.3 *Business Associate* shall submit all *Reports* required by this Agreement to the following email address: [AHS.PrivacyAndSecurity@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.PrivacyAndSecurity@vermont.gov)

## **3. Permitted and Required Uses/Disclosures of PHI.**

3.1 Subject to the terms in this Agreement, *Business Associate* may Use or Disclose *PHI* to perform *Services*, as specified in the Contract or Grant. Such Uses and Disclosures are limited to the minimum necessary to provide the *Services*. *Business Associate* shall not Use or Disclose *PHI* in any manner that would constitute a violation of the Privacy Rule if Used or Disclosed by Covered Entity in that manner. *Business Associate* may not Use or Disclose *PHI* other than as permitted or required by this Agreement or as *Required by Law* and only in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.



3.2 *Business Associate* may make *PHI* available to its Workforce, *Agent* and *Subcontractor* who need Access to perform *Services* as permitted by this Agreement, provided that *Business Associate* makes them aware of the Use and Disclosure restrictions in this Agreement and binds them to comply with such restrictions.

3.3 *Business Associate* shall be directly liable under HIPAA for impermissible Uses and Disclosures of *PHI*.

4. **Business Activities.** *Business Associate* may Use *PHI* if necessary for *Business Associate's* proper management and administration or to carry out its legal responsibilities. *Business Associate* may Disclose *PHI* for *Business Associate's* proper management and administration or to carry out its legal responsibilities if a Disclosure is *Required by Law* or if *Business Associate* obtains reasonable written assurances via a written agreement from the Person to whom the information is to be Disclosed that such *PHI* shall remain confidential and be Used or further Disclosed only as *Required by Law* or for the purpose for which it was Disclosed to the Person, and the Agreement requires the Person to notify *Business Associate*, within five (5) business days, in writing of any *Breach* of Unsecured *PHI* of which it is aware. Such Uses and Disclosures of *PHI* must be of the minimum amount necessary to accomplish such purposes.

#### 5. **Electronic PHI Security Rule Obligations.**

5.1 With respect to *Electronic PHI*, *Business Associate* shall:

- a) Implement and use Administrative, Physical, and Technical Safeguards in compliance with 45 CFR sections 164.308, 164.310, and 164.312;
- b) Identify in writing upon request from Covered Entity all the safeguards that it uses to protect such *Electronic PHI*;
- c) Prior to any Use or Disclosure of *Electronic PHI* by an *Agent* or *Subcontractor*, ensure that any *Agent* or *Subcontractor* to whom it provides *Electronic PHI* agrees in writing to implement and use Administrative, Physical, and Technical Safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability of *Electronic PHI*. The written agreement must identify Covered Entity as a direct and intended third party beneficiary with the right to enforce any breach of the agreement concerning the Use or Disclosure of *Electronic PHI*, and be provided to Covered Entity upon request;
- d) Report in writing to Covered Entity any *Successful Security Incident* or *Targeted Unsuccessful Security Incident* as soon as it becomes aware of such incident and in no event later than five (5) business days after such awareness. Such *Report* shall be timely made notwithstanding the fact that little information may be known at the time of the *Report* and need only include such information then available;
- e) Following such *Report*, provide Covered Entity with the information necessary for Covered Entity to investigate any such incident; and
- f) Continue to provide to Covered Entity information concerning the incident as it becomes available to it.

5.2 Reporting *Unsuccessful Security Incidents*. *Business Associate* shall provide Covered Entity upon written request a *Report* that: (a) identifies the categories of Unsuccessful Security Incidents; (b) indicates whether *Business Associate* believes its current defensive security measures are adequate to address all *Unsuccessful Security Incidents*, given the scope and nature of such attempts; and (c) if the security measures are not adequate, the measures *Business Associate* will implement to address the security inadequacies.

5.3 *Business Associate* shall comply with any reasonable policies and procedures Covered Entity implements to obtain compliance under the Security Rule.

## 6. **Reporting and Documenting Breaches.**

6.1 *Business Associate* shall *Report* to Covered Entity any *Breach* of Unsecured *PHI* as soon as it, or any Person to whom *PHI* is disclosed under this Agreement, becomes aware of any such *Breach*, and in no event later than five (5) business days after such awareness, except when a law enforcement official determines that a notification would impede a criminal investigation or cause damage to national security. Such *Report* shall be timely made notwithstanding the fact that little information may be known at the time of the *Report* and need only include such information then available.

6.2 Following the *Report* described in 6.1, *Business Associate* shall conduct a risk assessment and provide it to Covered Entity with a summary of the event. *Business Associate* shall provide Covered Entity with the names of any *Individual* whose Unsecured *PHI* has been, or is reasonably believed to have been, the subject of the *Breach* and any other available information that is required to be given to the affected *Individual*, as set forth in 45 CFR § 164.404(c). Upon request by Covered Entity, *Business Associate* shall provide information necessary for Covered Entity to investigate the impermissible Use or Disclosure. *Business Associate* shall continue to provide to Covered Entity information concerning the *Breach* as it becomes available.

6.3 When *Business Associate* determines that an impermissible acquisition, Access, Use or Disclosure of *PHI* for which it is responsible is not a *Breach*, and therefore does not necessitate notice to the impacted *Individual*, it shall document its assessment of risk, conducted as set forth in 45 CFR § 402(2). *Business Associate* shall make its risk assessment available to Covered Entity upon request. It shall include 1) the name of the person making the assessment, 2) a brief summary of the facts, and 3) a brief statement of the reasons supporting the determination of low probability that the *PHI* had been compromised.

7. **Mitigation and Corrective Action.** *Business Associate* shall mitigate, to the extent practicable, any harmful effect that is known to it of an impermissible Use or Disclosure of *PHI*, even if the impermissible Use or Disclosure does not constitute a *Breach*. *Business Associate* shall draft and carry out a plan of corrective action to address any incident of impermissible Use or Disclosure of *PHI*. *Business Associate* shall make its mitigation and corrective action plans available to Covered Entity upon request.

## 8. **Providing Notice of Breaches.**

8.1 If Covered Entity determines that a *Breach* of *PHI* for which *Business Associate* was responsible, and if requested by Covered Entity, *Business Associate* shall provide notice to the *Individual* whose *PHI* has been the subject of the *Breach*. When so requested, *Business Associate* shall consult with Covered Entity about the timeliness, content and method of notice, and shall receive Covered Entity's approval concerning these elements. *Business Associate* shall be responsible for the cost of notice and related remedies.

8.2 The notice to affected *Individuals* shall be provided as soon as reasonably possible and in no case later than sixty (60) calendar days after *Business Associate* reported the *Breach* to Covered Entity.

8.3 The notice to affected *Individuals* shall be written in plain language and shall include, to the extent possible: 1) a brief description of what happened; 2) a description of the types of Unsecured *PHI* that were involved in the *Breach*; 3) any steps *Individuals* can take to protect themselves from potential harm resulting from the *Breach*; 4) a brief description of what the *Business Associate* is doing to investigate the *Breach* to mitigate harm to *Individuals* and to protect against further *Breaches*; and 5) contact procedures for *Individuals* to ask questions or obtain additional information, as set forth in 45 CFR § 164.404(c).

8.4 *Business Associate* shall notify *Individuals* of *Breaches* as specified in 45 CFR § 164.404(d) (methods of *Individual* notice). In addition, when a *Breach* involves more than 500 residents of Vermont, *Business Associate* shall, if requested by Covered Entity, notify prominent media outlets serving Vermont, following the requirements set forth in 45 CFR § 164.406.

**9. Agreements with Subcontractors.** *Business Associate* shall enter into a Business Associate Agreement with any *Subcontractor* to whom it provides *PHI* to require compliance with HIPAA and to ensure *Business Associate* and *Subcontractor* comply with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. *Business Associate* must enter into such written agreement before any Use by or Disclosure of *PHI* to such *Subcontractor*. The written agreement must identify Covered Entity as a direct and intended third party beneficiary with the right to enforce any breach of the agreement concerning the Use or Disclosure of *PHI*. *Business Associate* shall provide a copy of the written agreement it enters into with a *Subcontractor* to Covered Entity upon request. *Business Associate* may not make any Disclosure of *PHI* to any *Subcontractor* without prior written consent of Covered Entity.

**10. Access to PHI.** *Business Associate* shall provide access to *PHI* in a Designated Record Set to Covered Entity or as directed by Covered Entity to an *Individual* to meet the requirements under 45 CFR § 164.524. *Business Associate* shall provide such access in the time and manner reasonably designated by Covered Entity. Within five (5) business days, *Business Associate* shall forward to Covered Entity for handling any request for Access to *PHI* that *Business Associate* directly receives from an *Individual*.

**11. Amendment of PHI.** *Business Associate* shall make any amendments to *PHI* in a Designated Record Set that Covered Entity directs or agrees to pursuant to 45 CFR § 164.526, whether at the request of Covered Entity or an *Individual*. *Business Associate* shall make such amendments in the time and manner reasonably designated by Covered Entity. Within five (5)

business days, *Business Associate* shall forward to Covered Entity for handling any request for amendment to *PHI* that *Business Associate* directly receives from an *Individual*.

**12. Accounting of Disclosures.** *Business Associate* shall document Disclosures of *PHI* and all information related to such Disclosures as would be required for Covered Entity to respond to a request by an *Individual* for an accounting of disclosures of *PHI* in accordance with 45 CFR § 164.528. *Business Associate* shall provide such information to Covered Entity or as directed by Covered Entity to an *Individual*, to permit Covered Entity to respond to an accounting request. *Business Associate* shall provide such information in the time and manner reasonably designated by Covered Entity. Within five (5) business days, *Business Associate* shall forward to Covered Entity for handling any accounting request that *Business Associate* directly receives from an *Individual*.

**13. Books and Records.** Subject to the attorney-client and other applicable legal privileges, *Business Associate* shall make its internal practices, books, and records (including policies and procedures and *PHI*) relating to the Use and Disclosure of *PHI* available to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the time and manner designated by the Secretary. *Business Associate* shall make the same information available to Covered Entity, upon Covered Entity's request, in the time and manner reasonably designated by Covered Entity so that Covered Entity may determine whether *Business Associate* is in compliance with this Agreement.

**14. Termination.**

14.1 This Agreement commences on the Effective Date and shall remain in effect until terminated by Covered Entity or until all the *PHI* is destroyed or returned to Covered Entity subject to Section 18.8.

14.2 If *Business Associate* fails to comply with any material term of this Agreement, Covered Entity may provide an opportunity for *Business Associate* to cure. If *Business Associate* does not cure within the time specified by Covered Entity or if Covered Entity believes that cure is not reasonably possible, Covered Entity may immediately terminate the Contract or Grant without incurring liability or penalty for such termination. If neither termination nor cure are feasible, Covered Entity shall report the breach to the Secretary of HHS. Covered Entity has the right to seek to cure such failure by *Business Associate*. Regardless of whether Covered Entity cures, it retains any right or remedy available at law, in equity, or under the Contract or Grant and *Business Associate* retains its responsibility for such failure.

**15. Return/Destruction of PHI.**

15.1 *Business Associate* in connection with the expiration or termination of the Contract or Grant shall return or destroy, at the discretion of the Covered Entity, *PHI* that *Business Associate* still maintains in any form or medium (including electronic) within thirty (30) days after such expiration or termination. *Business Associate* shall not retain any copies of *PHI*. *Business Associate* shall certify in writing and report to Covered Entity (1) when all *PHI* has been returned or destroyed and (2) that *Business Associate* does not continue to maintain any *PHI*. *Business Associate* is to provide this certification during this thirty (30) day period.

15.2 *Business Associate* shall report to Covered Entity any conditions that *Business Associate* believes make the return or destruction of *PHI* infeasible. *Business Associate* shall extend the protections of this Agreement to such *PHI* and limit further Uses and Disclosures to those purposes that make the return or destruction infeasible for so long as *Business Associate* maintains such *PHI*.

**16. Penalties.** *Business Associate* understands that: (a) there may be civil or criminal penalties for misuse or misappropriation of *PHI* and (b) violations of this Agreement may result in notification by Covered Entity to law enforcement officials and regulatory, accreditation, and licensure organizations.

**17. Training.** *Business Associate* understands its obligation to comply with the law and shall provide appropriate training and education to ensure compliance with this Agreement. If requested by Covered Entity, *Business Associate* shall participate in Covered Entity's training regarding the Use, Confidentiality, and Security of *PHI*; however, participation in such training shall not supplant nor relieve *Business Associate* of its obligations under this Agreement to independently assure compliance with the law and this Agreement.

**18. Miscellaneous.**

18.1 In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the terms of this Agreement and the terms of the Contract or Grant, the terms of this Agreement shall govern with respect to its subject matter. Otherwise, the terms of the Contract or Grant continue in effect.

18.2 Each party shall cooperate with the other party to amend this Agreement from time to time as is necessary for such party to comply with the Privacy Rule, the Security Rule, or any other standards promulgated under HIPAA. This Agreement may not be amended, except by a writing signed by all parties hereto.

18.3 Any ambiguity in this Agreement shall be resolved to permit the parties to comply with the Privacy Rule, Security Rule, or any other standards promulgated under HIPAA.

18.4 In addition to applicable Vermont law, the parties shall rely on applicable federal law (e.g., HIPAA, the Privacy Rule, Security Rule, and HITECH) in construing the meaning and effect of this Agreement.

18.5 *Business Associate* shall not have or claim any ownership of *PHI*.

18.6 *Business Associate* shall abide by the terms and conditions of this Agreement with respect to all *PHI* even if some of that information relates to specific services for which *Business Associate* may not be a "*Business Associate*" of Covered Entity under the Privacy Rule.

18.7 *Business Associate* is prohibited from directly or indirectly receiving any remuneration in exchange for an *Individual's PHI*. *Business Associate* will refrain from marketing activities that would violate HIPAA, including specifically Section 13406 of the HITECH Act. *Reports* or data containing *PHI* may not be sold without Covered Entity's or the affected Individual's written consent.

18.8 The provisions of this Agreement that by their terms encompass continuing rights or responsibilities shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement. For example: (a) the provisions of this Agreement shall continue to apply if Covered Entity determines that it would be infeasible for *Business Associate* to return or destroy *PHI* as provided in Section 14.2 and (b) the obligation of *Business Associate* to provide an accounting of disclosures as set forth in Section 12 survives the expiration or termination of this Agreement with respect to accounting requests, if any, made after such expiration or termination.

Rev. 05/22/2020

**Attachment F**  
**AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES' CUSTOMARY CONTRACT/GRANT PROVISIONS**

1. **Definitions:** For purposes of this Attachment F, the term “Agreement” shall mean the form of the contract or grant, with all of its parts, into which this Attachment F is incorporated. The meaning of the term “Party” when used in this Attachment F shall mean any named party to this Agreement *other than* the State of Vermont, the Agency of Human Services (AHS) and any of the departments, boards, offices and business units named in this Agreement. As such, the term “Party” shall mean, when used in this Attachment F, the Contractor or Grantee with whom the State of Vermont is executing this Agreement. If Party, when permitted to do so under this Agreement, seeks by way of any subcontract, sub-grant or other form of provider agreement to employ any other person or entity to perform any of the obligations of Party under this Agreement, Party shall be obligated to ensure that all terms of this Attachment F are followed. As such, the term “Party” as used herein shall also be construed as applicable to, and describing the obligations of, any subcontractor, sub-recipient or sub-grantee of this Agreement. Any such use or construction of the term “Party” shall not, however, give any subcontractor, sub-recipient or sub-grantee any substantive right in this Agreement without an express written agreement to that effect by the State of Vermont.
2. **Agency of Human Services:** The Agency of Human Services is responsible for overseeing all contracts and grants entered by any of its departments, boards, offices and business units, however denominated. The Agency of Human Services, through the business office of the Office of the Secretary, and through its Field Services Directors, will share with any named AHS-associated party to this Agreement oversight, monitoring and enforcement responsibilities. Party agrees to cooperate with both the named AHS-associated party to this contract and with the Agency of Human Services itself with respect to the resolution of any issues relating to the performance and interpretation of this Agreement, payment matters and legal compliance.
3. **Medicaid Program Parties** (*applicable to any Party providing services and supports paid for under Vermont’s Medicaid program and Vermont’s Global Commitment to Health Waiver*):

**Inspection and Retention of Records:** In addition to any other requirement under this Agreement or at law, Party must fulfill all state and federal legal requirements, and will comply with all requests appropriate to enable the Agency of Human Services, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (along with its Inspector General and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), the Comptroller General, the Government Accounting Office, or any of their designees: (i) to evaluate through inspection or other means the quality, appropriateness, and timeliness of services performed under this Agreement; and (ii) to inspect and audit any records, financial data, contracts, computer or other electronic systems of Party relating to the performance of services under Vermont’s Medicaid program and Vermont’s Global Commitment to Health Waiver. Party will retain for ten years all documents required to be retained pursuant to 42 CFR 438.3(u).

**Subcontracting for Medicaid Services:** Notwithstanding any permitted subcontracting of services to be performed under this Agreement, Party shall remain responsible for ensuring that this Agreement is fully performed according to its terms, that subcontractor remains in compliance with the terms hereof, and that subcontractor complies with all state and federal laws and regulations relating to the Medicaid program in Vermont. Subcontracts, and any service provider agreements entered into by Party in connection with the performance of this Agreement, must clearly specify in writing the responsibilities of the subcontractor or other service provider and Party must retain the authority to revoke its subcontract or service provider agreement or to impose other sanctions if the performance of the subcontractor or service provider is inadequate or if its performance deviates from any requirement of this Agreement. Party shall make available on request all contracts, subcontracts and service provider agreements between the Party, subcontractors and other service providers to the

Agency of Human Services and any of its departments as well as to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

**Medicaid Notification of Termination Requirements:** Party shall follow the Department of Vermont Health Access Managed-Care-Organization enrollee-notification requirements, to include the requirement that Party provide timely notice of any termination of its practice.

**Encounter Data:** Party shall provide encounter data to the Agency of Human Services and/or its departments and ensure further that the data and services provided can be linked to and supported by enrollee eligibility files maintained by the State.

**Federal Medicaid System Security Requirements Compliance:** Party shall provide a security plan, risk assessment, and security controls review document within three months of the start date of this Agreement (and update it annually thereafter) in order to support audit compliance with 45 CFR 95.621 subpart F, *ADP System Security Requirements and Review Process*.

4. **Workplace Violence Prevention and Crisis Response** (*applicable to any Party and any subcontractors and sub-grantees whose employees or other service providers deliver social or mental health services directly to individual recipients of such services*):

Party shall establish a written workplace violence prevention and crisis response policy meeting the requirements of Act 109 (2016), 33 VSA §8201(b), for the benefit of employees delivering direct social or mental health services. Party shall, in preparing its policy, consult with the guidelines promulgated by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration for *Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Services Workers*, as those guidelines may from time to time be amended.

Party, through its violence protection and crisis response committee, shall evaluate the efficacy of its policy, and update the policy as appropriate, at least annually. The policy and any written evaluations thereof shall be provided to employees delivering direct social or mental health services.

Party will ensure that any subcontractor and sub-grantee who hires employees (or contracts with service providers) who deliver social or mental health services directly to individual recipients of such services, complies with all requirements of this Section.

5. **Non-Discrimination:**

Party shall not discriminate, and will prohibit its employees, agents, subcontractors, sub-grantees and other service providers from discrimination, on the basis of age under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, on the basis of handicap under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, on the basis of sex under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and on the basis of race, color or national origin under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Party shall not refuse, withhold from or deny to any person the benefit of services, facilities, goods, privileges, advantages, or benefits of public accommodation on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity as provided by Title 9 V.S.A. Chapter 139.

No person shall on the grounds of religion or on the grounds of sex (including, on the grounds that a woman is pregnant), be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination, to include sexual harassment, under any program or activity supported by State of Vermont and/or federal funds.

Party further shall comply with the non-discrimination requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC Section 2000d, et seq., and with the federal guidelines promulgated pursuant to Executive Order 13166 of 2000, requiring that contractors and subcontractors receiving federal funds



assure that persons with limited English proficiency can meaningfully access services. To the extent Party provides assistance to individuals with limited English proficiency through the use of oral or written translation or interpretive services, such individuals cannot be required to pay for such services.

6. **Employees and Independent Contractors:**

Party agrees that it shall comply with the laws of the State of Vermont with respect to the appropriate classification of its workers and service providers as “employees” and “independent contractors” for all purposes, to include for purposes related to unemployment compensation insurance and workers compensation coverage, and proper payment and reporting of wages. Party agrees to ensure that all of its subcontractors or sub-grantees also remain in legal compliance as to the appropriate classification of “workers” and “independent contractors” relating to unemployment compensation insurance and workers compensation coverage, and proper payment and reporting of wages. Party will on request provide to the Agency of Human Services information pertaining to the classification of its employees to include the basis for the classification. Failure to comply with these obligations may result in termination of this Agreement.

7. **Data Protection and Privacy:**

**Protected Health Information:** Party shall maintain the privacy and security of all individually identifiable health information acquired by or provided to it as a part of the performance of this Agreement. Party shall follow federal and state law relating to privacy and security of individually identifiable health information as applicable, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and its federal regulations.

**Substance Abuse Treatment Information:** Substance abuse treatment information shall be maintained in compliance with 42 C.F.R. Part 2 if the Party or subcontractor(s) are Part 2 covered programs, or if substance abuse treatment information is received from a Part 2 covered program by the Party or subcontractor(s).

**Protection of Personal Information:** Party agrees to comply with all applicable state and federal statutes to assure protection and security of personal information, or of any personally identifiable information (PII), including the Security Breach Notice Act, 9 V.S.A. § 2435, the Social Security Number Protection Act, 9 V.S.A. § 2440, the Document Safe Destruction Act, 9 V.S.A. § 2445 and 45 CFR 155.260. As used here, PII shall include any information, in any medium, including electronic, which can be used to distinguish or trace an individual’s identity, such as his/her name, social security number, biometric records, etc., either alone or when combined with any other personal or identifiable information that is linked or linkable to a specific person, such as date and place of birth, mother’s maiden name, etc.

**Other Confidential Consumer Information:** Party agrees to comply with the requirements of AHS Rule No. 08-048 concerning access to and uses of personal information relating to any beneficiary or recipient of goods, services or other forms of support. Party further agrees to comply with any applicable Vermont State Statute and other regulations respecting the right to individual privacy. Party shall ensure that all of its employees, subcontractors and other service providers performing services under this agreement understand and preserve the sensitive, confidential and non-public nature of information to which they may have access.

**Data Breaches:** Party shall report to AHS, through its Chief Information Officer (CIO), any impermissible use or disclosure that compromises the security, confidentiality or privacy of any form of protected personal information identified above within 24 hours of the discovery of the breach. Party shall in addition comply with any other data breach notification requirements required under federal or state law.

8. **Abuse and Neglect of Children and Vulnerable Adults:**

**Abuse Registry.** Party agrees not to employ any individual, to use any volunteer or other service provider, or to otherwise provide reimbursement to any individual who in the performance of services connected with this agreement provides care, custody, treatment, transportation, or supervision to children or to vulnerable adults if there has been a substantiation of abuse or neglect or exploitation involving that individual. Party is responsible for confirming as to each individual having such contact with children or vulnerable adults the non-existence of a substantiated allegation of abuse, neglect or exploitation by verifying that fact though (a) as to vulnerable adults, the Adult Abuse Registry maintained by the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living and (b) as to children, the Central Child Protection Registry (unless the Party holds a valid child care license or registration from the Division of Child Development, Department for Children and Families). See 33 V.S.A. §4919(a)(3) and 33 V.S.A. §6911(c)(3).

**Reporting of Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation.** Consistent with provisions of 33 V.S.A. §4913(a) and §6903, Party and any of its agents or employees who, in the performance of services connected with this agreement, (a) is a caregiver or has any other contact with clients and (b) has reasonable cause to believe that a child or vulnerable adult has been abused or neglected as defined in Chapter 49 or abused, neglected, or exploited as defined in Chapter 69 of Title 33 V.S.A. shall: as to children, make a report containing the information required by 33 V.S.A. §4914 to the Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families within 24 hours; or, as to a vulnerable adult, make a report containing the information required by 33 V.S.A. §6904 to the Division of Licensing and Protection at the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living within 48 hours. Party will ensure that its agents or employees receive training on the reporting of abuse or neglect to children and abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable adults.

9. **Information Technology Systems:**

**Computing and Communication:** Party shall select, in consultation with the Agency of Human Services' Information Technology unit, one of the approved methods for secure access to the State's systems and data, if required. Approved methods are based on the type of work performed by the Party as part of this agreement. Options include, but are not limited to:

1. Party's provision of certified computing equipment, peripherals and mobile devices, on a separate Party's network with separate internet access. The Agency of Human Services' accounts may or may not be provided.
2. State supplied and managed equipment and accounts to access state applications and data, including State issued active directory accounts and application specific accounts, which follow the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) security and the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) standards.

**Intellectual Property/Work Product Ownership:** All data, technical information, materials first gathered, originated, developed, prepared, or obtained as a condition of this agreement and used in the performance of this agreement -- including, but not limited to all reports, surveys, plans, charts, literature, brochures, mailings, recordings (video or audio), pictures, drawings, analyses, graphic representations, software computer programs and accompanying documentation and printouts, notes and memoranda, written procedures and documents, which are prepared for or obtained specifically for this agreement, or are a result of the services required under this grant -- shall be considered "work for hire" and remain the property of the State of Vermont, regardless of the state of completion unless otherwise specified in this agreement. Such items shall be delivered to the State of Vermont upon 30-days notice by the State. With respect to software computer programs and / or source codes first developed for the State, all the work shall be considered "work for hire," i.e., the State, not the Party (or

subcontractor or sub-grantee), shall have full and complete ownership of all software computer programs, documentation and/or source codes developed.

Party shall not sell or copyright a work product or item produced under this agreement without explicit permission from the State of Vermont.

If Party is operating a system or application on behalf of the State of Vermont, Party shall not make information entered into the system or application available for uses by any other party than the State of Vermont, without prior authorization by the State. Nothing herein shall entitle the State to pre-existing Party's materials.

Party acknowledges and agrees that should this agreement be in support of the State's implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, Party is subject to the certain property rights provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations and a Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Such agreement will be subject to, and incorporates here by reference, 45 CFR 74.36, 45 CFR 92.34 and 45 CFR 95.617 governing rights to intangible property.

**Security and Data Transfers:** Party shall comply with all applicable State and Agency of Human Services' policies and standards, especially those related to privacy and security. The State will advise the Party of any new policies, procedures, or protocols developed during the term of this agreement as they are issued and will work with the Party to implement any required.

Party will ensure the physical and data security associated with computer equipment, including desktops, notebooks, and other portable devices, used in connection with this Agreement. Party will also assure that any media or mechanism used to store or transfer data to or from the State includes industry standard security mechanisms such as continually up-to-date malware protection and encryption. Party will make every reasonable effort to ensure media or data files transferred to the State are virus and spyware free. At the conclusion of this agreement and after successful delivery of the data to the State, Party shall securely delete data (including archival backups) from Party's equipment that contains individually identifiable records, in accordance with standards adopted by the Agency of Human Services.

Party, in the event of a data breach, shall comply with the terms of Section 7 above.

#### 10. **Other Provisions:**

**Environmental Tobacco Smoke.** Public Law 103-227 (also known as the Pro-Children Act of 1994) and Vermont's Act 135 (2014) (An act relating to smoking in lodging establishments, hospitals, and child care facilities, and on State lands) restrict the use of tobacco products in certain settings. Party shall ensure that no person is permitted: (i) to use tobacco products or tobacco substitutes as defined in 7 V.S.A. § 1001 on the premises, both indoor and outdoor, of any licensed child care center or afterschool program at any time; (ii) to use tobacco products or tobacco substitutes on the premises, both indoor and in any outdoor area designated for child care, health or day care services, kindergarten, pre-kindergarten, elementary, or secondary education or library services; and (iii) to use tobacco products or tobacco substitutes on the premises of a licensed or registered family child care home while children are present and in care. Party will refrain from promoting the use of tobacco products for all clients and from making tobacco products available to minors.

Failure to comply with the provisions of the federal law may result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty of up to \$1,000 for each violation and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity. The federal Pro-Children Act of 1994, however, does not apply to portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment; service providers whose sole source of applicable

federal funds is Medicare or Medicaid; or facilities where Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) coupons are redeemed.

**2-1-1 Database:** If Party provides health or human services within Vermont, or if Party provides such services near the Vermont border readily accessible to residents of Vermont, Party shall adhere to the "Inclusion/Exclusion" policy of Vermont's United Way/Vermont 211 (Vermont 211), and will provide to Vermont 211 relevant descriptive information regarding its agency, programs and/or contact information as well as accurate and up to date information to its database as requested. The "Inclusion/Exclusion" policy can be found at [www.vermont211.org](http://www.vermont211.org).

**Voter Registration:** When designated by the Secretary of State, Party agrees to become a voter registration agency as defined by 17 V.S.A. §2103 (41), and to comply with the requirements of state and federal law pertaining to such agencies.

**Drug Free Workplace Act:** Party will assure a drug-free workplace in accordance with 45 CFR Part 76.

**Lobbying:** No federal funds under this agreement may be used to influence or attempt 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 the awarding of any federal contract, continuation, renewal, amendments other than federal appropriated funds.

Attachment G  
**STATE OF VERMONT- FEDERAL TERMS SUPPLEMENT (Non-Construction)**  
**for all Contracts and Purchases of Products and Services Using Federal Funds**  
(Revision date: *June 27, 2022*)

**PROCUREMENT OF RECOVERED MATERIALS**

In the performance of this contract, the Contractor shall make maximum use of products containing recovered materials that are EPA-designated Items unless the products cannot be acquired-

1. Competitively within a time frame providing for compliance with the contract performance schedule;
2. Meeting contract performance requirements; or
3. At a reasonable price

Information about this requirement, along with the list of EPA-designated items, is available at the EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines web site, <https://www.epa.gov/smm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program>.

The Contractor also agrees to comply with all other applicable requirements of section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

**CLEAN AIR ACT AND FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT**

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.
2. The contractor agrees to report each violation to the State of Vermont and understands and agrees that the State of Vermont will, in turn, report each violation as required to assure notification to the Federal Emergency Management 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 FEMA.
4. The contractor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders, or regulations issued pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.
5. The contractor agrees to report each violation to the State of Vermont and understands and agrees that the State of Vermont will, in turn, report each violation as required to assure notification to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.
6. The contractor agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract exceeding \$150,000 financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by FEMA. **a.** 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).

**CONTRACTOR BREACH, ERRORS AND OMISSIONS**

1. Any breach of the terms of this contract, or material errors and omissions in the work product of the contractor must be corrected by the contractor at no cost to the State, and a contractor may be liable for the State's costs and other damages resulting from errors or deficiencies in its performance.
2. Neither the States' review, approval or acceptance of nor payment for, the services required under this contract shall be construed to operate as a waiver of any rights under this contract or of any cause of action arising out of the performance of this contract.
3. The rights and remedies of the State provided for under this contract are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or elsewhere in the contract.

**TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE**

1. General

- a. Any termination for convenience shall be effected by delivery to the Contractor an Order of Termination specifying the termination is for the convenience of the Agency, the extent to which performance of work under the Contract is terminated, and the effective date of the termination.
- b. In the event such termination occurs, without fault and for reasons beyond the control of the Contractor, all completed or partially completed items of work as of the date of termination will be paid for in accordance with the contract payment terms.
- c. No compensation will be allowed for items eliminated from the Contract.
- d. Termination of the Contract, or portion thereof, shall not relieve the Contractor of its contractual responsibilities for work completed and shall not relieve the Contractor's Surety of its obligation for and concerning any just claim arising out of the work performed.

## 2. Contractor Obligations

After receipt of the Notice of Termination and except as otherwise directed by the State, the Contractor shall immediately proceed to:

- a. To the extent specified in the Notice of Termination, stop work under the Contract on the date specified.
- b. Place no further orders or subcontracts for materials, services, and/or facilities except as may be necessary for completion of such portion(s) of the work under the Contract as is (are) not terminated.
- c. Terminate and cancel any orders or subcontracts for related to the services, except as may be necessary for completion of such portion(s) of the work under the Contract as is (are) not terminated.
- d. Transfer to the State all completed or partially completed plans, drawings, information, and other property which, if the Contract had been completed, would be required to be furnished to the State.
- e. Take other action as may be necessary or as directed by the State for the protection and preservation of the property related to the contract which is in the possession of the contractor and in which the State has or may acquire any interest.
- f. Make available to the State all cost and other records relevant to a determination of an equitable settlement.

## 3. Claim by Contractor

After receipt of the Notice of Termination from the state, the Contractor shall submit any claim for additional costs not covered herein or elsewhere in the Contract within 60 days of the effective termination date, and not thereafter. Should the Contractor fail to submit a claim within the 60-day period, the State may, at its sole discretion, based on information available to it, determine what, if any, compensation is due the Contractor and pay the Contractor the determined amount.

## 4. Negotiation

Negotiation to settle a timely claim shall be for the sole purpose of reaching a settlement equitable to both the Contractor and the State. To the extent settlement is properly based on Contractor costs, settlement shall be based on actual costs incurred by the Contractor, as reflected by the contract rates. Consequential damages, loss of overhead, loss of overhead contribution of any kind, and/or loss of anticipated profits on work not performed shall not be included in the Contractor's claim and will not be considered, allowed, or included as part of any settlement.