

**INTERAGENCY COOPERATION CONTRACT
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CONTRACT NO. HHS001332100001**

The Health and Human Services Commission (“HHSC” or “Receiving Agency” or “System Agency”) and the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (“Performing Agency”), each a “Party” and collectively the “Parties,” enter into the following agreement for conducting a comprehensive evaluation of transportation in the delivery of home and community-based services (“HCBS”). This agreement (the “Contract”) is entered pursuant to the provisions of “The Interagency Cooperation Act,” Chapter 771 of the Texas Government Code.

I. CONTRACT REPRESENTATIVES

The following persons will act as the Representative authorized to act on behalf of their respective Party:

Performing Agency

Lesli Kerth
Texas A&M Transportation Institute
400 Harvey Mitchell Parkway South,
Suite 300
College Station, Texas 77845
Telephone No.: (979) 862-6777
Fax No.: (979) 862-3250
E-Mail: awards@tamu.edu
Agency No.: 727

Receiving Agency

Michelle Principe
Health and Human Services Commission
Office of Disability Services Coordination
4601 W Guadalupe (MC H101)
Austin, Texas 78751
Telephone No.: (512) 541-7872
Fax No.: N/A
E-Mail: Michelle.Principe@hhs.texas.gov
Agency No.: 529

II. STATEMENT OF SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

The Parties agree to cooperate to provide necessary and authorized services and resources in accordance with the terms of this Contract as described in Attachment A, Statement of Work.

III. CONTRACT PERIOD AND RENEWAL

The Contract is effective on the signature date of the latter of the Parties to sign this agreement and terminates on August 31, 2023, unless renewed, extended, or terminated pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Contract. The Parties may extend this Contract subject to mutually agreeable terms and conditions.

IV. AMENDMENT

The Parties to this Contract may modify their agreement only through the execution of a written amendment signed by both Parties.

V. CONTRACT AMOUNT AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

The total amount of this Contract shall not exceed \$252,000.00, as provided for in Attachment B, Budget.

VI. BASIS FOR CALCULATING REIMBURSABLE COSTS

All expenditures under the Contract shall be processed in accordance with Attachment B.

VII. LEGAL NOTICES

Legal notices under this Contract shall be deemed delivered when deposited either in the United States mail, postage paid, certified, return receipt requested; or with a common carrier, overnight, signature required, to the appropriate address below:

Performing Agency

Texas A&M Transportation Institute
400 Harvey Mitchell Parkway South,
Suite 300
College Station, Texas 77845-4375
Attention: Lesli Kerth

Receiving Agency

Health and Human Services Commission
Legal Services Division
4601 W. Guadalupe St. (MC 1100)
Austin, Texas 78751
Attention: Office of the Chief Counsel

Notice given in any other manner shall be deemed effective only if and when received by the Party to be notified. Either Party may change its address for receiving legal notice by notifying the other Party in writing.

VIII. CERTIFICATIONS

A. The undersigned Parties certify that:

1. The services specified above are necessary and essential for activities that are properly within the statutory functions and programs of the affected agencies of state government;
2. Each Party executing this Contract on its behalf has full power and authority to enter into this Contract;
3. The proposed arrangements serve the interest of efficient and economical administration of state government; and
4. The services contracted for are not required by Section 21, Article XVI of the Constitution of Texas to be supplied under a contract awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

B. The Receiving Agency further certifies that it has statutory authority to contract for the services described in this Contract under Section 531.0055 of the Texas Government Code.

C. The Performing Agency further certifies that it has statutory authority to contract for the services described in this Contract under Texas Education Code, Chapter 88, Subchapter J.

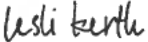
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SIGNATURE PAGE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CONTRACT No. HHS001332100001

TEXAS A&M TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE
(Performing Agency)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMISSION (Receiving Agency)

By:

DocuSigned by:

7A70024C467C481...

By:

DocuSigned by:

7DD9BF31984F42F...

Signature of Authorized Representative

Signature of Authorized Representative

Lesli Kerth

Clair Benitez

Associate Director

Director of ODSC

March 28, 2023

March 28, 2023

Date of Signature

Date of Signature

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE ATTACHED TO THIS CONTRACT, AND THEIR TERMS ARE HEREBY INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:

- ATTACHMENT AStatement of Work (A Comprehensive Evaluation of Transportation in Texas HCBS Programs)**
- ATTACHMENT BTTI Budget Detail**
- ATTACHMENT CHealth and Human Services (HHS) Uniform Terms and Conditions (Governmental Entity, Version 3.2)**
- ATTACHMENT DTexas A&M Supplemental Conditions to HHS Uniform Terms and Conditions (Governmental Entity, Version 3.2)**

ATTACHMENTS FOLLOW

ATTACHMENT A
STATEMENT OF WORK
(A Comprehensive Evaluation of Transportation in Texas HCBS Programs)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A.** The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) wishes to retain Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) to conduct a comprehensive study of transportation needs for enrollees of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) programs (the Project).
- B.** HCBS programs are designed to allow people with significant physical and cognitive limitations to live in their homes or a home-like setting instead of in an institution. These services, especially access to program-related and other transportation resources, are key to enabling enrollees to remain integrated within the community. The study will involve the review of services provided to enrollees in any of the following Texas Long-Term Service and Supports Waiver Programs (HCBS Subprograms):
1. State of Texas Access Reform (STAR)+PLUS Home and Community Based Services;
 2. STAR Kids Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP);
 3. Community Living Assistance Support Services (CLASS);
 4. Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD);
 5. Home and Community-Based Services (HCS); and
 6. Texas Home Living (TxHmL).
- C.** The study is being commissioned to:
1. Examine the availability and awareness of existing Medicaid-sponsored transportation services and other relevant transportation services that can be accessed by HCBS enrollees;
 2. Investigate transportation related barriers to employment for HCBS enrollees; and
 3. Provide HHSC with recommendations to reduce barriers and increase the availability and awareness of both non-medical transportation (NMT) and non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) services available for HCBS enrollees, with the goal of improving their access to services and integration in their communities.

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(A Comprehensive Evaluation of Transportation in Texas HCBS Programs)

II. WORK PLAN

A. TASK 1: PROJECT MANAGEMENT

1. General Project Management

TTI's Will Rodman will serve as TTI's Principal Investigator (PI) and will be the principal contact for HHSC staff involved in the study. TTI shall schedule and maintain all aspects of the Project to ensure that critical path elements are performed on time or ahead of time. This is accomplished by assigning clear completion dates for various tasks that leave enough time for internal review prior to submission to HHSC. Schedules and progress will be reviewed on a weekly basis to assure that tasks are progressing as planned.

A major factor that will affect schedule adherence is communication between Mr. Rodman and HHSC Project staff. Mr. Rodman will set up a check-in videocall every two weeks with HHSC's Project lead. An internal Project team call will precede each of these calls, and Project staff will participate as needed.

Mr. Rodman will also prepare and submit monthly progress reports covering schedule progression, a report of work performed during the month, a projection of activities scheduled for the upcoming month, and any outstanding items or issues of concern.

2. Kick-Off Meeting

a. Within two weeks of HHSC's Notice to Proceed, TTI will convene a kick-off meeting. The meeting will include all Project staff (*i.e.*, both TTI and HHSC). The meeting will serve primarily to:

- 1) Introduce HHSC staff to the Project team members and their roles;**
- 2) Establish communication protocols between TTI and HHSC staff (primary contacts and days/times for check-in calls);**
- 3) Discuss/clarify HHSC's motivations or goals for the study;**
- 4) Review, and revise as needed, the Work Plan and schedule of task completion dates and deliverables;**
- 5) Collect pertinent studies/documents that are only available in print (See below in Section II(B), Task 2 (Conduct State Scan and Interviews));**
- 6) Review TTI's initial data request list;**

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7) Review monthly Project management submittals and next steps.

b. After the kick-off meeting, TTI will develop an updated Work Plan, which will detail any changes agreed upon by TTI and HHSC.

3. Task 1 Deliverables

a Monthly progress reports submitted within 10 working days after the end of the month;

b Updated Work Plan from the kick-off meeting; and

c Meeting agendas, including the agenda of the kick-off meeting.

B. TASK 2: CONDUCT STATE SCAN AND INTERVIEWS

1. Texas HCBS Deep-Dive Scan

a. TTI will first conduct a scan to identify what programmatic medical and non-medical transportation options are currently available to HCBS enrollees in Texas and how these options are communicated to and accessed by the enrollees. As part of this process, TTI will collect and review related program-specific documents that include, but are not limited to, enrollee applications and program standard operating procedures (SOPs).

b. When requested by TTI, HHSC must provide data and information about the available HCBS programs in Texas (*e.g.*, program enrollment trends; any existing data on programmatic medical and nonmedical transportation use; costs and sources of funding for supporting enrollee transportation; etc.).

c. TTI, to the extent possible, will document any differences among the transportation elements of each HCBS subprogram as well as any differences in regional approaches per medical and non-medical programs and as impacted by the availability of different types of transportation resources. Given the prominence of managed long-term services and supports (MLTSS) in Texas, it will be very important to examine the State's contractual and oversight infrastructure and understand how MCOs and LIDDAs are structured and how the provision of transportation services fit within these structures. Examples of transportation elements include arranging for transportation with HCBS providers as well as add-on service benefits within existing program structures

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including vehicular modification programs which promote independence and community integration.

- d. The above-referenced information will be summarized within a crosswalk that provides a description of the transportation services, operations, commonalities, and differences across the HCBS Subprograms listed above in Section I(B). This will facilitate the identification of similarities and differences across programs.

2. HCBS Staff Interviews

- a. TTI shall arrange (with HHSC assistance) up to 15 interviews (individual and/or group) with state-level HCBS programs to ensure that TTI's understanding of the information collected is accurate. This will include interviews with HHSC staff responsible for each of the six HCBS Subprograms, HHSC staff involved in setting up each HCBS Subprogram's transportation elements, and HHSC staff involved in enrollee requests for transportation assistance.
- b. TTI will use the interviews as an opportunity to delve into interviewees' perceptions on what is working well (and how they know this) and what transportation-related shortcomings, gaps and obstacles remain within the HCBS Subprograms.
- c. TTI will integrate the information collected during interviews into the crosswalk developed during the Deep-Dive Scan, providing a comprehensive overview of the statewide transportation system supporting both medical and non-medical transportation.

3. Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authorities (LIDDAs) Interviews

- a. TTI will conduct up to 10 interviews with representatives from the selected MCOs and LIDDAs. (See above in Section II(A)(4).) The key objectives for these interviews are as follows:
 - 1) To understand the current mechanisms for providing transportation services, challenges and opportunities to providing those services, and potential solutions and innovations that have been undertaken to address the challenges; and

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- 2) To identify case managers and case manager supervisors who should be contacted to obtain more information about the specific challenges to and opportunities for providing transportation services.
 - b. TTI will integrate the findings from the interviews into the crosswalk developed during the Deep-Dive Scan and HCBS staff interviews to produce a detailed picture of the statewide operations, challenges, gaps, and opportunities.
- 4. **Task 2 Deliverable**
 - a. The initial products of Task 2 efforts will be:
 - 1) A detailed description of how transportation operations are communicated and made available to HCBS enrollees in Texas;
 - 2) A crosswalk that provides a description of the transportation services, operations, commonalities, and differences across the HCBS Subprograms; and
 - 3) A preliminary assessment of HCBS Subprogram transportation elements, including mechanisms for delivery at the provider level, challenges, opportunities, and gaps.
 - b. The three above-referenced initial products will be combined in the Task 2 Technical Memorandum, which will be submitted to HHSC for review.

C. CONDUCT STATE SURVEY AND CASE STUDIES

1. State Survey

- a. TTI will conduct a national survey of state HCBS programs, which will give TTI and HHSC a perspective of the national landscape of Medicaid-funded transportation services and other transportation programs that specifically benefit people with disabilities. The primary objective of this national survey will be to identify states that have implemented innovations in their HCBS transportation programs.
- b. TTI will develop a brief survey (approximately five (5) questions) to share with all 50 states to gain insights about the transportation elements of their transportation programs. TTI's subcontractor, HCBS Strategies, has a partnership with ADvancing States, a national group representing state aging

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and disability agencies, and can use this relationship to distribute this survey to their membership.

2. Targeted Case Studies

- a. TTI will use the survey to identify five (5) states that have undertaken promising practices and will set up calls with representatives from each of the states. HHSC ODSC will also participate in these calls. During these interviews TTI will focus on:
 - 1) The types of transportation elements provided for enrollees in each HCBS subprogram;
 - 2) What changes or innovations to those programs have been implemented over time;
 - 3) What issues were identified in implementing the changes/innovations; and
 - 4) How those issues were addressed, the outcomes, and lessons learned.
- b. TTI will obtain background information, including manuals and policy guides, from each selected state.
- c. TTI will develop case studies for each of the five (5) states selected for interview, and then use those case studies to develop a summary document describing the operations of each state and the similarities, differences, and opportunities for Texas.

3. Task 3 Deliverable

TTI will document the findings from each of the surveys and interviews in a Task 3 Technical Memorandum. TTI will also provide the anonymized data from the surveys to HHSC.

D. TASK 4: RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINAL REPORT

1. Development of Preliminary Recommendations

- a. TTI will use the findings from Task 1, Task 2, and Task 3 to:
 - 1) Identify where gaps and obstacles exist within the transportation network for enrollees, both within and outside of the HCBS subprograms; and

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- 2) Extract innovative ideas from other states or otherwise from TTI staff experience that have been used to address such shortcomings to improve enrollees' integration within their community.
- b. TTI will identify each shortcoming, gap, or obstacle and describe how certain innovative actions can alleviate, if not eliminate, the impacts. Where appropriate, each discussion will be illustrated by an example from another state and the results of that change. Also included in the discussion will be an estimate (order of magnitude) of costs to implement the change state-wide, estimated benefits, related implementation and on-going issues that may arise, and potential solutions to address those issues. All of these points of discussion will also be summarized in a matrix, which lists problems to be solved on the left and describes solution(s) in detail on the right. (For opportunities or innovations with a high degree of uncertainty, such discussions of cost, benefits, and issues may be withheld.)

2. Preparation of Draft Final Report

TTI will prepare and submit for review to HHSC a Draft Final Report that combines the information presented in the preceding Technical Memoranda as well as the preliminary recommendations.

3. Prepare Final Report

Feedback/input from HHSC's review will be used to revise the Draft Final Report, as needed. The Final Report will be submitted to HHSC in a fully accessible PDF and Word document.

III. BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

A. PROJECT BUDGET

The budget for the Project is \$252,000.00, which includes all elements discussed in this Attachment. The budget includes all expenses related to TTI's labor and the expenses of TTI's proposed subcontractor, HCBS Strategies.

B. PROJECT SCHEDULE

TTI envisions that the study will take five (5) months to complete. The table below displays the prospective Project schedule. This prospective time frame is based on the assumptions that TTI will receive a notice to proceed from HHSC in early March 2022, that Project activities will be completed by July 2023, and that all invoices will be sent to HHSC by August

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2023. **Note:** The prospective schedule is based on the assumption that HHSC will provide all requested data and reviews within one (1) week of submission by TTI. See Table 1 below for each Deliverable and its due dates. See Table 2 for prospective Project schedule.

TABLE 1: Deliverables and Due Dates	
DELIVERABLE	DUE DATE
Updated Work Plan	3 weeks after contract execution
Monthly Progress Reports	10 working days after each month
Task 2 Technical Memorandum	May 19, 2023
Task 3 Summary Document	June 16, 2023
Draft Final Report	July 24, 2023
Final Report	July 31, 2023

TABLE 2: Prospective Project Schedule

Schedule by Task by Month		Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23
1.1	General Proj. Mgmt.					
1.2	Kick-Off Meeting					
1.3	Task 1 Deliverables	◆				
2.1	Texas HCBS Deep-Dive Scan					
2.2	HCBS Staff Interviews					
2.3	MCO & LIDDA Interviews					
2.4	Task 2 Deliverable			◆		
3.1	State Survey					
3.2	Targeted Case Studies					
3.2	Task 3 Deliverable				◆	
4.1	Development of Preliminary Recommendations					
4.2	Preparation of Draft Final Report & Final Report					◆

Document Approval Status

SetID HHSTX

Contract ID HHS001332100001

Supplier TEXAS A&M TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE - TTI

▼ Review/Edit Approvers

Contract Document Approval

▼ :Approved View/Hide Comments

Contract Document Approval

Approved ✓ Thomas, Larry A Contract Manager/Buyer 03/08/23 - 4:33 PM	→	Approved ✓ Medina, Vanessa Roxann Inserted Approver 03/08/23 - 4:39 PM	→	Approved ✓ Benitez, Clair Thomason Inserted Approver 03/08/23 - 4:39 PM	→	Approved ✓ Cummings-Scott, Deanne Z Inserted Approver 03/08/23 - 4:51 PM
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▶ **Comments**

▶ **Comment History**

Submit for Approval

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INTERNAL ONLY -- TTI BUDGET DETAIL

TTI's Work Plan for a Comprehensive Evaluation of Transportation in HCBS Programs
 Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
 Period of Performance: 3/1/2023 to 8/31/2023

SRS No.: 2301863
 Indirect Rate: 51.5%

	Estimated Budget	Itemization	Total Costs
DIRECT COSTS			
Salaries and Wages (by category) ¹			
Professional (Combine all Professionals)	\$ 62,688		
Clerical (non-routine, project specific) ²	\$ 944		
Total Salaries and Wages			\$ 63,632
Fringe Benefits ³			
18.9% of Salaries and Wages (Non-Students)	\$ 12,026		
Health Insurance @ \$963/month	\$ 6,176	excludes students	
Total Fringe Benefits			\$ 18,202
Expendable Goods & Supplies			
Total Expendable Goods & Supplies			\$ -
Operating & Other Expenses			
<u>Excluded from Modified Total Direct Costs</u>			
Computer Operations ⁵	\$ 1,446	computer use and network support	
Total Operating & Other Expenses			\$ 1,446
Subcontracts			
HCBS Strategies	\$ 113,700		
Total Subcontracts			\$ 113,700
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS			\$ 196,980

INDIRECT COSTS			
51.5% of Modified Total Direct Costs ⁶		MTDC ** = \$106,834	\$ 55,020
TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS CHARGED TO PROJECT			\$ 55,020

TOTAL PROJECT COST			\$ 252,000
1	Salaries are estimated to include any expected pay increases during the contract period. Except for the Program Manager and Other Experts, salary rates are estimated based on a pool of available personnel. Reimbursement will be based on actual costs per employee in accordance with the Performing Agency's payroll policy and salary rate.		
2	Clerical Staff are directly charged as the support required is significantly greater than the routine level of services provided by academic departments.		
3	Fringe benefit rates are estimates only. Reimbursement will be based on actual cost per employee.		
4	The Performing Agency shall bill the Receiving Agency for travel expenses not to exceed the limits reimbursable under state law. Travel M&IE is calculated at 75% on the first and last days of travel. Trips shown are estimates only.		
5	Includes computer equipment usage fee and network support services.		
6	Per OMB Uniform Guidance 2 CFR 200 and the federal negotiated F&A Agreement, capital equipment purchases, rental costs, computer operations, technical support services, video operations, portion of subcontracts >\$25,000, and participant support costs are excluded from Modified Total Direct Costs.		

ATTACHMENT C



TEXAS
Health and Human Services

Health and Human Services (HHS)

**Uniform Terms and Conditions -
Governmental Entity**

Version 3.2

Published and Effective - May 2020

Responsible Office: Chief Counsel

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ARTICLE I. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETIVE PROVISIONS

1.1 DEFINITIONS

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

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

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

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

“DSHS” means the Department of State Health Services.

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

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

“GAAP” means Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

“GASB” means the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

“HHSC” means the Health and Human Services Commission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Performing Agency” means the State Agency or Local Government providing the goods or services defined in this Contract.

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

“Signature Document” means the document executed by both Parties that sets forth all the documents that constitute the Contract.

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

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

“State Agency” means a Texas “Agency” as defined under Texas Government Code, Chapter 771.

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

“State of Texas *Travel*” means the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts’ state travel laws, rules, and policies.

“System Agency” means HHSC or DSHS, as applicable.

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

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

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

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

1.2 INTERPRETIVE PROVISIONS

- A. The meanings of defined terms include the singular and plural forms.
- B. The words “hereof,” “herein,” “hereunder,” and similar words refer to this Contract as a

whole and not to any particular provision, section, attachment, or schedule of this Contract unless otherwise specified.

- C. The term “including” is not limiting and means “including without limitation” and, unless otherwise expressly provided in this Contract, (i) references to contracts (including this Contract) and other contractual instruments shall be deemed to include all subsequent Amendments and other modifications, but only to the extent that such Amendments and other modifications are not prohibited by the terms of this Contract, and (ii) references to any statute, rule, or regulation are to be construed as including all statutory and regulatory provisions consolidating, amending, replacing, or supplementing the statute or regulation.
- D. The captions and headings of this Contract are for convenience of reference only and do not affect the interpretation of this Contract.
- E. All attachments, including those incorporated by reference, and any Amendments are considered part of the terms of this Contract.
- F. This Contract may use several different limitations, regulations, or policies to regulate the same or similar matters. All such limitations, regulations, and policies are cumulative.
- G. Unless otherwise expressly provided, reference to any action of the System Agency or by the System Agency by way of consent, approval, or waiver will be deemed modified by the phrase “in its sole discretion.”
- H. Time is of the essence in this Contract.

ARTICLE II. PAYMENT PROVISIONS

2.1 PAYMENT

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

2.2 ANCILLARY AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

- A. Except as otherwise provided in the Contract, no ancillary expenses incurred by the Performing Agency in connection with its provision of the services or Deliverables will be reimbursed by the System Agency. Ancillary expenses include, but are not limited to costs associated with transportation, delivery, and insurance for each Deliverable.
- B. When the reimbursement of travel expenses is authorized by the Contract, all such expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with the rates set by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts’ *Textravel* accessible at the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts website.

2.3 NO QUANTITY GUARANTEES

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

2.4 TAXES

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

ARTICLE III. STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING

3.1 EXCESS OBLIGATIONS PROHIBITED

The Contract is subject to termination or cancellation, without penalty to the System Agency, either in whole or in part, subject to the availability of state funds. System Agency is a state agency whose authority and appropriations are subject to actions of the Texas Legislature. If System Agency becomes subject to a legislative change, revocation of statutory authority, or lack of appropriated funds that would render either System Agency's or Performing Agency's delivery or performance under the Contract impossible or unnecessary, the Contract will be terminated or cancelled and be deemed null and void. In the event of a termination or cancellation under this Section, System Agency will not be liable to Performing Agency for any damages that are caused or associated with such termination, or cancellation, and System Agency will not be required to give prior notice.

3.2 NO DEBT AGAINST THE STATE

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

3.3 DEBT AND DELINQUENCIES

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

3.4 REFUNDS AND OVERPAYMENTS

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

ARTICLE IV. WARRANTY, AFFIRMATIONS, ASSURANCES, AND CERTIFICATIONS

4.1 WARRANTY

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

- i. Repair or replace all defective or damaged Work;
- ii. Refund any payment Performing Agency received from System Agency for all defective or damaged Work and, in conjunction therewith, require Performing Agency to accept the return of such Work; and,
- iii. Take necessary action to ensure that Performing Agency's future performance and Work conform to the Contract requirements.

4.2 CONTRACT AFFIRMATIONS

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

4.3 FEDERAL ASSURANCES

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

4.4 FEDERAL CERTIFICATIONS

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

ARTICLE V. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

5.1 OWNERSHIP OF WORK PRODUCT

- A. All right, title, and interest in the Work Product, including all Intellectual Property Rights therein, is exclusively owned by System Agency. Performing Agency and Performing Agency's employees will have no rights in or ownership of the Work Product or any other property of System Agency.
- B. Any and all Work Product that is copyrightable under United States copyright law is deemed to be "work made for hire" owned by System Agency, as provided by Title 17 of the United States Code. To the extent that Work Product does not qualify as a "work made for hire" under applicable federal law, Performing Agency hereby irrevocably assigns and

transfers to System Agency, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title, and interest in and to the Work Product, including any and all Intellectual Property Rights embodied therein or associated therewith, and in and to all works based upon, derived from, or incorporating the Work Product, and in and to all income, royalties, damages, claims and payments now or hereafter due or payable with respect thereto, and in and to all causes of action, either in law or in equity for past, present or future infringement based on the copyrights, and in and to all rights corresponding to the foregoing.

- C. Performing Agency agrees to execute all papers and to perform such other acts as System Agency may deem necessary to secure for System Agency or its designee the rights herein assigned.
- D. In the event that Performing Agency has any rights in and to the Work Product that cannot be assigned to System Agency, Performing Agency hereby grants to System Agency an exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free, transferable, irrevocable, and perpetual license, with the right to sublicense, to reproduce, distribute, modify, create derivative works of, publicly perform and publicly display, make, have made, use, sell and offer for sale the Work Product and any products developed by practicing such rights.
- E. The foregoing does not apply to Incorporated Pre-existing Works or Third Party IP that are incorporated in the Work Product by Performing Agency. Performing Agency shall provide System Agency access during normal business hours to all Vendor materials, premises, and computer files containing the Work Product.

5.2 PERFORMING AGENCY'S PRE-EXISTING WORKS

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

5.3 THIRD PARTY IP

- A. To the extent that any Third Party IP is included or incorporated in the Work Product by Performing Agency, Performing Agency hereby grants to System Agency, or shall obtain from the applicable third party for System Agency's benefit, the irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free right and license, for System Agency's internal business purposes only,
 - i. to use, reproduce, display, perform, distribute copies of, and prepare derivative works based upon such Third Party IP and any derivative works thereof embodied in or delivered to System Agency in conjunction with the Work Product, and
 - ii. to authorize others to do any or all of the foregoing.
- B. Performing Agency shall obtain System Agency's advance written approval prior to incorporating any Third Party IP into the Work Product, and Performing Agency shall

notify System Agency on delivery of the Work Product if such materials include any Third Party IP.

- C. Performing Agency shall provide System Agency all supporting documentation demonstrating Performing Agency's compliance with this **Section 5.3**, including without limitation documentation indicating a third party's written approval for Performing Agency to use any Third Party IP that may be incorporated in the Work Product.

5.4 AGREEMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES AND SUBCONTRACTORS

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

5.5 DELIVERY UPON TERMINATION OR EXPIRATION

No later than the first calendar day after the termination or expiration of the Contract or upon System Agency's request, Performing Agency shall deliver to System Agency all completed, or partially completed, Work Product, including any Incorporated Pre-existing Works, and any and all versions thereof. Performing Agency's failure to timely deliver such Work Product is a material breach of the Contract. Performing Agency will not retain any copies of the Work Product or any documentation or other products or results of Performing Agency's activities under the Contract without the prior written consent of System Agency.

5.6 SURVIVAL

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

5.7 SYSTEM AGENCY DATA

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

ARTICLE VI. PROPERTY

6.1 USE OF STATE PROPERTY

- A. Performing Agency is prohibited from using State Property for any purpose other than performing services authorized under the Contract.
- B. State Property includes, but is not limited to, System Agency's office space, identification badges, System Agency information technology equipment and networks (e.g., laptops, portable printers, cell phones, iPads or tablets, external hard drives, data storage devices, any System Agency-issued software, and the System Agency Virtual Private Network (VPN client)), and any other resources of System Agency.
- C. Performing Agency shall not remove State Property from the continental United States. In addition, Performing Agency may not use any computing device to access System Agency's network or e-mail while outside of the continental United States.
- D. Performing Agency shall not perform any maintenance services on State Property unless the Contract expressly authorizes such services.
- E. During the time that State Property is in the possession of Performing Agency, Performing Agency shall be responsible for:
 - i. all repair and replacement charges incurred by State Agency that are associated with loss of State Property or damage beyond normal wear and tear, and
 - ii. all charges attributable to Performing Agency's use of State Property that exceeds the Contract scope. Performing Agency shall fully reimburse such charges to System Agency within ten (10) calendar days of Performing Agency's receipt of System Agency's notice of amount due. Use of State Property for a purpose not authorized by the Contract shall constitute breach of contract and may result in termination of the Contract and the pursuit of other remedies available to System Agency under contract, at law, or in equity.

6.2 DAMAGE TO GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

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

6.3 PROPERTY RIGHTS UPON TERMINATION OR EXPIRATION OF CONTRACT

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

ARTICLE VII. RECORD RETENTION, AUDIT, AND CONFIDENTIALITY

7.1 RECORD MAINTENANCE AND RETENTION

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

7.2 AGENCY'S RIGHT TO AUDIT

- A. Performing Agency shall make available at reasonable times and upon reasonable notice, and for reasonable periods, work papers, reports, books, records, supporting documents kept current by Performing Agency pertaining to the Contract for purposes of inspecting, monitoring, auditing, or evaluating by System Agency and the State of Texas.
- B. In addition to any right of access arising by operation of law, Performing Agency and any of Performing Agency's affiliate or subsidiary organizations, or subcontractors shall permit the System Agency or any of its duly authorized representatives, as well as duly authorized federal, state or local authorities, unrestricted access to and the right to examine any site where business is conducted or services are performed, and all records, which includes but is not limited to financial, client and patient records, books, papers or documents related to this Contract. If the Contract includes federal funds, federal agencies that shall have a right of access to records as described in this section include: the federal agency providing the funds, the Comptroller General of the United States, the General Accounting Office, the Office of the Inspector General, and any of their authorized representatives. In addition, agencies of the State of Texas that shall have a right of access to records as described in this section include: the System Agency, HHSC, HHSC's contracted examiners, the State Auditor's Office, the Texas Attorney General's Office, and any successor agencies. Each of these entities may be a duly authorized authority.
- C. If deemed necessary by the System Agency or any duly authorized authority, for the purpose of investigation or hearing, Performing Agency shall produce original documents related to this Contract.
- D. The System Agency and any duly authorized authority shall have the right to audit billings both before and after payment, and all documentation that substantiates the billings.
- E. Performing Agency shall include this provision concerning the right of access to, and examination of, sites and information related to this Contract in any subcontract it awards.

7.3 RESPONSE/COMPLIANCE WITH AUDIT OR INSPECTION FINDINGS

- A. Performing Agency must act to ensure its and its subcontractors' compliance with all corrections necessary to address any finding of noncompliance with any law, regulation, audit requirement, or generally accepted accounting principle, or any other deficiency identified in any audit, review, or inspection of the Contract and the services and Deliverables provided. Any such correction will be at Performing Agency's or its Subcontractor's sole expense. Whether Performing Agency's action corrects the noncompliance shall be solely the decision of the System Agency.
- B. As part of the services, Performing Agency must provide to System Agency upon request a copy of those portions of Performing Agency's and its subcontractors' internal audit reports relating to the services and Deliverables provided to the State under the Contract.

7.4 STATE AUDITOR'S RIGHT TO AUDIT

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

7.5 CONFIDENTIALITY

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

ARTICLE VIII. CONTRACT REMEDIES AND EARLY TERMINATION

8.1 CONTRACT REMEDIES

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

- i. suspending all or part of the Contract;
- ii. requiring the Performing Agency to take specific actions in order to remain in compliance with the Contract;
- iii. recouping payments made by the System Agency to the Performing Agency found to be in error;

- iv. suspending, limiting, or placing conditions on the Performing Agency's continued performance of Work; or
- v. imposing any other remedies, sanctions, or penalties authorized under this Contract or permitted by federal or state law.

8.2 TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

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

8.3 TERMINATION FOR CAUSE

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

i. Material Breach

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

ii. Failure to Maintain Financial Viability

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

8.4 PERFORMING AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SYSTEM AGENCY'S TERMINATION COSTS

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

ARTICLE IX. GENERAL PROVISIONS

9.1 AMENDMENT

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

9.2 INSURANCE

- A. Unless otherwise specified in this Contract, Performing Agency shall acquire and maintain, for the duration of this Contract, insurance coverage necessary to ensure proper

fulfillment of this Contract and potential liabilities thereunder with financially sound and reputable insurers licensed by the Texas Department of Insurance, in the type and amount customarily carried within the industry as determined by the System Agency. Performing Agency shall provide evidence of insurance as required under this Contract, including a schedule of coverage or underwriter's schedules establishing to the satisfaction of the System Agency the nature and extent of coverage granted by each such policy, upon request by the System Agency. In the event that any policy is determined by the System Agency to be deficient to comply with the terms of this Contract, Performing Agency shall secure such additional policies or coverage as the System Agency may reasonably request or that are required by law or regulation. If coverage expires during the term of this Contract, Performing Agency must produce renewal certificates for each type of coverage.

- B. These and all other insurance requirements under the Contract apply to both Performing Agency and its subcontractors, if any. Performing Agency is responsible for ensuring its subcontractors' compliance with all requirements.

9.3 LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY

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

9.4 LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

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

9.5 CHANGE IN LAWS AND COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

Performing Agency shall comply with all laws, regulations, requirements and guidelines applicable to a vendor providing services and products required by the Contract to the State of Texas, as these laws, regulations, requirements and guidelines currently exist and as amended

throughout the term of the Contract. System Agency reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to unilaterally amend the Contract to incorporate any modifications necessary for System Agency's compliance, as an agency of the State of Texas, with all applicable state and federal laws, regulations, requirements and guidelines.

9.6 E-VERIFY PROGRAM

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

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

9.7 PERMITTING AND LICENSURE

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

9.8 SUBCONTRACTORS

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

9.9 INDEPENDENT PERFORMING AGENCY

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

9.10 GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE

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

9.11 SEVERABILITY

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

9.12 SURVIVABILITY

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

9.13 FORCE MAJEURE

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

9.14 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- A. The dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260 of the Texas Government Code must be used to attempt to resolve any dispute arising under the Contract. If the Performing Agency's claim for breach of contract cannot be resolved informally with the System Agency, the claim shall be submitted to the negotiation process provided in Chapter 2260. To initiate the process, the Performing Agency shall submit written notice, as required by Chapter 2260, to the individual identified in the Contract for receipt of notices. Any informal resolution efforts shall in no way modify the requirements or toll the timing of the formal written notice of a claim for breach of contract required under §2260.051 of the Texas Government Code. Compliance by the Performing Agency with Chapter 2260 is a condition precedent to the filing of a contested case proceeding under Chapter 2260.

- B. The contested case process provided in Chapter 2260 is the Performing Agency's sole and exclusive process for seeking a remedy for an alleged breach of contract by the System Agency if the Parties are unable to resolve their disputes as described above.
- C. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Contract to the contrary, unless otherwise requested or approved in writing by the System Agency, the Performing Agency shall continue performance and shall not be excused from performance during the period of any breach of contract claim or while the dispute is pending. However, the Performing Agency may suspend performance during the pendency of such claim or dispute if the Performing Agency has complied with all provisions of Section 2251.051, Texas Government Code, and such suspension of performance is expressly applicable and authorized under that law.

9.15 NO IMPLIED WAIVER OF PROVISIONS

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

9.16 MEDIA RELEASES

- A. Performing Agency shall not use System Agency's name, logo, or other likeness in any press release, marketing material, or other announcement without System Agency's prior written approval. System Agency does not endorse any vendor, commodity, or service. Performing Agency is not authorized to make or participate in any media releases or public announcements pertaining to this Contract or the services to which they relate without System Agency's prior written consent, and then only in accordance with explicit written instruction from System Agency.
- B. Performing Agency may publish, at its sole expense, results of Performing Agency performance under the Contract with the System Agency's prior review and approval, which the System Agency may exercise at its sole discretion. Any publication (written, visual, or sound) will acknowledge the support received from the System Agency and any Federal agency, as appropriate.

9.17 NO MARKETING ACTIVITIES

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

9.18 PROHIBITION ON NON-COMPETE RESTRICTIONS

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

9.19 SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

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

9.20 ENTIRE CONTRACT AND MODIFICATION

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

9.21 COUNTERPARTS

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

9.22 CIVIL RIGHTS

- A. Performing Agency shall comply with all applicable state and federal anti-discrimination laws, including:
 - i. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000d, *et seq.*);
 - ii. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. §794);
 - iii. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §12101, *et seq.*);
 - iv. Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. §6101, *et seq.*);
 - v. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681, *et seq.*);
 - vi. Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. §2011, *et seq.*); and
 - vii. The System Agency's administrative rules, as set forth in the Texas Administrative Code, to the extent applicable to this Agreement.
- B. Performing Agency shall comply with all amendments to these laws, and all requirements imposed by the regulations issued pursuant to these laws. These laws provide in part that no persons in the United States may, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political beliefs, or religion, be excluded from participation in or denied any service or other benefit provided by Federal or State funding, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination.
- C. Performing Agency shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and its implementing regulations at 45 C.F.R. Part 80 or 7 C.F.R. Part 15, prohibiting a Performing Agency from adopting and implementing policies and procedures that exclude or have the effect of excluding or limiting the participation of clients in its programs, benefits, or activities on the basis of national origin. Civil rights laws require Performing Agency to provide alternative methods for ensuring access to services for applicants and recipients who cannot express themselves fluently in English. Performing Agency shall take

reasonable steps to provide services and information, both orally and in writing and electronically, in appropriate languages other than English, to ensure that persons with limited English proficiency are effectively informed and can have meaningful access to programs, benefits, and activities.

- D. Performing Agency shall post applicable civil rights posters in areas open to the public informing clients of their civil rights and including contact information for the HHS Civil Rights Office. The posters are available on the HHS website at: <http://hhscx.hhsc.texas.gov/system-support-services/civil-rights/publications>
- E. Performing Agency shall comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulations at 28 CFR Subpart G § 42.503, and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and its implementing regulations at 28 CFR Subpart B §35.130 which includes requiring Performing Agency to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures when the modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability, unless the Performing Agency can demonstrate that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity.
- F. Performing Agency shall comply with federal regulations regarding equal treatment for faith-based organizations under 45 C.F.R. Part 87 or 7 C.F.R. Part 16, as applicable. Performing Agency shall not discriminate against clients or prospective clients on the basis of religion or religious belief, and shall provide written notice to beneficiaries of their rights.
- G. Upon request, Performing Agency shall provide the HHSC Civil Rights Office with copies of the Performing Agency's civil rights policies and procedures.
- H. Performing Agency must notify HHSC's Civil Rights Office of any civil rights complaints received relating to its performance under this Contract. This notice must be delivered no more than ten (10) calendar days after receipt of a complaint. This notice must be directed to:

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

9.23 ENTERPRISE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

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

9.24 DISCLOSURE OF LITIGATION

- A. The Performing Agency must disclose in writing to the contract manager assigned to this Contract any material civil or criminal litigation or indictment either threatened or pending involving the Performing Agency. "Threatened litigation" as used herein shall include governmental investigations and civil investigative demands. "Litigation" as used herein shall include administrative enforcement actions brought by governmental agencies. The Performing Agency must also disclose any material litigation threatened or pending

involving subcontractors, consultants, and/or lobbyists. For purposes of this section, “material” refers, but is not limited, to any action or pending action that a reasonable person knowledgeable in the applicable industry would consider relevant to the Work under the Contract or any development such a person would want to be aware of in order to stay fully apprised of the total mix of information relevant to the Work, together with any litigation threatened or pending that may result in a substantial change in the Performing Agency’s financial condition.

- B. This is a continuing disclosure requirement; any litigation commencing after Contract Award must be disclosed in a written statement to the assigned contract manager within seven calendar days of its occurrence.

9.25 NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES

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

9.26 BINDING EFFECT

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

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ATTACHMENT D

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ARTICLE II, Section 2.3 is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

2.3 No quantity guarantees

The Parties understand the volume or usage of Work under this Contract may change during the contract term. Except as otherwise specified in the Contract, any changes to the Contract (including, but not limited to, scope, deliverables, volume or usage of Work) must be approved by the Parties.

ARTICLE IV, Section 4.1 is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

4.1 Representations

Performing Agency represents that all Work under this Contract shall be completed in a manner consistent with standards under the terms of this Contract and shall conform to the specifications set forth in the Contract. The Performing Agency, at its sole expense, agrees to promptly repair or replace all defective or damaged Work.

ARTICLE V is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

ARTICLE V. Intellectual Property

- A. Other than intellectual property interests (referred to in this Article V as "Intellectual Property Rights"), System Agency will own, and Performing Agency hereby assigns to the System Agency, all right, title, and interest in all Deliverables.
- B. To the extent any Work results in the creation of Intellectual Property Rights, all rights, title, and interest in and to such Intellectual Property Rights shall vest in the Party that creates such Intellectual Property Rights.
- C. Performing Agency agrees to grant to the System Agency and the State of Texas a royalty-free, paid up, worldwide, perpetual, non-exclusive, non-transferable, non-commercial license to use all Deliverables and any Intellectual Property Rights invented or created by Performing Agency, Performing Agency's contractor, or a subcontractor in the performance of the Project. Performing Agency will require its contractors to grant such a license in any subcontracts under this Contract.

- D. The System Agency shall have the right to review and provide comment to any written report, publication or other literature including copyrightable Intellectual Property Rights invented or created in the performance of this Contract, prior to the publication of such literature. Performing Agency agrees to provide the System Agency with an advance copy of any such report, publication, or literature at least thirty (30) days prior to publication. If System Agency fails to provide comments in writing to Performing Agency within ten (10) days, Performing Agency may presume that System Agency has no comments. Performing Agency agrees to insert the following statement into any such report, publication or literature: "The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policies, positions, or views of the State of Texas or the Health and Human Services Commission."

ARTICLE VI, Sections 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3 are deleted in their entirety and replaced with the following:

6.1 Use of System Agency Property

- A. Performing Agency is prohibited from using System Agency Property for any purpose other than performing services authorized under the Contract.
- B. System Agency Property includes, but is not limited to, System Agency's office space, identification badges, System Agency information technology equipment and networks (e.g., laptops, portable printers, cell phones, iPads or tablets, external hard drives, data storage devices, any System Agency-issued software, and the System Agency Virtual Private Network (VPN client)), and any other resources of System Agency.
- C. Performing Agency shall not remove System Agency Property from the continental United States. In addition, Performing Agency may not use any computing device to access System Agency's network or e-mail while outside of the continental United States.
- D. Performing Agency shall not perform any maintenance services on System Agency's Property unless the Contract expressly authorizes such services.
- E. During the time that System Agency Property is in the possession of Performing Agency, Performing Agency shall be responsible for all charges attributable to Performing Agency's use of System Agency Property that exceeds the Contract scope. Performing Agency shall fully reimburse such charges to System Agency within thirty (30) calendar days of Performing Agency's receipt of System Agency's notice of amount due. Use of System Agency Property for a purpose not authorized by the Contract shall constitute breach of contract and may result in termination of the Contract and the

pursuit of other remedies available to System Agency under contract, at law, or in equity.

6.2 Damage to System Agency Property

- A. Performing Agency shall exercise reasonable care to protect System Agency Property entrusted to Performing Agency under the Contract from loss, destruction, and damage. To the extent authorized under Texas law, Performing Agency shall be liable to System Agency and the State of Texas for the full cost of repair, reconstruction, or replacement, reasonable wear and tear excepted, of such System Agency Property entrusted to Performing Agency.
- B. Performing Agency shall notify System Agency of the loss, destruction, or damage of System Agency Property entrusted to Performing Agency under the Contract within 30 business days. Performing Agency shall reimburse System Agency and the State of Texas for such property damage specified under Section A above within 30 calendar days after Performing Agency's receipt of System Agency's notice of amount due.

6.3 Property rights upon termination or expiration of Contract

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

ARTICLE VII, Section 7.5 is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

7.5 Confidentiality

Information related to the performance of the Contract may be subject to the Texas Public Information Act and will be withheld from public disclosure or released to the public only in accordance therewith. Performing Agency shall make any information required under the Texas Public Information Act available to System Agency in portable document file (".pdf") format or any other format agreed between the Parties.

Performing Agency will comply with all applicable federal and state privacy, security and breach notification laws and regulations. The Parties do not anticipate this Agreement will require disclosure of confidential information. However, should the scope of this Agreement change and require the Performing Agency to receive confidential information from System Agency, Performing Agency will abide by the HHS Data Use Agreement, which will be incorporated herein by reference, or a completed Attachment 1 to the Texas Statewide Data

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Exchange Compact, which will be incorporated herein by reference. The Parties agree to amend this Agreement to add the Data Use Agreement or completed Attachment 1 to the Texas Statewide Data Exchange Compact, as applicable.

ARTICLE VIII, Sections 8.3 and 8.4 are deleted in their entirety and replaced with the following:

8.3 Termination for cause

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

i. **Material Breach**

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

8.4 Performing Agency responsibility for System Agency's termination costs [DELETED]

ARTICLE IX, Sections 9.14, 9.16. and 9.23 are deleted in their entirety.

ARTICLE IX, Sections 9.3, 9.5, 9.9, 9.10, 9.13, 9.18, 9.19, and 9.24 are deleted in their entirety and replaced with the following:

9.3 Limitation on authority

- A. The authority granted to Performing Agency by the System Agency is limited to the terms of the Contract. Performing Agency shall not have any authority under the Contract to act for or on behalf of the System Agency except as expressly provided for in the Contract; no other authority, power, or use is granted or implied. Performing Agency may not incur any debt, obligation, expense, or liability of any kind on behalf of System Agency.
- B. Performing Agency may not rely upon implied authority and is not granted authority under the Contract to:
 - i. Make public policy on behalf of the System Agency;

- ii. Promulgate, amend, or disregard administrative regulations or program policy decisions made by State and federal agencies responsible for administration of a System Agency program; or
- iii. Unilaterally communicate or negotiate with any federal or state agency or the Texas Legislature on behalf of the System Agency regarding System Agency programs or the Contract. However, if provided in the Contract, upon System Agency request and with reasonable notice from System Agency to the Performing Agency, the Performing Agency may assist the System Agency in communications and negotiations regarding the Work under the Contract with state and federal governments.

9.5 Change in laws and compliance with laws

Performing Agency shall comply with all laws, regulations, requirements and guidelines applicable to a vendor providing services and products required by the Contract to the State of Texas, as these laws, regulations, requirements and guidelines currently exist and as amended throughout the term of the Contract.

9.9 Independent performing agency

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

9.10 Governing law and venue

This Contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to the conflicts of law provisions. The venue of any suit arising under the Contract shall be in any court of competent jurisdiction. The venue of any suit against the System Agency shall be in a court of competent jurisdiction in Travis County, Texas. The venue of any suit against the Performing Agency shall be in a court of competent jurisdiction in Brazos County, Texas.

9.13 Force majeure

- A. To the extent either Party experiences a circumstance, beyond its reasonable control, such as loss of key personnel, essential equipment, necessary research facilities, cost-share funding, or

other essential resources that impedes its continued performance of obligations under this Contract, the Parties agree to negotiate in good faith to amend the Contract, up to and including termination of the Contract, as may be in the best interests of the Parties. In the event the Parties are unable to agree, the Parties shall treat such circumstance or event as a Force Majeure event. If Performing Agency terminates the Contract pursuant to this Section, System Agency shall have a full right of access to all materials related to Contract performance maintained by Performing Agency.

- B. Except with respect to the obligation of payments under this Contract, if either of the Parties, after a good faith effort, is prevented from complying with any express or implied covenant of this Contract by reason of war; terrorism; rebellion; riots; strikes; pandemic; epidemic; acts of God; any valid order, rule, or regulation of governmental authority; or similar events, other than Termination for Convenience under Section 8.2 or Termination for Cause under Section 8.3, that are beyond the control of the affected Party (collectively referred to as a "Force Majeure"), then, while so prevented, the affected Party's obligation to comply with such covenant will be suspended, and the affected Party will not be liable for damages for failure to comply with such covenant. To the extent the Force Majeure event is triggered by Section 9.13A, above, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith to equitably settle any outstanding obligations. In any such event, the Party claiming Force Majeure will promptly notify the other Party of the Force Majeure event in writing and, if possible, such notice will set forth the extent and duration thereof.

9.18 Prohibition on non-compete restrictions

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

9.19 Sovereign immunity

Nothing in the Contract shall be construed as a waiver of either Party's or the State's sovereign immunity. This Contract shall not constitute or be construed as a waiver of any of the privileges, rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities available to either Party or the State of Texas. The failure to enforce, or any delay in the enforcement of, any privileges, rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities available to either Party or the State of Texas under the Contract or under applicable law shall not constitute a waiver of such privileges, rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities or be considered as a basis for estoppel. Neither Party waive any privileges, rights, defenses, or immunities

available to that Party by entering into the Contract or by its conduct prior to or subsequent to entering into the Contract.

9.24 Disclosure of litigation

- A. The Performing Agency must disclose in writing to the contract manager assigned to this Contract any material civil or criminal litigation or indictment involving the Performing Agency. "Litigation" as used herein shall include administrative enforcement actions brought by governmental agencies, governmental investigations and civil investigative demands. The Performing Agency must also disclose any material litigation involving subcontractors, consultants, and/or lobbyists. For purposes of this section, "material" refers to any action or pending action that a reasonable person knowledgeable in the applicable industry would consider relevant to the Work under the Contract or any development such a person would want to be aware of in order to stay fully apprised of the total mix of information relevant to the Work.
- B. This is a continuing disclosure requirement; any litigation commencing after Contract Award must be disclosed in a written statement to the assigned contract manager within fifteen (15) business days of its occurrence.