

Community Services Contract - Provider Agreement

I.

Name of Legal Entity (the "Contractor") Tina Lavette Smith	
Doing Business As (d/b/a) Name, if applicable Bless It Hands Home Health Care	
Physical Address of Legal Entity (Street, City, State, ZIP Code) 350 N. Same Houston Pkwy E, Ste 232, Houston, Texas 77060	
Taxpayer ID. No. (EIN or SSN) 80-0690413	National Provider Identifier (NPI) or Atypical Provider Identifier (API) 1891179230
Contract Effective Date (the "Begin Date") February 1, 2019	Contract Termination Date (the "End Date") open
Contract Type Primary Home Care/Family Care/Community Attendant Services (PHC/FC/CAS)	
Contract No. 001027778	
Service Area(s) (Region, Catchment Area or Waiver Contract Area) Region 06	
Service Codes 17, 17C, 17D	
Component Code (HCS, TxHmL, CDS-HCS and CDS-TxHmL only) N/A	

II.

The Health and Human Services Commission ("System Agency") and the Contractor named in Section I (System Agency and Contractor, collectively, the "parties," each a "party") hereby enter into this Community Services Contract - Provider Agreement (the "Contract") for the provision of services under the Contract type specified in Section I for the considerations set forth herein. The Contract begin date specified in Section I is not valid until this Contract is signed by both parties.

III.

The Contractor hereby agrees:

In General

- A. To provide all services in the Contract Type and in the Service Area, specified in Section I of this Contract.
- B. To comply with all applicable federal and Texas state statutes and rules, including the following:
 - 1. Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Chapter IV;
 - 2. Title 45, CFR, Part 96;
 - 3. Title 40, Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Part 1;
 - 4. Texas Human Resources Code, Title 2, Chapter 32;
 - 5. Texas Human Resources Code, Title 6, Chapter 102;
 - 6. Texas Health and Safety Code, Title 4, Chapters 250 and 253; and
 - 7. Title 1, TAC, Part 15, Chapter 355.
- C. To comply with the following documents promulgated by the System Agency:
 - 1. applicable provider manuals or handbooks;
 - 2. applicable billing guidelines; and
 - 3. applicable provider communications, including provider letters, information letters and policy clarifications.
- D. To comply with applicable federal and Texas laws and rules regarding confidentiality of information regarding an individual. This provision shall not be construed as limiting the System Agency's access to an individual's records or other information relating to the individual.

Electronic Visit Verification ("EVV")

- A. To ensure:
 - 1. the EVV system is used to verify the provision of services governed under 40 TAC, Chapter 68;
 - 2. only authorized persons access the Contractor's EVV account;
 - 3. all data elements required by the System Agency are uploaded or entered into the EVV system completely and accurately and in a timely manner;
 - 4. that each time services governed by 40 TAC Chapter 68 are delivered to an individual, the Contractor's attendant uses the EVV system to verify when and where service delivery begins and when and where service delivery is completed in a manner prescribed by the System Agency;
 - 5. service delivery documentation is immediately available for review by the System Agency when requested; and
 - 6. equipment ("Equipment") provided to Contractor by the System Agency or by a third party, if applicable, is returned in good condition.
- B. That if the Contractor determines an electronic record in the EVV system needs to be adjusted, the Contractor will make the adjustment in the EVV system using codes or other identifiers ("codes") prescribed by the System Agency that identify reasons for the adjustment. The required codes are designated by the System Agency as either preferred or non-preferred. Each time the Contractor adjusts an electronic record in the EVV system, the Contractor must enter the applicable codes.
- C. That a preferred code represents a situation where the Contractor provided and documented the services as required by the System Agency. The System Agency will perform quarterly assessments of the Contractor's compliance with EVV requirements. Preferred codes will be used when determining the Contractor's compliance score. The System Agency will track the Contractor's use of preferred codes and if the System Agency, in its sole determination, identifies misuse of preferred codes, the System Agency may require the Contractor to use a System Agency-approved alternative service delivery verification method and the Contractor's compliance score may be negatively affected.

- D. That a non-preferred code represents a situation where the Contractor did not provide or document the services as required by the System Agency. The System Agency will include the Contractor's use of non-preferred codes when determining the Contractor's compliance with EVV requirements. The use of non-preferred codes will lower the Contractor's compliance score and may subject the Contractor to an assessment of liquidated damages by the System Agency.
- E. System Agency will conduct quarterly EVV compliance reviews to determine if Contractor has provided and documented services described in 40 TAC Chapter 68 in accordance with the System Agency's requirements. The EVV requirements include those elements identified under 40 TAC §68. These reviews will be based on Contractor's performance for the period reviewed.
1. For provisional contracts with a contract begin date after June 1, 2015, the Contractor will be subject to EVV compliance reviews for services provided beginning with the 1st day of the 4th calendar month after the Contract begin date.
 2. For provisional contracts with a begin date on or before June 1, 2015, and for all standard contracts, the Contractor will be subject to EVV compliance reviews for services provided after August 31, 2015.
 3. For contracts included in any future expansion of EVV requirements to cover additional services, the Contractor will be subject to EVV compliance reviews for the additional services beginning the 1st day of the 4th calendar month following the effective date of the expansion of EVV requirements to cover additional services.
- F. That if the Contractor receives a quarterly compliance score of less than 90 percent the Contractor shall be in non-compliance with EVV requirements and subject to an assessment of liquidated damages. The System Agency may assess a liquidated damage against the Contractor based on the degree of non-compliance in an amount ranging from \$10.00 to \$500.00 for each calendar day the System Agency determines the Contractor is not in compliance with EVV requirements.
- G. That a liquidated damage assessment against the Contractor by the System Agency constitutes a reasonable estimate of the System Agency's loss and damage due to the Contractor's failure to comply with EVV requirements and such an assessment is not a penalty.
- H. That the Contractor may request an informal review if the Contractor can demonstrate that an assessment of liquidated damages resulted from a quarterly compliance score based on a failure of the EVV system. The informal review request must:
1. be sent in the form of a letter;
 2. describe the specific EVV system failure(s) that prevented the Contractor from complying with the required performance standard;
 3. include all documentation that supports the Contractor's position; and
 4. be received by the System Agency within 10 calendar days after the Contractor's receipt of the System Agency's written quarterly compliance review findings.
- A request for an informal review that does not meet the above requirements will not be granted. The use of the informal review process does not limit Contractor's ability to request a hearing, as provided for in Section IV of this Contract.
- I. That If Contractor must use Equipment provided by the System Agency or by a third party, the Equipment must be returned in good condition when the Equipment is no longer needed. Contractor must not place any marks or any other identifying information on the Equipment, and may not alter information on the Equipment including logos and serial numbers. If the Equipment is lost, stolen, marked, altered or damaged by Contractor, Contractor may be required to pay the replacement cost for each piece of Equipment that is lost, stolen, marked or damaged. Replacement costs for lost, stolen, marked or damaged Equipment may be assessed periodically for administrative convenience purposes.
- J. If Contractor recovers previously lost or stolen Equipment for which Contractor paid the replacement cost in the prior 12 months, Contractor may return the Equipment and be reimbursed for the replacement costs, provided the Equipment is returned in good condition as specified in Paragraph I above.
- K. The assessment of a liquidated damage against the Contractor does not limit the System Agency's ability to take other action based on the Contractor's non-compliance with EVV requirements, including the sanctions set forth in Section III of this Contract.

Updating System Agency

- A. To disclose information on ownership and control, information related to business transactions and information on persons convicted of crimes in accordance with 42 CFR, Part 455, Subpart B, and to submit updated ownership and control disclosures within 10 business days of a change in ownership or control interest and at any time within 35 business days of a written request by the System Agency or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS").
- B. To keep its application for participation in the contracted program current by informing the System Agency in writing of:
1. a change of ownership or a change in the Contractor's legal entity that directly or indirectly changes the legal entity responsible for fulfilling this Contract at least 60 calendar days prior to the date of the change;
 2. a change in the name of the person authorized to negotiate, execute, amend or terminate this Contract on behalf of the Contractor within 30 calendar days of the date of the change; and-
 3. a change in the name, telephone number, fax number or e-mail address of the Contractor's contact person or the name of the Contractor, if the change is not a change in the Contractor's legal entity, within 14 calendar days of the date of the change.
- C. To keep its contractor certifications current by informing the System Agency in writing within 3 business days after the Contractor learns that any of the certifications were erroneous when submitted and within 3 business days after a change that causes the certifications to become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances

D. To notify the System Agency in writing:

1. if the Contractor files for bankruptcy within 14 calendar days after filing;
2. if a controlling person, as that term is defined in 40 TAC §49.102, is convicted of an offense listed in 40 TAC §49.206 within 3 business days after the contractor or controlling person becomes aware of the conviction;
3. if the Contractor or a controlling person is excluded from participation in Medicare, Medicaid or any federal or state health care program in accordance with §§1128, 1128A, 1136, 1156, or 1842(j)(2) of the Social Security Act, within 3 business days after the Contractor or controlling person becomes aware of the exclusion; and
4. if the Contractor is notified by the System Agency that its enrollment application has been denied or abated within 3 business days after the notification date.

Claims

- A. To accept the System Agency's reimbursement rates as payment in full for the services specified in this Contract to the persons for whom a payment is received, and to make no additional charge to the individual, any member of his or her family or to any other source for any supplementation for such services, unless specifically allowed by System Agency rules.
- B. To submit claims for payment in accordance with System Agency Claims Administrator billing guidelines applicable to the services under the Contract.
- C. That except as may be specifically authorized by the System Agency in writing, if Contractor is required to use a System Agency-approved EVV system, Contractor must ensure that claims for services are supported by service delivery records that have been verified by the Contractor and fully documented in a System Agency-approved EVV system before being submitted for payment.
- D. That the System Agency may make proper adjustments to the Contractor's payments from month to month to compensate for prior overpayments, underpayments or payments not made in accordance with the requirements of this Contract. The Contractor further agrees the System Agency may withhold Contractor's payments, in whole or in part, because of differences from whatever cause until such differences are resolved.
- E. That the Contractor is responsible for payment of any valid audit exceptions found by the System Agency, HHS or the Texas Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit ("AG-MFCU").
- F. That in accordance with §403.0551, Texas Government Code, and unless otherwise prohibited by any other law, any payments due to the Contractor under this Contract will be first applied toward any debt or back taxes the Contractor owes the state of Texas. Payments will be so applied until such debts and back taxes are paid in full.

Provisions governing staff and subcontractors

- A. To require any subcontractor to execute documents that binds the subcontractor to comply with the provisions of this Contract. Subcontractor means an individual or entity to which the Contractor has contracted with or delegated some of its management functions or responsibilities of providing all or a part of the services required of the Contractor under this Contract.
- B. That it is responsible for the behavior of its staff and subcontractors to ensure a violence-free contractual relationship. The Contractor understands that any remarks, gestures or actions toward System Agency employees, volunteers or clients that carry an implied threat of any kind, even if intended to be in jest, will be taken seriously and may lead to corrective action, up to and including terminating this contractor.
- C. To comply with the requirements of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 regarding employment verification and retention of verification forms for an individual hired on or after November 6, 1986, who will perform any labor or services under this Contract.
- D. To certify and ensure that it utilizes and will continue to utilize, for the term of this Contract, the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's e-Verify system to determine the eligibility of:
 1. all persons employed during the Contract term to perform duties within Texas; and
 2. all persons (including subcontractors).
- E. That representatives of the System Agency, AG-MFCU and HHS may conduct interviews of Contractor personnel, subcontractors and their personnel, witnesses, and clients without a Contractor's representative present unless the person interviewed voluntarily requests that the representative be present. The Contractor must not coerce its personnel, subcontractors and their personnel, witnesses, or clients to accept representation by the Contractor, and the Contractor agrees that no retaliation will occur to a person who denies the Contractor's offer of representation. Nothing in the Contract limits a person's right to counsel of his or her choice. Requests for interviews are to be complied with in the form and the manner requested. The Contractor must ensure by contract or other means that its personnel and subcontractors cooperate fully in any investigation conducted by representatives of the System Agency, AG-MFCU and HHS.
- F. That if it is a Home and Community Support Services agency ("HCSSA"), the Contractor will hire Personal Assistance Services and Community Support Services providers chosen by the client or the client's legally authorized representative, if requested, and provided the individual who will provide the services:
 1. meets minimum qualifications for the service;
 2. is willing to be employed as an attendant by the Contractor; and
 3. is willing, and determined competent by the Contractor, to deliver the service(s) according to the client's individual service plan.

Recordkeeping

- A. To maintain its accounting records in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). GAAP are established by the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB").
- B. Unless a longer period is required by applicable law, the Contractor will retain legible copies of the Contract and all related documents for a minimum of the longest of the following three periods: (i) 7 years after the Contract is completed, expires, or is otherwise terminated; (ii) 7 years after all issues that arise from any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit, open records request, administrative review, or other action involving the Contract or documents are resolved, or (iii) the date on which the individual for whom the records relate becomes 21 year of age.
- C. That if this Contract is terminated or the Contractor terminates business operations, the Contractor must provide System Agency the following information:
 1. the location of the records related to this Contract; and
 2. the name, address, telephone number and email address of a person the System Agency may not contract to arrange access to the records.

Civil Rights Clause

- A. The Contractor agrees to comply with state and federal anti-discrimination laws, including without limitation:

1. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq.);
2. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. §794);
3. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.);
4. Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107);
5. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1688);
6. Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. §2011 et seq.); and
7. System Agency administrative rules, as set forth in the Texas Administrative Code, to the extent applicable to this Agreement.

The Contractor agrees to comply with all amendments to the above-referenced laws, and all related regulations. These laws provide in part that no persons in the United States may, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political beliefs, or religion, be subjected to discrimination.

The Contractor further agrees to:

1. comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and its implementing regulations at 45 C.F.R. Part 80 or 7 C.F.R. Part 15, which prohibit a contractor from adopting and implementing policies and procedures that exclude or limit clients' participation in programs and benefits, on the basis of national origin. Civil rights laws require contractors to provide alternative methods for ensuring access to services for applicants and recipients who are not fluent in English. Contractor agrees to take reasonable steps to provide services and information, both orally and in writing and electronically, in appropriate languages other than English;
2. post applicable civil rights posters in areas open to the public informing clients of their civil rights and including contact information for the System Agency's Civil Rights Office. The posters are available on the HHS website at: <http://hhs.gov/hhsa/texas.gov/system-support-services/civil-rights/publications>;
3. comply with Executive Orders 13279 and 13559, and their implementing regulations at 45 C.F.R. Part 87 or 7 C.F.R. Part 16. These provide in part that any organization that participates in programs funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture ("USDA") or HHS shall not discriminate against a program beneficiary on the basis of religion or religious belief. Contractor must provide written notice to beneficiaries of their rights;
4. upon request, provide the System Agency's Civil Rights Office with copies of all of the Contractor's civil rights policies and procedures; and
5. notify System Agency's Civil Rights Office of any civil rights complaints received relating to its performance under this Agreement. This notice must be delivered no more than 10 calendar days after receipt of a complaint. This notice must be directed to:

Civil Rights Office
Health and Human Services Commission
701 W. 51st Street; Mail Code W-206
Austin, Texas 78751
Telephone Toll Free: 888-388-6332
Telephone: (512) 438-4313
TTY Toll Free: (877) 432-7232
Fax: (512) 438-5865

- B. That if the Contractor is a charitable or faith-based Contractor under this Contract, it must apprise all residents of the following: "Neither the System Agency's selection of a charitable or faith-based contractor nor the expenditure of funds under this Contract is an endorsement of the Contractor's charitable or religious character, practices or expressions. No contractor may discriminate against you on the basis of religion, a religious belief or your refusal to actively participate in a religious practice. If you object to a particular Contractor because of its religious character, you may request a different contractor. If you believe that you have been discriminated against, please discuss the complaint with your contractor or notify your appropriate case manager."

Fraud Prevention

- A. To screen its employees and contractors to determine if they have been excluded from Medicare, Medicaid or any federal or state health care program. The Contractor agrees to search monthly the HHS-Office of Inspector General ("OIG") and Health and Human Services Commission Office of Inspector General ("HHSC-OIG") List of Excluded Individuals/Entities ("LEIE") websites to capture exclusions and reinstatements that have occurred since the last search and to immediately report to HHSC-OIG any exclusion information the Contractor discovers. Exclusionary searches for prospective employees and contractors shall be performed prior to employment or contracting.
- B. That no Medicaid payments can be made for any items or services directed or prescribed by a physician or other authorized person who is excluded from Medicare, Medicaid or any federal or state health care program when the individual or entity furnishing the items or services either knew or should have known of the exclusion. This prohibition applies even when the Medicaid payment itself is made to another contractor, practitioner or supplier who is not excluded.
- C. That this contract is subject to all state and federal laws and regulations relating to fraud and abuse in health care and the Medicaid program. As required by 42 C.F.R. §431.107, the Contractor agrees to keep any and all records necessary to disclose the extent of services the Contractor furnishes to individuals in the Medicaid program and any information relating to payments claimed by the Contractor for furnishing Medicaid services. On request, the Contractor also agrees to furnish the System Agency, AG-MFCU, or HHS any information maintained under 42 C.F.R. §431.107(b). The Contractor will furnish copies of this information free of charge.

Sanctions

- A. That the System Agency may apply, at its discretion, sanctions if the Contractor fails to comply with any provision of the Contract, including:
 - 1. recouping overpayments;
 - 2. suspending the Contractor's payments; and
 - 3. initiating termination of the Contract.
- B. That payments to the Contractor under this Contract may be withheld during the pendency of a hearing on the termination of this Contract until a final decision is issued and all appeals are exhausted. The System Agency shall pay the withheld payments and resume contract payments if the final decision is favorable to the Contractor.
- C. That in accordance with 42 C.F.R. §455.23, the System Agency shall suspend all Medicaid payments to the Contractor upon notification by HHSC-OIG that a credible allegation of fraud under the Medicaid program is pending against the Contractor, unless the System Agency has good cause not to suspend the payments or to suspend the payments only in part.

Handling Sensitive Personal Information and Breach Notification

- A. As part of its contract with the System Agency, Contractor may receive or create sensitive personal information, as section 521.002 of the Business and Commerce Code defines that phrase. Contractor must use appropriate safeguards to protect this sensitive personal information. These safeguards must include maintaining the sensitive personal information in a form that is unusable, unreadable, or indecipherable to unauthorized persons. Contractor may consult the "Guidance to Render Unsecured Protected Health Information Unusable, Unreadable, or Indecipherable to Unauthorized Individuals" issued by the U.S. System Agency of Health and Human Services to determine ways to meet this standard.
 - B. Contractor must notify the System Agency of any confirmed or suspected unauthorized acquisition, access, use or disclosure of sensitive personal information related to this Contract, including any breach of system security, as section 521.053 of the Business and Commerce Code defines that phrase. Contractor must submit a written report to the System Agency as soon as possible but no later than 10 business days after discovering the unauthorized acquisition, access, use or disclosure. The written report must identify each individual whose sensitive personal information has been or is reasonably believed to have been compromised.
 - C. Contractor must either disclose the unauthorized acquisition, access, use or disclosure to each individual whose sensitive personal information has been or is reasonably believed to have been compromised or pay the expenses associated with the System Agency doing the disclosure if:
 - 1. Contractor experiences a breach of system security involving information owned by the System Agency for which disclosure or notification is required under section 521.053 of the Business and Commerce Code; or
 - 2. Contractor experiences a breach of unsecured protected health information, as 45 C.F.R. §164.402 defines that phrase, and the System Agency becomes responsible for doing the notification required by 45 C.F.R. §164.404.
- The System Agency may, at its discretion, waive Contractor's payment of expenses associated with the System Agency doing the disclosure.

Miscellaneous Requirements

- A. To comply with Texas Health and Safety Code, §85.113 and §85.115 concerning workplace and confidentiality guidelines for persons with AIDS or HIV.
- B. To comply with applicable provisions of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. §7401-7671q) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. §1251-1387), if funding for the Contract exceeds \$100,000.
- C. That in accordance with §2155.4441, Texas Government Code, the Contractor shall, in performing any service under this Contract, purchase products and materials produced in Texas when they are available at a comparable price and in a comparable period of time to products and materials produced outside of Texas.

- D. To make a good faith effort to utilize historically underutilized businesses ("HUBs") when subcontracting. Some methods for locating HUBs include using searchable HUB databases at the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' website, using websites or other minority/women directory listings maintained by local chambers of commerce, advertising subcontract work in local minority publications or contacting the System Agency for assistance in locating available HUBs.
- E. That except as provided in the paragraphs below, the Contractor must not use the System Agency's name, the State of Texas or refer to the System Agency or the State directly or indirectly in any media release, public announcement, or public disclosure relating to this Contract or its subject matter, including, but not limited to, in any promotional or marketing materials, customer lists or business presentations (other than those submitted to the System Agency, an administrative agency of the State of Texas, or a governmental agency or unit of another state or the Federal Government).

The Contractor may publish, at its sole expense, results of Contractor performance under this Contract with the System Agency's prior review and approval, which the System Agency may exercise at its sole discretion. Any publication (written, visual, or sound) will acknowledge the support received from the System Agency and any Federal agency, as appropriate. The Contractor will provide the System Agency at least 3 copies of such publication prior to public release. The Contractor will provide additional copies at the request of the System Agency.

The Contractor may include information concerning this Contract's terms, subject matter, and estimated value in any report to a governmental body to which the Contractor is required by law to report such information. The Contractor must not use the System Agency's logo under any circumstances.

IV.

The System Agency hereby agrees:

- A. To pay the Contractor for services provided under the Contract type specified in Section I of this Contract in amounts and under conditions determined by the System Agency as defined in this Contract, the applicable Contractor manual, handbook, policy letter or program rules and standards and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations for all eligible persons receiving such services under Title XIX and or Title XX.
- B. To pay the Contractor within time limits set by the System Agency and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations after a proper claim for payment is submitted and approved for payment in accordance with System Agency HHSC Claims Administrator billing guidelines.
- C. To adjust payments to the Contractor to compensate for prior overpayment or underpayment.
- D. To give the Contractor reasonable notice of any impending change in its status as a participating Contractor, except that nothing in this section shall be construed to deny the System Agency the right, for failure to comply with this Contract or regulations published in the Texas Register, to terminate this Contract, suspend payments or take any other legal remedy available to the System Agency.
- E. To provide a hearing, in accordance with TAC, Title 1, Part 15, Chapter 357, Subchapter I, to the Contractor in the event the System Agency imposes an adverse action on the Contractor under this Contract.
- F. To make available to the Contractor the applicable Contractor manual and any changes to that manual that change the requirements for participation.
- G. That a religious organization that contracts with the System Agency does not by contracting with the System Agency lose the exemption provided under Section 702 of the Civil Rights Act [42 U.S.C. §2000E-1(a)] regarding employment practices.

A religious or charitable organization is eligible to be a Contractor on the same basis as any other private organization. The Contractor retains its independence from state and local governments, including the Contractor's control over the definition, development, practice and expression of its charitable or religious beliefs. Except as provided by federal law, the System Agency shall not interpret this Contract to require a charitable or religious organization to alter its form of internal governance or remove religious art, icons, scripture or other symbols. Furthermore, if a religious or charitable organization segregates the government funds provided under this Contract, then only the financial assistance provided by these funds will be subject to audit. However, neither the System Agency's selection of a charitable or faith-based Contractor nor the expenditure of funds under this Contract is an endorsement of the Contractor's charitable or religious character, practices or expression. The purpose of this Contract is the provision of community services; no state expenditures have as their objective the funding of sectarian worship, instruction or proselytization, and no state funds shall be expended for these purposes.

V.

The System Agency and Contractor hereby agree:

- A. That in the event any provision of this Contract becomes unenforceable or void all other provisions of this Contract will remain in effect.
- B. That the Contractor may not transfer or assign this Contract without the express prior written approval of the System Agency.
- C. That this Contract may be assigned to a state agency or agencies.

- D. That the System Agency may amend this Contract by written notice to the Contractor. The System Agency reserves the right to amend this Contract through execution of a unilateral amendment signed by a System Agency person with delegated signature authority and provided to the Contractor under the following circumstances:
1. to correct an obvious clerical error in the Contract;
 2. to incorporate new or revised federal or state statutes, rules or policies;
 3. to comply with a court order or judgment; and
 4. to change the name of the Contractor in order to reflect the Contractor's name as recorded by the Texas Secretary of State.
- E. That nothing in this Contract or any conduct by a representative of the System Agency relating to this Contract shall be construed as a waiver of the state's sovereign immunity to suit.
- F. That neither party to this Contract waives its right to enforce a right under this Contract by failing to enforce or delaying the enforcement of any other right under this Contract.
- G. That the Contractor is an independent contractor and not an employee of the System Agency for any purpose. The Contractor and the System Agency agree that:
1. the System Agency will not withhold or pay on behalf of the Contractor any sums for income tax, unemployment insurance, Social Security or any other withholding, or make available to the Contractor any of the benefits, including workers' compensation insurance coverage and health and retirement benefits, afforded to System Agency employees; and
 2. the Contractor must indemnify the System Agency from any liability, including attorneys' fees and legal expenses, incurred by the System Agency with respect to claims that the System Agency should have been withholding or making payments on behalf of the Contractor or providing benefits to the Contractor's employees.
- H. That nothing in this Contract is intended to create a joint venture, a partnership or a principal-agent relationship.
- I. That the Contractor assigns to the System Agency all claims for overcharges associated with this Contract arising under the anti-trust laws of the United States, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1-38, or the anti-trust laws of the state of Texas, Tex. Bus. & Com. Code, §§ 15.01-.40.
- J. That the System Agency has authority to monitor and conduct fiscal and program compliance reviews of the Contractor and its subcontractor(s) to the extent of services provided under the terms of this Contract. The Contractor will grant on-site access at reasonable times to all records relating to services provided and payments received under the terms of this Contract to state and federal auditing agencies and personnel and representatives of the System Agency and HHS when it is deemed necessary by such agencies for purposes of inspection, monitoring, auditing or evaluating Contractor's performance under this Contract and compliance with applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations; the applicable System Agency provider handbook or manual; and this Contract.
- That for Title XX programs, the System Agency shall, by Form 2029, Information Worksheet, Purchase of Service Contract, set the rate or maximum amount of funds or both available to be paid to Contractor by the System Agency. Form 2029 is incorporated into and made a part of this Contract and is effective for the time period stated on the form. Form 2029 may be amended by the System Agency as necessary to comply with state and federal laws and regulations or renewed by the System Agency by a new Form 2029 and incorporated into and made part of this Contract.
- K. That in compliance with §2262.003, Texas Government Code:
1. the state auditor may conduct an audit or investigation of any entity receiving funds from the state directly under the Contract or indirectly through a subcontract under the Contract;
 2. acceptance of funds directly under the Contract or indirectly through a subcontract under the Contract acts as acceptance of the authority of the state auditor, under the direction of the legislative audit committee, to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds; and
 3. under the direction of the legislative audit committee, an entity that is the subject of an audit or investigation by the state auditor must provide the state auditor with access to any information the state auditor considers relevant to the investigation or audit.
- L. That this Contract shall continue subject to the availability of appropriated funds or until the federal or state governments or both cease to participate in the program.
- M. That any breach or violation of any of the provisions of this Contract or state or federal regulations shall make this entire Contract, at the System Agency's option, subject to termination.
- N. That if the System Agency does not renew the Contractor's contract due to the Contractor's noncompliance with applicable federal or Texas statutes or rules, the Contractor cannot enter into another contract for a Community Services program until the application denial period established by the System Agency expires.
- O. That the venue for any lawsuit between the System Agency and the Contractor shall be Travis County, Texas.
- P. That this Contract may be terminated by:
1. mutual agreement of the System Agency and the Contractor;
 2. either party to this Contract by giving 60 calendar days written notice to the other;
 3. the System Agency for reasons set forth in federal or state laws or rules, the terms of this Contract, or the applicable Contractor manual, handbook, or program standards;
 4. the System Agency if a certification made by the Contractor in this Contract is inaccurate or becomes inaccurate; or
 5. the System Agency for good cause.

Form 3254
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The following documents are incorporated into this Contract and are on file with the System Agency.

Form 2029, Information Worksheet for Purchase of Service Contract, if applicable per Section V(J)

Form 3691, Community Services Contract Application

Form 4732, Nongovernmental Contractor Certification (not applicable to governmental entities)

Form 5871/5871-S, Disclosure of Ownership and Control Statement, whichever is applicable to this Contract

General Affirmations

OMB No. 4040-0007, Federal Assurances - Non-Construction Programs

If marked, the following documents are incorporated into this Contract and are on file with the System Agency.

- ☒ HHS Data Use Agreement (Version 8.3, April 2, 2015)
- ☒ HHS Information Security and Privacy Initial Inquiry
- ☒ Form 2031, Governing Authority Resolution - Business Organization
- ☐ Form 3691-A, Community Services Contract Application, Addendum A
- ☐ Form 3691-B, Community Services Contract Application, Addendum B
- ☐ Form 3691-C, Community Services Contract Application, Addendum C
- ☒ Form 3691, Service Area Designation
- ☐ Form 3691-A, Service Area Designation (TxHTML, HCS, CDS and TAS)
- ☐ Form 4732-A, Nongovernmental Contractor Certification (Part II)

For the faithful performance of the terms of this Contract, the parties hereto in their capacities stated, affix their signatures and bind themselves.

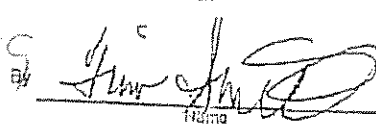
Health and Human Services Commission

Tina Lavette Smith

By


Name

11/3/18
Date Signed

By 
Name

11/8/18
Date Signed

Todd Byrnes
Name

Associate Commissioner
Title

Tina Lavette Smith

Name of Contractor Representative (print or type)

Signature Authority

Title of Contractor Representative (print or type)