

**INTERAGENCY COOPERATION CONTRACT**  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**CONTRACT NO. HHS001445000001**

THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION (“Receiving Agency” or the “System Agency”) and TEXAS HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY (“Performing Agency”), each a “Party” and collectively the “Parties,” enter into the following contract for Health Information Exchange (HIE) Connectivity services (the “Contract”) pursuant to the provisions of “The Interagency Cooperation Act,” Chapter 771 of the Texas Government Code.

**I. CONTRACT REPRESENTATIVES**

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

Performing Agency

Name: Texas Health Services Authority (“THSA”)  
Address: 901 S. Mopac Expressway,  
Building 1, Suite 300  
City and Zip: Austin 78746  
Contact Person: George Gooch  
Telephone: (512) 329-2730

E-Mail Address: George.gooch@thsa.org

Receiving Agency

Name: Health and Human Services Commission (“HHSC”)  
Address: 4601 W. Guadalupe Street  
  
City and Zip: Austin 78751  
Contact Person: Sasha Robey  
Telephone: (773) 710-3732

E-Mail Address: sasha.robey@hhs.texas.gov

**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 for January 2024 Through September 2025**.

**III. CONTRACT PERIOD AND RENEWAL**

The Contract is effective on the signature date of the latter of the Parties to sign this agreement (“Effective Date”) and terminates on September 30, 2025, 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. SERVICES PRIOR TO EFFECTIVE DATE**

HHSC acknowledges that the Performing Agency provided services described in Attachment A prior to the Effective Date of this Contract. Such services provided by Performing Agency from the period commencing October 1, 2023, and concluding the day before the Effective Date of this Contract are hereby ratified, incorporated into, and governed by this Contract as of the Effective Date of this Contract.

## **V. AMENDMENT**

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

## **VI. CONTRACT AMOUNT AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES**

The total amount of this Contract shall not exceed \$3,450,000.00 as provided for in **Attachment B: Budget for January 2024 Through September 2025**.

## **VII. BASIS FOR CALCULATING REIMBURSABLE COSTS**

The basis for calculating reimbursable costs is provided in the Health Information Exchange (HIE) Implementation Advance Planning Document Update (IAPD-U), attached hereto.

## **VIII. 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:

### **System Agency**

Health and Human Services Commission  
4601 W. Guadalupe Street  
Austin, Texas 78751  
Attention: Sasha Robey, Program Supervisor VII, Health IT and HIE

### **Performing Agency**

Texas Health Services Authority  
901 S. Mopac Expressway, Building 1, Suite 300  
Austin, Texas 78746  
Attention: George Gooch, CEO

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.

## **IX. CERTIFICATIONS**

The undersigned Parties certify that:

- A. 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;
- B. Each Party executing this Contract on its behalf has full power and authority to enter into this Contract;
- C. The proposed arrangements serve the interest of efficient and economical administration of state government; and
- D. 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.

The Receiving Agency further certifies that it has statutory authority to contract for the services described in this Contract under Section 771.003(a) of the Texas Government Code.

The Performing Agency further certifies that it has statutory authority to contract for the services described in this Contract under Section 771.003(a) of the Texas Government Code.

**SIGNATURE PAGE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS.**

**SIGNATURE PAGE FOR HHSC CONTRACT NO. HHS001445000001**

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
COMMISSION**

DocuSigned by:  
*Dana L Collins*  
7686F69C7CE54BB...

Signature

Dana L Collins

Printed Name

Deputy Executive Commissioner, Medicaid and CHIP Services Operations

Title

April 2, 2024

Date

**TEXAS HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY**

DocuSigned by:  
*George Gooch*  
6442D1255F7247F...

Signature

George Gooch

Printed Name

CEO

Title

March 28, 2024

Date

**THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENTS TO HHSC CONTRACT NO. HHS001445000001 ARE HEREBY INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:**

- 1. ATTACHMENT A: STATEMENT OF WORK FOR JANUARY 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2025;**
- 2. ATTACHMENT B: BUDGET FOR JANUARY 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2025;**
- 3. ATTACHMENT C: HHS UNIFORM TERMS AND CONDITIONS – GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY V. 3.3 (EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 2023);**
- 4. ATTACHMENT D: SPECIAL CONDITIONS;**
- 5. ATTACHMENT E: HHS DATA USE AGREEMENT V. 8.5, OCTOBER 23, 2019 (GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY VERSION);**
- 6. ATTACHMENT F: FEDERAL ASSURANCES AND CERTIFICATIONS; AND**
- 7. ATTACHMENT G: IMPLEMENTATION ADVANCE PLANNING DOCUMENT UPDATE.**

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
CONTRACT NO. HHS001445000001**

***ATTACHMENT A:  
STATEMENT OF WORK FOR JANUARY 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2025***

**1. Objectives of the HIE Connectivity Project and PULSE**

- a. Continue to enable electronic accessibility of Medicaid client clinical records among providers' electronic health record (EHR) systems through direct hospital connections and local HIE(s) utilized by the provider.
- b. Continue to provide infrastructure services via HIETexas, which assists Texas Medicaid in collecting Medicaid client clinical records from multiple local HIEs and hospitals directly connected to HIETexas.
- c. Continue to provide infrastructure services via HIETexas, which assists Texas Medicaid in real-time detection of Medicaid client Emergency Department (ED) visits for purposes of improved coordination of care and the reduction of healthcare costs.
- d. Continue to provide health information from multiple sources to authorized first responders during periods of disasters via HIETexas PULSE.
- e. Continue to provide patient reunification information from multiple sources to authorized first responders during periods of disasters via HIETexas PULSE.

**2. Project Scope and Specific Requirements**

- a. **Strategy 2** will continue to provide establishment and enhancement of connectivity between local HIEs and HHSC. These activities will continue now that there is successful implementation of health data exchange between local HIE partners and HHSC.
- b. Contractor will continue to support operation of an ED encounter alerting system under **Strategy 3**. This system will continue to utilize health data from hospital EDs to alert care team members when their patient has entered an ED for treatment.
- c. **HIETexas PULSE** is designed to a) query disparate health information from multiple sources in response to a disaster, b) provide patient reunification services, and c) provide additional patient information for public health emergencies such as pandemics. Access to HIETexas PULSE is provided through a centrally housed web application, requiring no special software on the users' end to operate. Expanded use cases, such as providing HIETexas PULSE to first responders, are also contemplated under this SOW and are not prohibited, but do require authorization by HHSC program staff in advance of implementation.

**3. Technical Project Requirements for Strategy 2**

- a. Continue to support a framework for the exchange, transport, integration, and retrieval of electronic health information between and among healthcare entities and other entities specified by HHSC using nationally recognized health information exchange standards.

- b. Continue to provide a Master Patient Index (MPI) and an HL7 Integration Engine with which to process data arriving from local HIEs.
  - c. Continue to support a user interface for individuals designated by HHSC to provide aggregate and detailed monitoring information and reporting on all data flows, message information, and participant status.
  - d. Continue to support integration work and technical assistance for local HIEs identified by HHSC to assist them in connecting to the Contractor.
  - e. Continue to support all activities and capabilities required to deliver C-CDA ToC Summaries and Emergency Department Encounter Notification (EDEN) alerts to the HHSC Performance Management Analytics Services' data repository and/or other destinations specified by HHS through HHSC's Interoperability Center of Excellence (iCoE).
- f. Contractor will provide ongoing maintenance and support of EDEN's current underlying core infrastructure. This work includes, but is not limited to:
- i. Automatically obtaining and ingesting patient census information via the EDEN Software as a Service (SaaS) platform application for retrieving and delivering Consolidated Clinical Data Architecture (C-CDA) documents and Admission, Discharge, Transfer (ADT) data to Texas Medicaid, and any needed software upgrades to this application;
  - ii. Having the ability to retrieve and deliver C-CDA documents and ADT data from local HIE networks;
  - iii. Pushing the retrieved data to data subscribers; and
  - iv. Providing staff support for functionality under the EDEN system.
- g. Contractor will also be utilized to support the iCoE, which was originally referenced in the Texas Health Information Technology Strategic Plan and officially launched in October 2022.

#### **4. Technical Project Requirements for Strategy 3**

- a. Continue to provide service functions, including the ability of the system to: receive ADT data, correctly process it for matching, create alerts, and dispatch those alerts.
  - b. Continue to implement functionality into EDEN enabling use of a payer eligibility file to access and retrieve relevant patient information and use such information to complete required activities.
  - c. Continue to only store clinical data for the length of time required to develop an alert, send the notification to authorized notification recipients, and provide updates to those alerts when receiving additional ADT data.
  - d. Continue to maintain a reporting system capable of presenting interface, match, and transmission statistics.
- e. In addition to the above-listed items, Contractor will provide ongoing maintenance and support of EDEN's current underlying core infrastructure. This work includes, but is not limited to maintaining:
- i. The underlying SaaS platform that supports the EDEN system, and any needed software upgrades;

- ii. The portal allowing EDEN data subscribers to view ADT data received via the EDEN SaaS platform;
  - iii. Help desk support for EDEN ADT data subscribers and data sources;
  - iv. THSA staff support for the EDEN system;
  - v. Master Patient Index; and
  - vi. Privacy and Security safeguards, such as security assessment, multi-factor authentication, Health Information Trust (HITRUST) certification, etc.
- f. Additionally, the Contractor will implement HL7 interfaces for ADT data for direct hospital connections.

#### **5. Technical Project Requirements for PULSE**

- a. Contractor will continue to operate the infrastructure to interconnect disparate health information from multiple sources in response to a disaster.
  - b. Contractor will continue to provide access to HIETexas PULSE through a contractor-hosted web application, requiring no special software on the users' end to operate other than a supported web browser and internet connectivity.
  - c. Contractor will continue to allow for access to the system to be pre-validated, or validated on-the-fly, meeting appropriate authorization and authentication requirements. This will allow for patients' medical information to be accessed in near real-time.
  - d. Contractor will continue to offer to provide training for HIETexas PULSE.
  - e. Contractor will continue to operate and offer PULSE for use at least three modes of operation – a) query for clinical data, b) patient reunification via the Missing Persons application, and c) emergency census check-in/check-out functionality.
- f. In addition to the above listed items, Contractor will provide ongoing maintenance and support of PULSE, as well as further implementation activities. This work includes, but is not limited to:
- i. Annual license, usage reports, and documentation (HITRUST Certification, Verified User Authentication process, annual train-the-trainer session documentation, including training package and summary report);
  - ii. Program management (customized project plan, weekly situation awareness calls during incident activations, monthly agendas, and invitation to PULSE Community of Practice meetings);
  - iii. Technical management (annual assessment of national and state data source coverage and node configuration recommendations, monthly system readiness reports, weekly usage reports during incident activations including patient chart access and log-in history);
  - iv. Emergency Census license;
  - v. The underlying SaaS platform that supports the PULSE system and any needed software upgrades to this platform;
  - vi. The web-based user interface allowing PULSE end users to view data received via the PULSE SaaS platform;
  - vii. Single sign-on integration;
  - viii. Help desk support for PULSE data subscribers and data sources;

- ix. PULSE gateway utilized to query and retrieve clinical data and view PULSE data sources; and
- x. National network end points and custom HIE integrations.
- xi. PULSE connectivity to EDEN service for Emergency Census (new features and configurations, regularly updated educational and outreach materials for end user engagement, quarterly status reports of connectivity across PULSE and EDEN);
- xii. Quarterly previews of new functionalities for PULSE;
- xiii. Configuration assistance (e.g., updates to branding, facility management, and organization);
- xiv. Regular updates to educational and outreach materials, as well as the customized PULSE training website; and
- xv. Support for technology demonstrations and educational sessions for stakeholder and end users.



**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
CONTRACT NO. HHS001445000001**

**ATTACHMENT B:  
Budget for January 2024 Through September 2025**

1. **Total cost for Attachment B is: \$3,450,000**
2. **Strategy 2 ongoing maintenance costs.** Ongoing maintenance and operations costs are anticipated to be \$375,000 annually (\$750,000 over the contract term).
3. **Quarterly Billing for Strategy 2 Ongoing Maintenance:**

<b>Amendment 6 – Strategy 2 Ongoing Maintenance Budget</b>	
<b>B-4 Year 1</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Quarter 1 (October thru December 2023)	\$93,750
Quarter 2 (January thru March 2024)	\$93,750
Quarter 3 (April thru June 2024)	\$93,750
Quarter 4 (July thru September 2024)	\$93,750
<b>B-4 Year 2</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Quarter 1 (October thru December 2024)	\$93,750
Quarter 2 (January thru March 2025)	\$93,750
Quarter 3 (April thru June 2025)	\$93,750
Quarter 4 (July thru September 2025)	\$93,750

4. **Strategy 3 ongoing maintenance costs.** Ongoing maintenance and operations costs are anticipated to be \$300,000 annually (\$600,000 over the contract term).

5. **Quarterly Billing for Strategy 3 Ongoing Maintenance:**

<b>Amendment 6 - Strategy 3 Ongoing Maintenance Budget</b>	
<b>B-4 Year 1</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Quarter 1 (October thru December 2023)	\$75,000
Quarter 2 (January thru March 2024)	\$75,000
Quarter 3 (April thru June 2024)	\$75,000
Quarter 4 (July thru September 2024)	\$75,000
<b>B-4 Year 2</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Quarter 1 (October thru December 2024)	\$75,000
Quarter 2 (January thru March 2025)	\$75,000
Quarter 3 (April thru June 2025)	\$75,000
Quarter 4 (July thru September 2025)	\$75,000

6. **Strategy 3 further implementation costs.** THSA's costs are \$5,000 per HL7 interface for ADT data. THSA may invoice for an upfront 20% (\$1,000 per approved hospital). After 6 months of continuous data flow, the remaining 80% (\$4,000 per hospital) may be invoiced.

<b>Amendment 6 – Strategy 3 Additional Implementation Costs (one-time costs)</b>	
<b>Interface</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Hospital ADT ( <i>each</i> )	\$5,000
<b>Annual Total (20 hospitals)</b>	\$100,000
<b>Total Over A – 6 Term (40 hospitals)</b>	\$200,000

**7. PULSE ongoing maintenance costs.** Ongoing maintenance and operations costs are anticipated to be \$445,000 annually (\$890,000 over the contract term).

**8. Quarterly Billing for PULSE Ongoing Maintenance:**

<b>B-4 Year 1</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Quarter 1 (October thru December 2023)	\$111,250
Quarter 2 (January thru March 2024)	\$111,250
Quarter 3 (April thru June 2024)	\$111,250
Quarter 4 (July thru September 2024)	\$111,250
<b>B-4 Year 2</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Quarter 1 (October thru December 2024)	\$111,250
Quarter 2 (January thru March 2025)	\$111,250
Quarter 3 (April thru June 2025)	\$111,250
Quarter 4 (July thru September 2025)	\$111,250

**9. PULSE further implementation costs.** Further implementation costs are anticipated to be \$505,000 annually (\$1,010,000 over the contract term).

**10. Quarterly Billing for PULSE Further Implementation:**

<b>B-4 Year 1</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Quarter 1 (October thru December 2023)	\$126,250
Quarter 2 (January thru March 2024)	\$126,250
Quarter 3 (April thru June 2024)	\$126,250
Quarter 4 (July thru September 2024)	\$126,250
<b>B-4 Year 2</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Quarter 1 (October thru December 2024)	\$126,250
Quarter 2 (January thru March 2025)	\$126,250
Quarter 3 (April thru June 2025)	\$126,250
Quarter 4 (July thru September 2025)	\$126,250



# TEXAS

## Health and Human Services

**Health and Human Services (HHS)**

**Uniform Terms and Conditions - Governmental Entity**

**Version 3.3**

Published and Effective - November 2023

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 Textravel” means the information maintained on the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts’ website relative to travel reimbursements under this Contract, if any.

“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* guidelines which can currently be accessed at:  
<https://fmx.cpa.texas.gov/fmx/travel/texttravel/>

### **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 all information required to determine compliance with the terms and conditions of this Contract and all state and federal rules, regulations, and statutes. Performing Agency shall ensure these same requirements are included in all subcontracts.
- 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 audits, claim, litigation, or dispute matters involving the Contract are resolved, whichever is later. Performing Agency shall ensure these same requirements are included in all subcontracts.

## **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. Performing Agency shall ensure these same requirements are included in all subcontracts.
- 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. Performing Agency shall permit the System Agency or any of its duly authorized federal, state, or local authorities unrestricted access to and the right to examine all external contracts and/or pricing models or methodologies related to the Contract. Performing Agency shall ensure these same requirements are included in all subcontracts.

- C. 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.
- D. If deemed necessary by the System Agency or any duly authorized authority, for the purpose of oversight, including, but not limited to, reviews, inspections, audits and investigations, Performing Agency shall produce original documents related to this Contract.
- E. 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 and payments related to the Contract, including those related to a Subcontractor.
- F. Performing Agency shall include the System Agency's and any of its duly authorized representatives', as well as duly authorized federal, state, or local authorities, unrestricted 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, inspection or investigation 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.
- C. Performing Agency shall include the requirement to provide to System Agency (and any of its duly authorized federal, state or local authorities) internal audit reports related to this Contract in any Subcontract it awards. Upon request by System Agency, Performing Agency shall enforce this requirement against its Subcontractor. Further, Performing Agency shall include in any Subcontract it awards a requirement that all Subcontractor Subcontracts must also include these provisions.

#### **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.
- C. Performing Agency shall ensure the authority to audit funds received indirectly by subcontractors through the contract and the requirement to cooperate is included in any subcontract it awards.

#### **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 Article VII will survive termination or expiration of this Contract. Further, the obligations of Performing Agency under this Article VII 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. 51<sup>st</sup> 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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# **TEXAS**

## **Health and Human Services**

**Health and Human Services Commission**

**Special Conditions**

**Version: 1.2**

**9.1.17**



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## **HHSC SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

The terms and conditions of these Special Conditions are incorporated into and made a part of the Contract. Capitalized items used in these Special Conditions and not otherwise defined have the meanings assigned to them in HHSC Uniform Terms and Conditions --Vendor- Version 2.14

### **ARTICLE I. SPECIAL DEFINITIONS**

**"Conflict of Interest"** means a set of facts or circumstances, a relationship, or other situation under which Contractor, a Subcontractor, or individual has past, present, or currently planned personal or financial activities or interests that either directly or indirectly: (1) impairs or diminishes the Contractor's, or Subcontractor's ability to render impartial or objective assistance or advice to the HHSC; or (2) provides the Contractor or Subcontractor an unfair competitive advantage in future HHSC procurements.

**"Contractor Agents"** means Contractor's representatives, employees, officers, Subcontractors, as well as their employees, contractors, officers, and agents.

**"Custom Software"** means Software developed as a Deliverable or in connection with the Agreement.

**"Data Use Agreement"** means the agreement incorporated into the Contract to facilitate creation, receipt, maintenance, use, disclosure or access to Confidential Information.

**"Federal Financial Participation"** is a program that allows states to receive partial reimbursement for activities that meet certain objectives of the federal government. It is also commonly referred to as the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP).

**"Item of Noncompliance"** means Contractor's acts or omissions that: (1) violate a provision of the Contract; (2) fail to ensure adequate performance of the Work; (3) represent a failure of Contractor to be responsive to a request of HHSC relating to the Work under the Contract.

**"Minor Administrative Change"** refers to a change to the Contract that does not increase the fees or term and done in accordance with Section 5.02 of these Special Conditions.

**"Confidential System Information"** means any communication or record (whether oral, written, electronically stored or transmitted, or in any other form) provided to or made available to Contractor; or that Contractor may create, receive,

maintain, use, disclose or have access to on behalf of HHSC or through performance of the Work, which is not designated as Confidential Information in a Data Use Agreement.

**"State"** means the State of Texas and, unless otherwise indicated or appropriate, will be interpreted to mean HHSC and other agencies of the State of Texas that may participate in the administration of HHSC Programs; provided, however, that no provision will be interpreted to include any entity other than HHSC as the contracting agency.

**"Software"** means all operating system and applications software used or created by Contractor to perform the Work under the Contract.

**"Third Party Software"** refers to software programs or plug-ins developed by companies or individuals other than Contractor which are used in performance of the Work. It does not include items which are ancillary to the performance of the Work, such as internal systems of Contractor which were deployed by Contractor prior to the Contract and not procured to perform the Work.

**"Turnover"** means the effort necessary to enable HHSC, or its designee, to effectively close out the Contract and move the Work to another vendor or to perform the Work by itself.

**"Turnover Plan"** means the written plan developed by Contractor, approved by HHSC, and to be employed when the Work described in the Contract transfers to HHSC, or its designee, from the Contractor.

**"UTC"** means HHSC's Uniform Terms and Conditions- Vendor --Version 2.15

## **ARTICLE II. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **2.01 OTHER SYSTEM AGENCIES PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTRACT**

In addition to providing the Work specified for HHSC, Contractor agrees to allow other System Agencies the option to participate in the Contract under the same terms and conditions. Each System Agency that elects to obtain Work under this section will issue a purchase or Work order to Contractor, referring to, and incorporating by reference, the terms and conditions specified in the Contract.

System Agencies have no authority to modify the terms of the Contract. However, additional System Agency terms and conditions that do not conflict with the Contract, and are acceptable to the Contractor, may be added in a purchase or Work order and given effect. No additional term or condition added in a purchase or Work order issued by a System Agency can conflict with or diminish a term or condition of the Contract. In the event of a conflict between a System Agency's purchase or Work order and the Contract, the Contract terms control.

### **2.02 MOST FAVORED CUSTOMER**

Contractor agrees that if during the term of the Contract, Contractor enters into any agreement with any other governmental customer, or any non-affiliated commercial customer by which it agrees to provide equivalent services at lower prices, or

additional services at comparable prices, Contractor will notify HHSC within (10) business days from the date Contractor executes any such agreement. Contractor agrees, at HHSC's option, to amend the Contract to accord equivalent advantage to HHSC.

### **2.03 COOPERATION WITH HHSC VENDORS**

At HHSC's request, Contractor will allow parties interested in responding to other HHSC solicitations to have reasonable access during normal business hours to the Work, software, systems documentation, and site visits to the Contractor's facilities. Contractor may elect to have such parties inspecting the Work, facilities, software or systems documentation to agree to use the information so obtained only in the State of Texas and only for the purpose of responding to the relevant HHSC solicitation.

### **2.04 RENEGOTIATION AND REPROCUREMENT RIGHTS**

Notwithstanding anything in the Contract to the contrary, HHSC may at any time during the term of the Contract exercise the option to notify Contractor that HHSC has elected to renegotiate certain terms of the Contract. Upon Contractor's receipt of any notice under this section, Contractor and HHSC will undertake good faith negotiations of the subject terms of the Contract.

HHSC may at any time issue solicitation instruments to other potential contractors for performance of any portion of the Work covered by the Contract, including services similar or comparable to the Work, performed by Contractor under the Contract. If HHSC elects to procure the Work, or any portion thereof, from another vendor in accordance with this section, HHSC will have the termination rights set forth in the UTC.

## **ARTICLE III. CONTRACTORS PERSONNEL AND SUBCONTRACTORS**

### **3.01 QUALIFICATIONS**

Contractor agrees to maintain the organizational and administrative capacity and capabilities proposed in its response to the Solicitation, as modified, to carry out all duties and responsibilities under the Contract. Contractor Agents assigned to perform the duties and responsibilities under the Contract must be and remain properly trained and qualified for the functions they are to perform. Notwithstanding the transfer or turnover of personnel, Contractor remains obligated to perform all duties and responsibilities under the Contract without degradation and in strict accordance with the terms of the Contract.

### **3.02 CONDUCT AND REMOVAL**

While performing the Work under the Contract, Contractor Agents must comply with applicable Contract terms, State and federal rules, regulations, HHSC's policies, and HHSC's requests regarding personal and professional conduct; and otherwise conduct themselves in a businesslike and professional manner.

If HHSC determines in good faith that a particular Contractor Agent is not conducting himself or herself in accordance with the terms of the Contract, HHSC may provide Contractor with notice and documentation regarding its concerns. Upon

receipt of such notice, Contractor must promptly investigate the matter and, at HHSC's election, take appropriate action that may include removing the Contractor Agent from performing any Work under the Contract and replacing the Contractor Agent with a similarly qualified individual acceptable to HHSC as soon as reasonably practicable or as otherwise agreed to by HHSC.

## **ARTICLE IV. PERFORMANCE**

### **4.01 MEASUREMENT**

Satisfactory performance of the Contract, unless otherwise specified in the Contract, will be measured by:

- (a) Compliance with Contract requirements, including all representations and warranties;
- (b) Compliance with the Work requested in the Solicitation and Work proposed by Contractor in its response to the Solicitation and approved by HHSC;
- (c) Delivery of Work in accordance with the service levels proposed by Contractor in the Solicitation Response as accepted by HHSC;
- (d) Results of audits, inspections, or quality checks performed by the HHSC or its designee;
- (e) Timeliness, completeness, and accuracy of Work; and
- (f) Achievement of specific performance measures and incentives as applicable.

## **ARTICLE V. AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS**

### **5.01 FORMAL PROCEDURE**

No different or additional Work or contractual obligations will be authorized or performed unless contemplated within the Scope of Work and memorialized in an amendment or modification of the Contract that is executed in compliance with this Article. No waiver of any term, covenant, or condition of the Contract will be valid unless executed in compliance with this Article. Contractor will not be entitled to payment for Work that is not authorized by a properly executed Contract amendment or modification, or through the express written authorization of HHSC.

Any changes to the Contract that results in a change to either the term, fees, or significantly impacting the obligations of the parties to the Contract must be effectuated by a formal Amendment to the Contract HHS001445000001. Such Amendment must be signed by the appropriate and duly authorized representative of each party in order to have any effect.

### **5.02 MINOR ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES**

HHSC's designee, referred to as the Contract Manager, Project Sponsor, or other equivalent, in the Contract, is authorized to provide written approval of mutually agreed upon Minor Administrative Changes to the Work or the Contract that do not increase the fees or term. Changes that increase the fees or term must be accomplished through the formal amendment

procedure, as set forth in Section 5.01 of these Special Conditions. Upon approval of a Minor Administrative Change, HHSC and Contractor will maintain written notice that the change has been accepted in their Contract files.

## **ARTICLE VI. PAYMENT**

### **6.01 ENHANCED PAYMENT PROCEDURES**

HHSC will be relieved of its obligation to make any payments to Contractor until such time as any and all set-off amounts have been credited to HHSC. If HHSC disputes payment of all or any portion of an invoice from Contractor, HHSC will notify the Contractor of the dispute and both Parties will attempt in good faith to resolve the dispute in accordance with these Special Conditions. HHSC will not be required to pay any disputed portion of a Contractor invoice unless, and until, the dispute is resolved. Notwithstanding any such dispute, Contractor will continue to perform the Work in compliance with the terms of the Contract pending resolution of such dispute so long as all undisputed amounts continue to be paid to Contractor.

## **ARTICLE VII. CONFIDENTIALITY**

### **7.01 CONSULTANT DISCLOSURE**

Contractor agrees that any consultant reports received by HHSC in connection with the Contract may be distributed by HHSC, in its discretion, to any other state agency and the Texas legislature. Any distribution may include posting on HHSC's website or the website of a standing committee of the Texas Legislature.

### **7.02 CONFIDENTIAL SYSTEM INFORMATION**

HHSC prohibits the unauthorized disclosure of Other Confidential Information. Contractor and all Contractor Agents will not disclose or use any Other Confidential Information in any manner except as is necessary for the Work or the proper discharge of obligations and securing of rights under the Contract. Contractor will have a system in effect to protect Other Confidential Information. Any disclosure or transfer of Other Confidential Information by Contractor, including information requested to do so by HHSC, will be in accordance with the Contract. If Contractor receives a request for Other Confidential Information, Contractor will immediately notify HHSC of the request, and will make reasonable efforts to protect the Other Confidential Information from disclosure until further instructed by the HHSC.

Contractor will notify HHSC promptly of any unauthorized possession, use, knowledge, or attempt thereof, of any Other Confidential Information by any person or entity that may become known to Contractor. Contractor will furnish to HHSC all known details of the unauthorized possession, use, or knowledge, or attempt thereof, and use reasonable efforts to assist HHSC in investigating or preventing the reoccurrence of any unauthorized possession, use, or knowledge, or attempt thereof, of Other Confidential Information.

HHSC will have the right to recover from Contractor all damages and liabilities caused by or arising from Contractor or Contractor Agents' failure to protect HHSC's Confidential Information as required by this section.

**IN COORDINATION WITH THE INDEMNITY PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE UTC, Contractor WILL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS HHSC FROM ALL DAMAGES, COSTS, LIABILITIES, AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS) CAUSED BY OR ARISING FROM Contractor OR Contractor AGENTS FAILURE TO PROTECT OTHER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. Contractor WILL FULFILL THIS PROVISION WITH COUNSEL APPROVED BY HHSC.**

## **ARTICLE VIII. DISPUTES AND REMEDIES**

### **8.01 AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES**

The Parties agree that the interests of fairness, efficiency, and good business practices are best served when the Parties employ all reasonable and informal means to resolve any dispute under the Contract before resorting to formal dispute resolution processes otherwise provided in the Contract. The Parties will use all reasonable and informal means of resolving disputes prior to invoking a remedy provided elsewhere in the Contract, unless HHSC immediately terminates the Contract in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Contract.

Any dispute, that in the judgment of any Party to the Agreement, may materially affect the performance of any Party will be reduced to writing and delivered to the other Party within 10 business days after the dispute arises. The Parties must then negotiate in good faith and use every reasonable effort to resolve the dispute at the managerial or executive levels prior to initiating formal proceedings pursuant to the UTC and Texas Government Code §2260, unless a Party has reasonably determined that a negotiated resolution is not possible and has so notified the other Party. The resolution of any dispute disposed of by agreement between the Parties will be reduced to writing and delivered to all Parties within 10 business days of such resolution.

### **8.02 OPERATIONAL REMEDIES**

The remedies described in this section may be used or pursued by HHSC in the context of the routine operation of the Contract and are directed to Contractor's timely and responsive performance of the Work as well as the creation of a flexible and responsive relationship between the Parties. Contractor agrees that HHSC may pursue operational remedies for Items of Noncompliance with the Contract. At any time, and at its sole discretion, HHSC may impose or pursue one or more said remedies for each Item of Noncompliance. HHSC will determine operational remedies on a case-by-case basis which include, but are not, limited to:

- (a) Requesting a detailed Corrective Action Plan, subject to HHSC approval, to correct and resolve a deficiency or breach of the Contract;
- (b) Require additional or different corrective action(s) of HHSC's choice;
- (c) Suspension of all or part of the Contract or Work;
- (d) Prohibit Contractor from incurring additional obligations under the Contract;
- (e) Issue Notice to stop Work Orders;
- (f) Assessment of liquidated damages as provided in the Contract;



- (g) Accelerated or additional monitoring;
- (h) Withholding of payments; and
- (i) Additional and more detailed programmatic and financial reporting.

HHSC's pursuit or non-pursuit of an operational remedy does not constitute a waiver of any other remedy that HHSC may have at law or equity; excuse Contractor's prior substandard performance, relieve Contractor of its duty to comply with performance standards, or prohibit HHSC from assessing additional operational remedies or pursuing other appropriate remedies for continued substandard performance.

HHSC will provide notice to Contractor of the imposition of an operational remedy in accordance with this section, with the exception of accelerated monitoring, which may be unannounced. HHSC may require Contractor to file a written response as part of the operational remedy approach.

### **8.03 EQUITABLE REMEDIES**

Contractor acknowledges that if, Contractor breaches, attempts, or threatens to breach, any obligation under the Contract, the State will be irreparably harmed. In such a circumstance, the State may proceed directly to court notwithstanding any other provision of the Contract. If a court of competent jurisdiction finds that Contractor breached, attempted, or threatened to breach any such obligations, Contractor will not oppose the entry of an order compelling performance by Contractor and restraining it from any further breaches, attempts, or threats of breach without a further finding of irreparable injury or other conditions to injunctive relief.

### **8.04 CONTINUING DUTY TO PERFORM**

Neither the occurrence of an event constituting an alleged breach of contract, the pending status of any claim for breach of contract, nor the application of an operational remedy, is grounds for the suspension of performance, in whole or in part, by Contractor of the Work or any duty or obligation with respect to the Contract.

## **ARTICLE IX. DAMAGES**

### **9.01 AVAILABILITY AND ASSESSMENT**

HHSC will be entitled to actual, direct, indirect, incidental, special, and consequential damages resulting from Contractor's failure to comply with any of the terms of the Contract. In some cases, the actual damage to HHSC as a result of Contractor's failure to meet the responsibilities or performance standards of the Contract are difficult or impossible to determine with precise accuracy. Therefore, if provided in the Contract, liquidated damages may be assessed against Contractor for failure to meet any aspect of the Work or responsibilities of the Contractor. HHSC may elect to collect liquidated damages:

- (a) Through direct assessment and demand for payment to Contractor; or
- (b) By deducting the amounts assessed as liquidated damages against payments owed to Contractor for Work performed. In its sole discretion, HHSC may deduct amounts assessed as liquidated damages as a single lump sum payment or as multiple payments until the full amount payable by the Contractor is received by the HHSC.

## **9.02 SPECIFIC ITEMS OF LIABILITY**

Contractor bears all risk of loss or damage due to defects in the Work, unfitness or obsolescence of the Work, or the negligence or intentional misconduct of Contractor or Contractor Agents. Contractor will ship all equipment and Software purchased and Third Party Software licensed under the Contract, freight prepaid, FOB HHSC's destination. The method of shipment will be consistent with the nature of the items shipped and applicable hazards of transportation to such items. Regardless of FOB point, Contractor bears all risks of loss, damage, or destruction of the Work, in whole or in part, under the Contract that occurs prior to acceptance by HHSC. After acceptance by HHSC, the risk of loss or damage will be borne by HHSC; however, Contractor remains liable for loss or damage attributable to Contractor's fault or negligence.

Contractor will protect HHSC's real and personal property from damage arising from Contractor or Contractor Agents performance of the Contract, and Contractor will be responsible for any loss, destruction, or damage to HHSC's property that results from or is caused by Contractor or Contractor Agents' negligent or wrongful acts or omissions. Upon the loss of, destruction of, or damage to any property of HHSC, Contractor will notify HHSC thereof and, subject to direction from HHSC or its designee, will take all reasonable steps to protect that property from further damage. Contractor agrees, and will require Contractor Agents, to observe safety measures and proper operating procedures at HHSC sites at all times. Contractor will immediately report to the HHSC any special defect or an unsafe condition it encounters or otherwise learns about.

**IN COORDINATION WITH THE INDEMNITY PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE UTC, Contractor WILL BE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL COSTS INCURRED THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH INDEMNIFYING THE STATE OF TEXAS OR HHSC WITH RESPECT TO INTELLECTUAL, REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY. ADDITIONALLY, HHSC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO APPROVE COUNSEL SELECTED BY Contractor TO DEFEND HHSC OR THE STATE OF TEXAS AS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

## **ARTICLE X. TURNOVER**

### **10.01 TURNOVER PLAN**

HHSC may require Contractor to develop a Turnover Plan at any time during the term of the Contract in HHSC's sole discretion. Contractor must submit the Turnover Plan to HHSC for review and approval. The Turnover Plan must describe Contractor's policies and procedures that will ensure:

- (a) The least disruption in the delivery the Work during Turnover to HHSC or its designee; and
- (b) Full cooperation with HHSC or its designee in transferring the Work and the obligations of the Contract.

### **10.02 TURNOVER ASSISTANCE**

Contractor will provide any assistance and actions reasonably necessary to enable HHSC or its designee to effectively close out the Contract and transfer the Work and the obligations of the Contract to another vendor or to perform the Work by itself. Contractor agrees that this obligation survives the termination, regardless of whether for cause or convenience, or the expiration of the Contract and remains in effect until completed to the satisfaction of HHSC.

## **ARTICLE XI. ADDITIONAL LICENSE AND OWNERSHIP PROVISIONS**

### **11.01 HHSC ADDITIONAL RIGHTS**

HHSC will have ownership and unlimited rights to use, disclose, duplicate, or publish all information and data developed, derived, documented, or furnished by Contractor under or resulting from the Contract. Such data will include all results, technical information, and materials developed for or obtained by HHSC from Contractor in the performance of the Work. If applicable, Contractor will reproduce and include HHSC's copyright, proprietary notice, or any product identifications provided by Contractor.

### **11.02 THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE**

Contractor grants HHSC a non-exclusive, perpetual, license for HHSC to use Third Party Software and its associated documentation for its internal business purposes. HHSC will be entitled to use Third Party Software on the equipment or any replacement equipment used by HHSC, and with any replacement Third Party Software chosen by HHSC, without additional expense.

Terms in any licenses for Third Party Software will be consistent with the requirements of this section. Prior to utilizing any Third Party Software product not identified in the Solicitation Response, Contractor will provide HHSC copies of the license agreement from the licensor of the Third Party Software to allow HHSC to, in its discretion, object to the license agreement that must, at a minimum, provide HHSC with necessary rights consistent with the short and long-term goals of the Contract. Contractor will assign to HHSC all licenses for the Third Party Software as necessary to carry out the intent of this section.

Contractor will, during the Contract, maintain any and all Third Party Software at their most current version or no more than one version back from the most current version. However, Contractor will not maintain any Third Party Software versions, including one version back, if notified by HHSC that any such version would prevent HHSC from using any functions, in whole or in part, of HHSC systems or would cause deficiencies in HHSC systems.

### **11.03 SOFTWARE AND OWNERSHIP RIGHTS**

In accordance with 45 C.F.R. Part 95.617, all appropriate federal agencies will have a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, translate, or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use for government purposes all Work, materials, Custom Software and modifications thereof, source code, associated documentation designed, developed, or installed with Federal Financial Participation under the Contract, including but not limited to those materials covered by copyright.

## **ARTICLE XII. UNIFORM ICT ACCESSIBILITY CLAUSE**

### **12.01 APPLICABILITY**

This Section applies to the procurement or development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for HHSC, or any changes to HHSC's ICT. This Section also applies if the Contract requires Contractor to perform a service or supply a goods that include ICT that: (i) HHSC employees are required or permitted to access; or (ii) members of the public are required or permitted to access. This Section does not apply to incidental uses of ICT in the performance of a contract, unless the parties agree that the ICT will become property of the state or will be used by HHSC's Client/Recipient after completion of the Contract.

Nothing in this section is intended to prescribe the use of particular designs or technologies or to prevent the use of alternative technologies, provided they result in substantially equivalent or greater access to and use of a product / service.

### **12.02 DEFINITIONS**

The legacy term "Electronic and Information Resources" (EIR) and the term "Information and Communication Technology" (ICT) are considered equivalent in meaning for the purpose of applicability of HHSC Uniform Terms and Conditions, policies, accessibility checklists, style guides, contract specifications, and other contract management documents. To the extent that any other of the following definitions conflict with definitions elsewhere in this Contract, the following definitions are applicable to this Section only.

1. **"Accessibility Standards"** refers to the Information and Communication Technology Accessibility Standards and the Web Accessibility Standards/Specifications under the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.0 Level AA, (WCAG 2.0).
2. **"Information and Communication Technology (ICT)"** is any information technology, equipment, or interconnected system or subsystem of equipment for which the principal function is the creation, conversion, duplication, automatic acquisition, storage, analysis, evaluation, manipulation, management, movement, control, display, switching, interchange, transmission, reception, or broadcast of data or information. Examples of ICT are electronic content, telecommunications products, computers and ancillary equipment, software, information kiosks and transaction machines, videos, IT services, and multifunction office machines which copy, scan, and fax documents.
3. **"Information and Communication Technology Accessibility Standards"** refers to the accessibility standards for information and communication technology contained in the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.0 Level AA.
4. **"Web Accessibility Standards/Specifications"** refers to the web standards contained in WCAG 2.0 Level AA.
5. **"Products"** means information resources technologies that are, or are related to, ICT.
6. **"Service"** means the act of delivering information or performing a task for employees, clients, or members of the public through a method of access or delivery that uses ICT.

### **12.03 ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Under Texas Government Code Chapter 2054, Subchapter M, and implementing rules of the Texas Department of Information Resources, HHSC must procure Products or Services that comply with the Accessibility Standards when such Products or Services are available in the commercial marketplace or when such Products or Services are developed in

response to a procurement solicitation. Accordingly, Contractor must provide ICT and associated Product and/or Service documentation and technical support that comply with the Accessibility Standards.

#### **12.04 EVALUATION, TESTING AND MONITORING**

1. HHSC may review, test, evaluate and monitor Contractor's Products, Services and associated documentation and technical support for compliance with the Accessibility Standards. Review, testing, evaluation and monitoring may be conducted before and after the award of a contract. Testing and monitoring may include user acceptance testing.
2. Neither (1) the review, testing (including acceptance testing), evaluation or monitoring of any Product or Service, nor (2) the absence of such review, testing, evaluation or monitoring, will result in a waiver of the State's right to contest the Contractor's assertion of compliance with the Accessibility Standards.
3. Contractor agrees to cooperate fully and provide HHSC and its representatives timely access to Products, Services, documentation, and other items and information needed to conduct such review, evaluation, testing and monitoring.

#### **12.05 REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES**

1. Contractor represents and warrants that: (i) as of the effective date of the contract, the Products, Services and associated documentation and technical support comply with the Accessibility Standards as they exist at the time of entering the contract, unless and to the extent the Parties otherwise expressly agree in writing; and (ii) if the Products will be in the custody of the state or an HHS agency's client or recipient after the contract expiration or termination, the Products will continue to comply with such Accessibility Standards after the expiration or termination of the contract term, unless HHSC and/or Client/Recipient, as applicable uses the Products in a manner that renders it noncompliant.
2. In the event Contractor should have known, becomes aware, or is notified that the Product and associated documentation and technical support do not comply with the Accessibility Standards, Contractor represents and warrants that it will, in a timely manner and at no cost to HHSC, perform all necessary steps to satisfy the Accessibility Standards, including but not limited to remediation, repair, replacement, and upgrading of the Product, or providing a suitable substitute.
3. Contractor acknowledges and agrees that these representations and warranties are essential inducements on which HHSC relies in awarding this contract.
4. Contractor's representations and warranties under this subsection will survive the termination or expiration of the contract and will remain in full force and effect throughout the useful life of the Product.

#### **12.06 REMEDIES**

1. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sec. 2054.465, neither Contractor nor any other person has cause of action against HHSC for a claim of a failure to comply with Texas Government Code Chapter 2054, Subchapter M, and rules of the Department of Information Resources.
2. In the event of a breach of Contractor's representations and warranties, Contractor will be liable for direct and consequential damages and any other remedies to which HHSC may be entitled. This remedy is cumulative of

any and all other remedies to which HHSC may be entitled under this contract and other applicable law.

## **ARTICLE XIII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

### **13.01 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Contractor warrants to the best of its knowledge and belief, except to the extent already disclosed to HHSC, there are no facts or circumstances that could give rise to a Conflict of Interest and further that Contractor or Contractor Agents have no interest and will not acquire any direct or indirect interest that would conflict in any manner or degree with their performance under the Contract. Contractor will, and require Contractor Agents, to establish safeguards to prohibit Contract Agents from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational Conflict of Interest, or for personal gain. Contractor and Contractor Agents will operate with complete independence and objectivity without actual, potential or apparent Conflict of Interest with respect to the activities conducted under the Contract.

Contractor agrees that, if after Contractor's execution of the Contract, Contractor discovers or is made aware of a Conflict of Interest, Contractor will immediately and fully disclose such interest in writing to HHSC. In addition, Contractor will promptly and fully disclose any relationship that might be perceived or represented as a conflict after its discovery by Contractor or by HHSC as a potential conflict. HHSC reserves the right to make a final determination regarding the existence of Conflicts of Interest, and Contractor agrees to abide by HHSC's decision.

If HHSC determines that Contractor was aware of a Conflict of Interest and did not disclose the conflict to HHSC, such nondisclosure will be considered a material breach of the Contract. Furthermore, such breach may be submitted to the Office of the Attorney General, Texas Ethics Commission, or appropriate State or federal law enforcement officials for further action.

### **13.02 FLOW DOWN PROVISIONS**

Contractor must include any applicable provisions of the Contract in all subcontracts based on the scope and magnitude of Work to be performed by such Subcontractor. Any necessary terms will be modified appropriately to preserve the State's rights under the Contract.

### **13.03 MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTIES**

Contractor assigns to HHSC all of the manufacturers' warranties and indemnities relating to the Work, including without limitation, Third Party Software, to the extent Contractor is permitted by the manufacturers to make such assignments to HHSC.

This remedy is cumulative of any and all other remedies to which HHSC may be entitled under this contract and other applicable law.

## **ARTICLE XIII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

### **13.01 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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**ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS**

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

**PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.**

**NOTE:** Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee- 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.



9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
19. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

<p><b>SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL</b></p> <p>George Gooch</p>	<p><b>TITLE</b></p> <p>CEO</p>
<p><b>APPLICANT ORGANIZATION</b></p> <p>Texas Health Services Authority</p>	<p><b>DATE SUBMITTED</b></p> <p>01/24/2024</p>

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING**

## Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

## Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

**\* APPLICANT'S ORGANIZATION**

Texas Health Services Authority

**\* PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE**

Prefix: Mr.

\* First Name: George

Middle Name: Ryan

\* Last Name: Gooch

Suffix:

\* Title: CEO

**\* SIGNATURE:** George Gooch**\* DATE:** 01/24/2024