



REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

Pharmacy Rate Setting Services

RFP #20110422

Contact:

Melanie Wakeland

Procurement Officer

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Due Dates

Questions & Letter of Intent

E-MAIL or MAIL or HAND DELIVERY

5:00 PM Central Daylight Savings Time, Friday, May 13, 2011

Answers Posted to Internet www.medicaid.ms.gov

5:00 PM Central Daylight Savings Time, Friday, May 20, 2011

Sealed Proposals

MAIL or HAND DELIVERY ONLY

5:00 PM Central Daylight Savings Time, Friday, June 3, 2011

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1.0 SCOPE OF WORK

1.1 PURPOSE

The State of Mississippi, Office of the Governor, Division of Medicaid (DOM), requests proposals from qualified firms, to provide assistance with the design and development of a reimbursement methodology rate structure for all outpatient drugs as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1396r-8, maintenance and administration of the rate structure, as necessary, and related analysis and consulting services. DOM is interested in considering all options available to the State. The goal of the program is to determine the appropriate ingredient cost of product(s) to use as a basis for pharmacy reimbursement. Section 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Social Security Act requires that States "assure that payments are consistent with efficiency, economy and quality of care and are sufficient to enlist enough providers so that care and services are available under the plan at least to the extent that such care and services are available to the general population in the geographic area."

Currently, Mississippi Medicaid uses First DataBank (FDB) as the source of the drug file, including pricing, which is based on average wholesale price (AWP) as published by FDB. However, FDB will no longer publish average wholesale prices after September 26, 2011, as a result of a class-action lawsuit (New England Carpenters Health Benefit Fund vs. First DataBank Inc.), which alleged McKesson Corporation and pharmaceutical data publishing company FDB entered into a secret agreement to artificially inflate the AWP of hundreds of brand-name drugs. FDB was not required to cease publishing AWP under the terms of the settlement, but chose to do so. In addition, the Mississippi Attorney General has filed litigation alleging AWP has been misrepresented and that it has been fraudulently reported. As such, DOM has determined that AWP is no longer a reliable method for determining the estimated acquisition cost of drugs and other methods should be examined.

1.2 BACKGROUND

DOM Drug Utilization Data for State Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)

- A total of 900 pharmacies are enrolled as Medicaid providers.
- Approximately 6 million prescription drug claims were reimbursed for 508,037 beneficiaries.
- The average reimbursement of a generic drug was \$26.02 compared to \$206.94 for a brand name drug.
- DOM paid pharmacies a total of \$342 million for prescriptions, of which \$107 million was for generic prescriptions.
- DOM's generic utilization rate was 78%.

DOM reimburses pharmacies for drugs as outlined in the Medicaid Provider Policy Manual, Section 31.04. This information can be found on the DOM web site at:

<http://www.medicaid.ms.gov/Manuals/Section%2031%20-%20Pharmacy/Section%2031.04%20-%20Reimbursement.pdf>.

DOM has no State Maximum Allowable Cost program. Affiliated Computer Services, Inc. (ACS) is the current pharmacy claims processor responsible for the State's Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS).

The Mississippi Medicaid program has been a fee-for-service program only until January 1, 2011, when the Mississippi Coordinated Access Network (MississippiCAN) was implemented. This care coordination program is limited to only 15% of the entire Medicaid population and currently

has approximately 62,000 beneficiaries enrolled. MississippiCAN provides coverage for all medical services on a full-risk capitated contractual basis for the enrollees except inpatient hospital services, non-emergency transportation, and behavioral health services. However, psychotropic medications are provided by Care Coordination Organizations because many of these medications are prescribed by primary care physicians.

Offerors are encouraged to propose innovative solutions to meet or exceed the requirements of this RFP. All proposals must be consistent with current Mississippi Medicaid policies, and federal and state law.

1.3 PROCUREMENT OVERVIEW

The following timetable is the estimated and anticipated timetable for the RFP and procurement process.

April 22, 2011	Release RFP
May 13, 2011 (5:00 p.m. CDT)	Deadline for Letter of Intent and Written Questions
May 20, 2011	Response to Questions Posted
June 3, 2011 (5:00 p.m. CDT)	Proposal Deadline
June 6 - 8, 2011	Evaluation of Technical Proposal
June 9 - 10, 2011	Evaluation of Cost Proposal
June 10 - 17, 2011	Executive Approval and Intent to Award Notice
July 14, 2011	PSCRB Meeting (proposed)
July 14 - 18, 2011	Contracts Signed
July 18, 2011	Contract Start

DOM reserves the right to amend the timetable in the best interest of DOM. Potential Offerors who have submitted letters of intent will be notified of any changes to this timetable.

1.3.1 Mandatory Letter of Intent

Offerors are required to submit a Letter of Intent to bid. This letter will be due by 5:00 p.m. CDT, May 13, 2011, and should be sent to:

Melanie Wakeland
Procurement Officer
Division of Medicaid
550 High St., Suite 1000
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Email: Melanie.wakeland@medicaid.ms.gov

This letter shall be on the official business letterhead of the Offeror and must be signed by an individual authorized to commit the company to the work proposed. Submission of the Letter of Intent shall not be binding on the prospective Offeror to submit a proposal. However, firms that do not submit a Letter of Intent by 5:00 p.m. CDT, May 13, 2011, will not thereafter be eligible for the procurement.

Prior to May 13, 2011, all RFP amendments will be sent to all organizations that request an RFP, and will be posted on DOM's procurement website, www.medicaid.ms.gov/bids.aspx. After May 13, 2011, RFP amendments will only be distributed to those firms submitting a Letter of Intent.

1.3.2 Procedure for Submitting Questions

Multiple questions may be submitted using the template on DOM's procurement website, www.medicaid.ms.gov/bids.aspx. Written answers will be available not later than 5:00 PM CDT, Friday, May 20, 2011, via the same website.

Questions and answers will become a part of the final contract as an attachment. Written responses provided for the questions will be binding.

Questions should be sent to: Melanie.wakeland@medicaid.ms.gov

REF: PRS RFP # 20110422

1.3.3 Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals must be submitted in two parts: Technical Proposal and Cost Proposal. The format and content of each are specified in Sections 5 and 6 of this RFP.

Proposals for this RFP must be submitted in 3-ring binders with components of the RFP clearly tabbed. An original and four (4) copies of the technical proposal under sealed cover and an original and two (2) copies of the cost proposal under separate sealed cover must be received by DOM no later than 5:00 p.m. CDT, on Friday, June 3, 2011. Offerors must also submit one (1) copy of the proposal on CD in a searchable Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat (.PDF) format. Any proposal received after this date and time will be rejected and returned unopened to the Offeror. Proposals should be delivered to:

Melanie Wakeland
Procurement Officer
Division of Medicaid
Walter Sillers Building
550 High St., Suite 1000
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

The outside cover of the package containing the Technical Proposals shall be marked:

REF: RFP # 20110422
(Name of Offeror)

The outside cover of the package containing the cost proposals shall be marked:

REF: RFP # 20110422
(Name of Offeror)

As the proposals are received, the sealed proposals will be date-stamped and recorded by DOM. The parties submitting proposals are responsible for ensuring that the sealed competitive proposal is delivered by the required time and to the required location and the parties assume all risks of delivery. No facsimile proposals will be accepted. The proposal must be signed in blue ink by an authorized official to bind the Offeror to the proposal provisions. Proposals and modifications thereof received by DOM after the time set for receipt or at any location other than that set forth above will be considered late and will not be considered for award.

1.4 TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

DOM seeks a contractor to coordinate all phases of defining a new Mississippi Medicaid pharmacy rate setting methodology that is consistent with both federal and state law. This plan must provide for proven methodologies, yet preserves flexibility for DOM to customize the pharmacy program to suit Mississippi's needs.

Like most states, Mississippi has a number of environmental and other factors relating to the provision of pharmacy products and services that are unique to Mississippi. For example, the fact that many pharmacies are independently owned and are highly dependent on Medicaid reimbursement must be carefully considered when setting and maintaining rates.

The Contractor will be required to adhere to the performance requirements of the contract as well as the requirements of any revisions in federal or state legislation or regulations which may be enacted or implemented during the period of performance of this contract that are directly applicable to the performance requirements of this contract.

The scope of work is written to describe the requirements for the Contractor. Proposals must clearly and succinctly state how the Offeror proposes to meet or exceed these requirements if they are selected as the Contractor.

In the event the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) develops and publishes a standard pricing benchmark to replace AWP, the contract resulting from this RFP will no longer be needed and this contract voided.

1.4.1 Major Tasks

Offerors should propose a solution to define a rate setting methodology Offerors should propose:

1. Various methods to use in determining Mississippi Medicaid's estimated acquisition cost for pharmaceuticals covered by the Mississippi Medicaid program in accordance with Miss. Code § 43-13-117(A)(9)(b) (1972, amended);
2. Process for developing a rate structure to encompass a new pricing benchmark for drug ingredient costs including an evaluation of dispensing fees; and
3. Plans for maintaining and administering the accepted pricing benchmark as necessary.

Each of these major tasks must be accomplished and presented separately.

Requirements of this RFP and possible resulting contract are subject to future changes by CMS. Offerors are encouraged to propose innovative solutions to meet or exceed the requirements of the RFP. All proposals must be consistent with current Mississippi Medicaid policies and limitations for covered services, provider types, state plan benefits, and federal and state law.

1.5 RATE STRUCTURE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

The Contractor shall create comprehensive plans to design, develop, and implement a revised drug reimbursement methodology for Mississippi Medicaid covered drugs. DOM desires to implement a rate structure based a new drug pricing benchmark.

DOM desires a drug pricing benchmark to include:

1. The ability to accurately measure drug acquisition cost;
2. A price for all national drug codes (NDCs);
3. A method that can be used for many years;
4. Processes to update drug prices to reflect changes in the drug market;
5. The ability to clearly determine how the benchmark price was derived; and
6. The ability to obtain benchmark prices from established resources.

In addition to the drug ingredient cost, the Contractor must conduct an evaluation of the payment of a dispensing fee and include any proposed changes as part of the rate structure design. The current definition of dispensing fee is listed in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 42 CFR 447.502.

The pricing benchmark will include both brand and generic prescriptions and covered over -the-counter medications/products. In addition, DOM would like to consider various options; therefore, the Contractor will be required to propose various reimbursement scenarios.

The Contractor shall ensure the pricing benchmark and/or rate structure are set at levels that will not discourage participation in Mississippi Medicaid, taking into account the pharmacies' cost to dispense a prescription. The Contractor must consider the prices that pharmacies must pay in order to acquire drugs and consider a pharmacy's need for flexibility in acquiring drugs.

The Contractor must conduct all activities associated with the rate structure design, development, and implementation. In addition, the Contractor must create a schedule for all activities necessary to complete all requirements and submit the schedule for DOM approval. A draft schedule must be included in response to this RFP.

The Contractor will be required to conduct coordination activities with DOM, as well as seek input from stakeholders, pharmacy provider associations, or other interested parties, necessary to implement and maintain the project. This coordination may be done via phone/conference calls, memos, letters, etc., or may require face-to-face meetings. DOM shall approve all presentations and written information shared with providers, pharmacy associations, and other stakeholders before use.

For purposes of acquiring any drug costs and/or evaluating appropriate dispensing fees, the Contractor must streamline the process of requesting, obtaining, analyzing, and reporting information/data to ensure minimal administrative tasks for providers. The Contractor must be able to accept survey/invoices via fax, mail, and electronic means from the pharmacy and/or wholesaler. The Contractor must detail a process for the electronic collection of this data directly from the wholesaler with the allowance for manual submission only if requested by the provider.

The Offeror shall submit in their proposal data file formats and data fields required necessary to perform any and all functions of this contract. DOM shall provide the Contractor with data file formats, data fields available and user agreements after contract award.

The Contractor will submit written reports of program progress to DOM. The progress reports must specify accomplishments during the report period, whether the planning tasks are being performed on schedule and any administrative problems encountered.

It is anticipated that this process will begin July 18, 2011, and will end October 1, 2011, or as soon as a revised drug reimbursement methodology is finalized. Proposals should include potential solutions for pricing of the AWP-based reimbursement methodology should a permanent solution not be in place by the time AWP pricing is not available to DOM via FDB.

The Offeror's proposal must include comprehensive plans to undertake all facets of the design, development, and implementation of the rate structure. The Contractor is encouraged to recommend additional plans and tasks to DOM for approval.

1.6 MAINTENANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OF PRICING BENCHMARK

The Offeror shall describe how they will maintain and administer the Mississippi Medicaid drug pricing benchmark including regularly and consistently applied updates. The Offeror will describe how they will respond to market changes (new generics, increased generic competition, generic manufacture withdrawal from the market, etc.) and how they will provide appropriate and timely adjustments, if necessary.

Maintenance and administration of the pricing benchmark must include all the same core requirements as described in Section 1.4 and used in the design and development of the rate structure.

The Contractor must provide DOM with information on external factors affecting prescription drug pricing, including but not limited to federal legislation and program implementation, any legal issues or cases affecting drug pricing, trends in drug reimbursement, and pharmacy provider issues.

The Contractor must evaluate and report on changes in drug product prices, changes in the number of manufacturers and/or wholesalers providing drug products, and changes in the availability of generic drug products.

The Contractor must ensure DOM provides fair and equitable reimbursement to pharmacy providers by more closely approaching the estimated acquisition cost (EAC) while not exceeding the Federal Upper Limit (FUL) in the aggregate.

The Contractor must provide an on-line access for obtaining drug prices.

The Contractor must be able to respond within one business day to changing circumstances in the drug marketplace that require any prices to be reviewed and reduced, increased, added, or removed in the system.

The Contractor must provide support by telephone, fax, email, mail, Internet, or other means to promptly investigate, respond to, and resolve any questions or concerns by providing some evidence of pricing or drug product availability. The Contractor must respond to DOM or provider or stakeholder questions within one business day. The Contractor must also provide a means to track these issues and provide a monthly summary of provider inquiries and their resolution.

The Contractor must be prepared to provide expert testimony when necessary.

1.7 REPORTING AND DELIVERABLES

The Contractor will support DOM with comprehensive administrative reports necessary for decision making and efficient program operation. The Contractor shall be required to provide at a minimum the following types of reports in a format and frequency as approved by DOM. The Offeror may make recommendations concerning additional reporting requirements.

1. Monthly Work Plan Progress Reports. Narrative reports specifying benchmarks, problems, and proposed solutions.
2. Quarterly reports of the brand name drugs that are expected to lose their patent in the next 6 month to 12 month period.
3. Quarterly reports of products that have been removed from the market.
4. Quarterly reports of legend drugs moved to over-the-counter status.
5. Reports indicating drugs with reassigned group numbers (i.e., reassigned classification groups from FDB)
6. Annual reports to include, at a minimum:
 - a. Executive Summary
 - b. Accomplishments
 - c. Provider education/concerns
 - d. Patterns and trends
 - e. Estimated savings, if applicable
 - f. Assessment of the impact of the pharmacy reimbursement methodology, and
 - g. Cumulative summary of all reports/deliverables with a narrative description
7. Ad hoc reports as requested by DOM.

1.8 KEY PERSONNEL

The Offeror should propose personnel for each phase of the rate setting process who are fully qualified to perform the work required therein. DOM must have unlimited access to key personnel for discussion of all aspects of this contract.

The Contractor may not make any permanent or temporary changes in key personnel assigned to this Contract without DOM's prior written approval. DOM reserves the right to approve all key staff persons assigned to this Contract.

Key personnel for program implementation and operations include, at a minimum, the following:

1. Project Manager for each Phase – This key staff person will be the person responsible for implementation and/or operations of the contract requirements, including all deliverables. This person must have five years experience in project management in pharmaceutical reimbursement as described in this RFP and must have a college or university degree in pharmacy with a minimum of five years of clinical pharmacy experience. The individual must have general knowledge of the Medicaid program, particularly pharmacy coverage and payment rules, with relevant experience in managing complex projects

2. Other Key Support Staff – Other key staff persons as assigned by the Contractor. All duties must be clearly defined and responsibilities must be directly related to program operations.

1.9 DIVISION OF MEDICAID RESPONSIBILITIES

DOM is responsible for the general administration of the Mississippi Medicaid program and management of the contract including establishment of policy and approval of overall administrative procedures. DOM will:

1. Provide overall project direction
2. Review and approve the Contractor's finalized work plan for each phase;
3. Monitor milestones and activities per the Project Plan;
4. Monitor the Contractor's performance;
5. Coordinate any and all data and system needs; and
6. Review and approve all reporting formats and deliverables.

1.10 FAILURE TO MEET PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

If the Contractor does not meet performance standards, the Contractor shall pay to DOM performance penalties as indicated below. Penalties will be computed based on the Contractor's annual charges and will be assessed against the Contractor's next payment, until such time as the deficiency is corrected by the Contractor.

	Requirement		Performance Penalty
1	Failure to submit finalized work plan for each phase by the date as agreed upon by the Contractor and DOM	.05%	For each business day after the Contractor is notified of its non-compliance
2	Failure to seek stakeholder input as described in Section 1.4	.01%	For each business day after the Contractor is notified of its non-compliance
3	Failure to submit multiple reimbursement methodology options by the date as agreed upon by the Contractor and DOM	.01%	For each business day after the Contractor is notified of its non-compliance
5	Failure to implement DOM approved finalized reimbursement methodology as defined in section 1.4 by the agreed upon date	.10%	For each business day after the Contractor is notified of its non-compliance
7	Failure to provide status reports and deliverables (verbal and written) for each phase by the date as agreed upon by the Contractor and DOM	.01%	For each business day after the Contractor is notified of its non-compliance for each report
8	Failure to respond within 24 hrs to changing circumstances in the drug marketplace as defined in section 1.5	.01%	For each business day after the Contractor is notified of its non-compliance
9	Failure to respond to DOM, provider or stakeholder questions within one business day.	.01%	For each business day after the Contractor is notified of its non-compliance
10	Failure to provide a monthly summary of provider inquiries and their resolution by date agreed upon by the Contractor and DOM	.01%	For each business day after the Contractor is notified of its non-compliance
11	Failure to obtain written approval from DOM	.01%	For each business day after the

	for any temporary or permanent changes to key personnel assigned to this contract		Contractor is notified of its non-compliance
12	Failure to provide a Turnover Plan to DOM as described in section 1.10.3 within the time frame specified by DOM	.01%	For each business day after the Contractor is notified of its non-compliance

1.11 CONTRACT PHASES

1.11.1 Implementation Phase

The Contractor shall be responsible for the preparation and execution of an implementation plan. This plan shall be based upon the requirements of this RFP and coordinated with DOM to ensure readiness to complete required tasks by operation date. The Contractor will develop an implementation plan to be approved by DOM that outlines in detail all steps necessary to begin operations. It is anticipated that implementation will begin July 18, 2011.

During the Implementation Phase a written report of program progress shall be submitted to DOM every week. The progress report must specify accomplishments during the report period in a task-by-task format, including whether the planning tasks are being performed on schedule and any administrative problems encountered.

1.11.2 Operations Phase

During the operations phase, the Contractor must perform the responsibilities described in this RFP. The Contractor will be required to adhere to the performance requirements of the contract as well as the requirements of any revisions in federal and state legislation or regulations which may be enacted or implemented during the period of performance of this contract that are directly applicable to the performance requirements of this contract. Such requirements will become a part of this contract effort through execution of a written contract amendment.

1.11.3 Turnover Phase

Prior to any transfer of the contract and the functions to another Contractor, the Contractor must provide assistance in turning over the responsibilities to DOM or its designated agent.

Upon receipt of notification of DOM's intent to transfer the contract functions to another contractor, the contractor must provide a Turnover Plan to DOM within the time frame specified by DOM. Time lines for turnover activities will be specified by DOM. The Turnover Plan must include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Proposed approach to turnover
2. Tasks and subtasks for turnover
3. Schedule for turnover
4. Detailed chart depicting the Contractor's total operation
5. Transfer of Medicaid documents to DOM or its designated agent

Deliverables must be produced in an organized manner according to reasonable and customary business standards. Deliverables must be turned over to DOM in a form and condition that is satisfactory to DOM and in the time frames specified by DOM. Deliverables include the following:

1. Turnover Plan
2. Detailed organization chart
3. All Medicaid documents
4. Turnover Results Reports

1.12 CONTRACTOR PAYMENT

The total amount payable by DOM to the Contractor under this contract shall be limited to the following:

1.12.1 Implementation Price

The Contractor shall be paid an implementation price of no more than the actual implementation costs up to the amount specified in the Contractor's proposal set forth in Appendix A. The payment schedule will be determined within 30 days of the contract signing and based on milestones and deliverables. The total bid price for implementation must be entered in the appropriate block of Appendix A.

1.12.2 Operations Price

Beginning on the program operations start date, the Contractor will be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with the Contractor's bid price proposals set forth in Appendix A which shall be firm and fixed for the period of the contract.

Contractors shall submit as a component of the business/cost proposal, the method of price determination best suited for the proposed services, i.e., price per request, price per match, annual firm fixed price (with or without contingency adjustments), or a combination of pricing methods.

Regardless of the method of price determination, Contractors shall submit a total price per year that is inclusive of all costs for the services outlined in the scope of work, including operations, production of all reports, and system management functions as defined in this RFP. A separate per year price shall be submitted on Appendix A. The contract award will be based on the submitted price per year and the total amount payable under the resulting contract will not exceed the submitted price per year.

1.12.3 Turnover Price

No specific or lump-sum payment shall be made by DOM for Turnover Phase services. Payment for such services shall be encompassed in the Operations Phase.

1.12.4 Travel

All travel performed in conjunction with performing the responsibilities of this contract shall not include any profit for the Contractor. Travel costs should be included in the implementation and operations costs as necessary.

1.12.5 Erroneous Issuance of Compensation

In the event compensation to the Contractor of any kind is issued in error, the Contractor shall reimburse DOM the full amount of erroneous payment within 30 days of written notice of such error. Interest shall accrue at the statutory rate upon any amounts determined to be due and not repaid within 30 days following the notice. If payment is not made within 30 days following notice, DOM may deduct the amount from the Contractor's monthly administrative invoice.

1.12.6 Failure to Meet Performance Standards

DOM may assess liquidated damages in the amount of \$5,000 for each instance where deliverables are not produced in an organized manner according to reasonable and customary business standards.

1.12.7 Release

Upon final payment of the amounts due under this contract, the Contractor shall release DOM and its officers and employees from all liabilities and obligations whatsoever under or arising from this contract.

Payment to the Contractor by DOM shall not constitute final release of the Contractor. Should audit or inspection of the Contractor's records subsequently reveal outstanding Contractor liabilities or obligations, the Contractor shall remain liable to DOM for such liabilities and obligations. Any overpayments by DOM shall be subject to any appropriate recoupment to which DOM is lawfully entitled. Any payment under this contract shall not foreclose the right of DOM to recover excessive or illegal payments as well as interest, attorney fees, and costs incurred in such recovery.

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2 AUTHORITY

This RFP is issued under the authority of Title XIX of the Social Security Act as amended, implementing regulations issued under the authority thereof and under the provisions of the Mississippi Code of 1972 as amended. All prospective contractors are charged with presumptive knowledge of all requirements of the cited authorities. The submission of a valid executed proposal by any prospective contractor shall constitute admission of such knowledge on the part of each prospective contractor. Any proposal submitted by any prospective contractor which fails to meet any published requirement of the cited authorities may, at the option of DOM, be rejected without further consideration.

Medicaid is a program of medical assistance for the needy administered by the states using state appropriated funds and federal matching funds within the provisions of Title XIX and Title XXI of the Social Security Act as amended.

In addition, Section 1902 (a) (30) (A) of the Social Security Act requires that State Medicaid Agencies provide methods and procedures to safeguard against unnecessary utilization of care and services and to assure "efficiency, economy and quality of care."

2.1 ORGANIZATIONS ELIGIBLE TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS

To be eligible to submit a proposal, documentation must be provided as specified below:

1. The Offeror has not been sanctioned or had a contract terminated prior to the defined contract end date by any state or federal government within the last ten (10) years.
2. The Offeror must have a minimum of five (5) years experience in contractual services as described in the Scope of Work.
3. The Offeror must be able to provide each required component and deliverable as detailed in the Scope of Work.

2.2 PROCUREMENT APPROACH

The major steps of the procurement approach are described in detail in Section 3 of this RFP. Proposals must be submitted in two parts: Technical Proposal and Business Proposal. The format and content are each specified in Sections 5 and 6 of this RFP.

2.3 ACCURACY OF STATISTICAL DATA

All information provided by DOM in relation to this RFP represents the best and most accurate information available to DOM at the time of the RFP preparation. No inaccuracies in such data shall constitute a basis for change of the payments to the Contractor or a basis for legal recovery of damages, actual, consequential or punitive, except to the extent such inaccuracies are the result of intentional misrepresentation by DOM.

2.4 MEDICAID PROGRAM INFORMATION

The DOM website at www.medicaid.ms.gov provides various types of information that may be useful in responding to this RFP. The documentation on the Internet is for informational purposes only and is a supplement to the procurement process; not an alternative to official

requirements outlined in this RFP. Some examples of information you can find include, but is not limited to:

1. Division of Medicaid Annual Reports (contain eligibility information and expenditures);
2. Provider Policy Manuals (contain coverage and policy issues); and
3. Other services and eligibility information.

All DOM procurements are posted on the website at www.medicaid.ms.gov/bids.aspx including this RFP and the responses to the RFP Questions and Answers, only after official release to those firms submitting a Letter of Intent to bid. This link also provides other information, which may be useful to potential bidders, such as a listing of Mississippi Medicaid covered services and a description of the agency's organization.

The official state website of Mississippi is www.mississippi.gov.

The State Personal Services Contract Review Board Regulations can be found at www.spbrez.ms.gov/SPB%20Documents/CRB/Regs/PSCRBAIIPages062010.pdf.

Other state government information is available at www.transparency.mississippi.gov

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3 PROCUREMENT

3.1 APPROACH

It is the intent of the procurement process to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of all persons and bidders. The procurement process provides for the evaluation of proposals and selection of the winning proposal in accordance with federal law and regulations and state law and regulations, specifically, by appropriate provisions of the Personal Service Contract Review Board Regulations which are available for inspection at 301 N. Lamar St., Jackson, Mississippi or on the web at www.spbrez.ms.gov/SPB%20Documents/CRB/Regs/PSCRBAIIPages062010.pdf.

Separate technical and business proposals must be submitted simultaneously but will be opened at different stages of the evaluation process. Technical Proposals will be thoroughly evaluated in order to determine point scores for each evaluation factor. DOM will award a firm fixed price contract to the Offeror whose offer is responsive to the solicitation and is most advantageous to DOM. The evaluation and selection process is described in more detail in Section 7 of this RFP.

Submission of a proposal constitutes acceptance of the conditions governing the procurement, including the evaluation factors contained in Section 7 of this RFP, and constitutes acknowledgment of the detailed descriptions of the Mississippi Medicaid Program.

No public disclosure or news release pertaining to this procurement shall be made without prior written approval of DOM. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS PROVISION MAY RESULT IN THE OFFEROR BEING DISQUALIFIED.

3.2 QUALIFICATION OF OFFERORS

Each corporation shall report its corporate charter number in its transmittal letter or, if appropriate, have attached to its transmittal letter a signed statement to the effect that said corporation is exempt from the above described, and set forth the particular reason(s) for exemption. All corporations shall be in full compliance with all Mississippi laws regarding incorporation or formation and doing business in Mississippi and shall be in compliance with the laws of the state in which they are incorporated, formed, or organized.

DOM may make such investigations as necessary to determine the ability and commitment of the Offeror to adhere to the requirements specified within this RFP and its proposal, and the Offeror shall furnish to DOM all such information and data for this purpose as may be requested. DOM reserves the right to inspect Offeror's physical facilities prior to award to satisfy questions regarding the Offeror's capability to fulfill the requirements of the contract. DOM reserves the absolute right to reject any proposal if the evidence submitted by, or investigations of such Offeror fail to satisfy DOM that such Offeror is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract and to complete the work or furnish the items contemplated.

The State reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to request and evaluate "best and final offers" from some or all of the respondents, to negotiate with the best proposed offer to address issues other than those described in the proposal, to award a contract to other than the low Offeror, or not to make any award if it is determined to be in the best interest of the State.

Discussions may be conducted with Offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. Proposals may also be accepted without such discussions.

3.3 RULES OF PROCUREMENT

To facilitate the DOM procurement, various rules have been established and are described in the following paragraphs.

3.3.1 Restrictions on Communications with DOM Staff

From the issue date of this RFP until a Contractor is selected and the contract is signed, Offerors and/or their representatives are not allowed to communicate with any DOM staff regarding this procurement except the RFP Issuing Officer, Melanie Wakeland.

For violation of this provision, DOM shall reserve the right to reject any proposal.

3.3.2 Amendments

DOM reserves the right to amend the RFP at any time prior to the date for proposal submission. All amendments will be posted to DOM's procurement website at www.medicaid.ms.gov/bids.aspx.

After May 13, 2011, Offerors submitting proposals will be notified when amendments are released.

Bidders shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to the solicitation by signing and returning the amendment with the bid, by identifying the amendment number and date by letter. The acknowledgment must be received by DOM by the time and at the place specified for receipt of bids.

3.3.3 Cost of Preparing Proposal

Costs of developing the proposals are solely the responsibility of the Offerors. DOM will provide no reimbursement for such costs. Any costs associated with any oral presentations to DOM will be the responsibility of the Offeror and will in no way be billable to DOM. If site visits are made, DOM's cost for such visits will be the responsibility of DOM and the Offeror's cost will be the responsibility of the Offeror and will in no way be billable to DOM.

3.3.4 Certification of Independent Price Determination

The Offeror certifies that the prices submitted in response to the solicitation have been arrived at independently and without any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other bidder or competitor.

3.3.5 Acceptance of Proposals

After receipt of the proposals, DOM reserves the right to award the contract based on the terms, conditions, and premises of the RFP and the proposal of the selected Contractor without negotiation.

All proposals properly submitted will be accepted by DOM. However, DOM reserves the right to request necessary amendments from all Offerors, reject any or all proposals received, or cancel this RFP, according to the best interest of DOM.

DOM also reserves the right to waive minor irregularities in bids providing such action is in the best interest of DOM.

Where DOM may waive minor irregularities as determined by DOM, such waiver shall in no way modify the RFP requirements or excuse the Offeror from full compliance with the RFP specifications and other contract requirements if the Offeror is awarded the contract.

DOM reserves the right to exclude any and all non-responsive proposals from any consideration for contract award. DOM will award a firm fixed price contract to the Offeror whose offer is responsive to the solicitation and is most advantageous to DOM in price, quality, and other factors considered. DOM reserves the right to make the award to an Offeror other than the Offeror bidding the lowest price when it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of DOM, the Governor, the State Personal Service Contract Review Board, and to CMS, if necessary, that award to the low Offeror would not be in the best interest of DOM and the State of Mississippi.

3.3.6 Rejection of Proposals

A proposal may be rejected for failure to conform to the rules or the requirements contained in this RFP. Proposals must be responsive to all requirements of the RFP in order to be considered for contract award. DOM reserves the right at any time to cancel the RFP, or after the proposals are received to reject any of the submitted proposals determined to be non-responsive. DOM further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received by reason of this request. Reasons for rejecting a proposal include, but are not limited to

1. The proposal contains unauthorized amendments to the requirements of the RFP.
2. The proposal is conditional.
3. The proposal is incomplete or contains irregularities that make the proposal indefinite or ambiguous.
4. An authorized representative of the party does not sign the proposal.
5. The proposal contains false or misleading statements or references.
6. The Offeror is determined to be non-responsive as specified in Section 3-401 of the Personal Services Contract Review Board Regulations.
7. The proposal ultimately fails to meet the announced requirements of the State in some material aspect.
8. The proposal price is clearly unreasonable.
9. The proposal is not responsive, i.e., does not conform in all material respects to the RFP.
10. The supply or service item offered in the proposal is unacceptable by reason of its failure to meet the requirements of the specifications or permissible alternates or other acceptability criteria set forth in the RFP.
11. The Offeror does not comply with the Procedures for Delivery of Proposal as set forth in the RFP.
12. The Offeror currently owes the State money.

3.3.7 Alternate Proposals

Each Offeror, its subsidiaries, affiliates or related entities shall be limited to one proposal which is responsive to the requirements of this RFP. Failure to submit a responsive proposal will result in the rejection of the Offeror's proposal. Submission of more than one proposal by an Offeror will result in the summary rejection of all proposals submitted. An Offeror's proposal shall not include variable or multiple pricing options.

3.3.8 Proposal Amendments and Withdrawal

Prior to the proposal due date, a submitted proposal may be withdrawn by submitting a written request for its withdrawal to DOM, signed by the Offeror.

An Offeror may submit an amended proposal before the due date for receipt of proposals. Such amended proposal must be a complete replacement for a previously submitted proposal and must be clearly identified as such in the Transmittal Letter. DOM will not merge, collate, or assemble proposal materials.

Unless requested by DOM, no other amendments, revisions, or alterations to proposals will be accepted after the proposal due date.

Any submitted proposal shall remain a valid proposal for 180 days from the proposal due date.

3.3.9 Disposition of Proposals

The proposal submitted by the successful Offeror shall be incorporated into and become part of the resulting contract. All proposals received by DOM shall upon receipt become and remain the property of DOM. DOM will have the right to use all concepts contained in any proposal and this right will not affect the solicitation or rejection of the proposal.

3.3.10 Responsible Contractor

DOM shall contract only with a responsible contractor who possesses the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed procurement and implementation. In letting the contract, consideration shall be given to such matters as Contractor's integrity, performance history, financial and technical resources, and accessibility to other necessary resources.

3.3.11 Best and Final Offers

The Executive Director of DOM may make a written determination that it is in the State's best interest to conduct additional discussions or change the State's requirements and require submission of best and final offers. The Procurement Officer shall establish a date and time for the submission of best and final offers. Otherwise, no discussion of or changes in the bids shall be allowed prior to award. Offerors shall also be informed that if they do not submit a notice of withdrawal or another best and final offer, their immediate previous offer will be construed as their best and final offer.

3.4 STATE APPROVAL

Approval from the Personal Services Contract Review Board must be received before contract signing. Every effort will be made by DOM to facilitate rapid approval and an early start date.

3.5 AWARD NOTICE

The notice of intended contract award shall be sent by carriers that require signature upon receipt, by fax with voice confirmation, or by email with reply confirmation to the winning Offeror.

Consistent with existing state law, no Offeror shall infer or be construed to have any rights or interest to a contract with DOM until final approval is received from all necessary entities and until both the Offeror and DOM have executed a valid contract.

4 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

4.1 GENERAL

The contract between the State of Mississippi and the Contractor shall consist of 1) the contract and any amendments thereto; 2) this request for proposals (RFP) and any amendments thereto; 3) the Contractor's proposal submitted in response to the RFP by reference and as an integral part of this contract; 4) written questions and answers. In the event of a conflict in language among the four documents referenced above, the provisions and requirements set forth and/or referenced in the contract and its amendments shall govern. In the event that an issue is addressed in one document that is not addressed in another document, no conflict in language shall be deemed to occur.

However, DOM reserves the right to clarify any contractual relationship in writing, and such written clarification shall govern in case of conflict or ambiguity with the applicable requirements stated in the RFP or the Contractor's proposal. In all other matters not affected by the written clarification, if any, the RFP and its amendments shall govern.

The contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Personal Service Contract Review Board Regulations, a copy of which is available at 301 North Lamar Street, Jackson, Mississippi, for inspection or on their website at www.spbrez.ms.gov/SPB%20Documents/CRB/Regs/PSCRBAllPages062010.pdf.

No modification or change of any provision in the contract shall be made, or construed to have been made, unless such modification or change is mutually agreed upon in writing by the Contractor and DOM. The agreed upon modification or change will be incorporated as a written contract amendment and processed through DOM for approval prior to the effective date of such modification or change. In some instances, the contract amendment must be approved by CMS before the change becomes effective.

The only representatives authorized to modify this contract on behalf of DOM and the Contractor are shown below:

Contractor: Person(s) designated by the Contractor

Division of Medicaid: Executive Director

4.2 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS, ACTUAL DAMAGES, LIQUIDATED DAMAGES, AND RETAINAGE

DOM reserves the right to assess actual or liquidated damages, upon the Contractor's failure to provide timely services required pursuant to this contract. Actual or liquidated damages for failure to meet specific performance standards as set forth in the scope of work may be assessed as specifically set forth in each performance standard. The Contractor shall be given 15 days notice to respond before DOM makes the assessment. The assessments will be offset against the subsequent monthly payments to the Contractor. Assessment of any actual or liquidated damages does not waive any other remedies available to DOM pursuant to this contract or state or federal law. If liquidated damages are known to be insufficient then DOM has the right to pursue actual damages.

If the Contractor's failure to perform satisfactorily exposes DOM to the likelihood of contracting with another person or entity to perform services required of the Contractor under this contract, upon notice setting forth the services and retainage, DOM may withhold from the Contractor

payments in an amount commensurate with the costs anticipated to be incurred. If costs are incurred, DOM shall account to the Contractor and return any excess to the Contractor. If the retainage is not sufficient, the Contractor shall immediately reimburse DOM the difference or DOM may offset from any payments due the Contractor. The Contractor will cooperate fully with the retained Contractor and provide any assistance it needs to implement the terms of its agreement for services for retainage.

4.3 TERM OF CONTRACT

DOM will award a firm fixed price Contract based on the most advantageous proposal to the agency. The contract period is July 18, 2011 through June 30, 2014. The State reserves the right to amend this contract for up to two (2) one-year extensions. DOM will notify the Contractor by letter of its intentions to seek approval for an extension no less than six (6) months prior to the contract expiration date. If the extension of the contract necessitates additional funding beyond that which was included in the original contract, the increase in DOM's maximum financial obligation will be effective through an amendment to the contract.

At the conclusion of the contract, the Contractor is obligated to complete the processing of all activities initiated during the contract period. At the time of contract completion the Contractor must cooperate with DOM in transitioning the responsibilities of this contract to DOM or another contractor.

4.3.1 Stop Work Order

1. Order to Stop Work - DOM Contract Administrator may, by written order to the Contractor at any time and without notice to any surety, require the Contractor to stop all or any part of the work called for by this contract. This order shall be for a specified period not exceeding ninety (90) days after the order is delivered to the Contractor, unless the parties agree to an extension. Any such order shall be identified specifically as a stop work order issued pursuant to this clause. Upon receipt of such an order, the Contractor shall forthwith comply with its terms and take all reasonable steps to minimize the occurrence of costs allowable to the work covered by the order during the period of work stoppage. Before the stop work order expires, or within an extension to which the parties shall have agreed, the Contract Administrator shall either
 - a. Cancel the stop work order; or
 - b. Terminate the work covered by such order as provided in the "Termination for Default Clause" or the "Termination for Convenience Clause" of this contract.
2. Cancellation or Expiration of the Order - If a stop work order issued under this clause is canceled at any time during the period specified in the order, or if the period of the order or any extension thereof expires, the Contractor shall have the right to resume work. An appropriate adjustment shall be made in the delivery schedule or Contractor price, or both, and the contract shall be modified in writing accordingly, only if
 - a. The stop work order or extension results in an increase in the time required for, or in the Contractor's cost properly allocable to, the performance of any part of this contract; and
 - b. The Contractor asserts a claim for such an adjustment within 30 days after the end of the stop work order or extension.

3. Termination of Work - If a stop work order or extension is not canceled and the work covered by such stop work order or extension is terminated for default or convenience, adjustment to the contract price will be negotiated between DOM and the Contractor.

4.3.2 Termination of Contract

The Contract resulting from this RFP may be terminated by DOM as follows:

1. For default by the Contractor
2. For convenience
3. For the Contractor's bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership, liquidation
4. For non-availability of funds

At DOM's option, termination for any reason listed herein may also be considered termination for convenience.

4.3.2.1 Termination for Default by the Contractor

DOM may immediately terminate this contract in whole or in part whenever DOM determines that the Contractor has failed to satisfactorily perform its contractual duties and responsibilities and is unable to resolve such failure within a period of time specified by DOM, after considering the gravity and nature of the default. Such termination shall be referred to herein as "Termination for Default."

Upon determination by DOM of any such failure to satisfactorily perform its contractual duties and responsibilities, DOM may notify the Contractor of the failure and establish a reasonable time period in which to resolve such failure. If the Contractor does not resolve the failure within the specified time period, DOM will notify the Contractor that the contract in full or in part has been terminated for default. Such notices shall be in writing and delivered to the Contractor by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in person.

If, after Notice of Termination for default, it is determined that the Contractor was not in default or that the Contractor's failure to perform or make progress in performance was due to causes beyond the control and without error or negligence on the part of the Contractor or any subcontractor, the Notice of Termination shall be deemed to have been issued as a termination for the convenience of DOM, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be governed accordingly.

In the event of Termination for Default, in full or in part as provided by this clause, DOM may procure, upon such terms and in such manner as DOM may deem appropriate, supplies or services similar to those terminated, and the Contractor shall be liable to DOM for any excess costs for such similar supplies or services for the remainder of the contract period. In addition, the Contractor shall be liable to DOM for administrative costs incurred by DOM in procuring such similar supplies or services.

In the event of a termination for default, the Contractor shall be paid for those deliverables which the Contractor has delivered to DOM. Payments for completed deliverables delivered to and accepted by DOM shall be at the contract price.

The rights and remedies of DOM provided in this clause shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under the contract.

4.3.2.2 Termination for Convenience

DOM may terminate performance of work under the contract in whole or in part whenever for any reason DOM shall determine that such termination is in the best interest of DOM.

In the event that DOM elects to terminate the contract pursuant to this provision, it shall notify the Contractor by certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered in person. Termination shall be effective as of the close of business on the date specified in the notice, which shall be at least 30 days from the date of receipt of the notice by the Contractor.

Upon receipt of Notice of Termination for convenience, the Contractor shall be paid the following:

- The contract price(s) for completed deliverables delivered to and accepted by DOM;
- A price commensurate with the actual cost of performance for partially completed deliverables.

4.3.2.3 Termination for the Contractor Bankruptcy

In the event that the Contractor shall cease conducting business in the normal course, become insolvent, make a general assignment for the benefit of creditors, suffer or permit the appointment of a receiver for its business or its assets, or shall avail itself of, or become subject to, any proceeding under the Federal Bankruptcy Act or any other statute of any state relating to insolvency or the protection of the rights of creditors, DOM may, at its option, terminate this contract in whole or in part.

In the event DOM elects to terminate the contract under this provision, it shall do so by sending Notice of Termination to the Contractor by certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered in person. The date of termination shall be the close of business on the date specified in such notice to the Contractor. In the event of the filing of a petition in bankruptcy by or against a principal subcontractor, the Contractor shall immediately so advise DOM.

The Contractor shall ensure and shall satisfactorily demonstrate to DOM that all tasks related to the subcontract are performed in accordance with the terms of this contract

4.3.2.4 Availability of Funds

It is expressly understood and agreed that the obligation of DOM to proceed under this agreement is conditioned upon the appropriation of funds by the Mississippi State Legislature and the receipt of state and/or federal funds. If the funds anticipated for the continuing fulfillment of the agreement are, at any time, not forthcoming or insufficient, either through the failure of the federal government to provide or the State of Mississippi to appropriate funds, or the discontinuance, or material alteration of the program under which the funds were provided or if funds are not otherwise available to the State, the State shall have the right upon 10 working days written notice to the Contractor, to terminate this agreement without damage, penalty, cost, or expense to the State of any kind whatsoever. The effective date of termination shall be as specified in the notice of termination.

4.3.3 Procedure on Termination

4.3.3.1 Contractor Responsibilities

Upon delivery by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in person to the Contractor a Notice of Termination specifying the nature of the termination, the extent to which performance of work under the contract is terminated, and the date upon which such termination becomes effective, the Contractor shall:

1. Stop work under the contract on the date and to the extent specified in the Notice of Termination;
2. Place no further orders or subcontracts for materials, services or facilities, except as may be necessary for completion of such portion of the work in progress under the contract until the effective date of termination;
3. Terminate all orders and subcontracts to the extent that they relate to the performance of work terminated by the Notice of Termination;
4. Deliver to DOM within the time frame as specified by DOM in the Notice of Termination, copies of all data and documentation in the appropriate media and make available all records required to assure continued delivery of services to beneficiaries and providers at no cost to DOM;
5. Complete the performance of the work not terminated by the Notice of Termination;
6. Take such action as may be necessary, or as DOM may direct, for the protection and preservation of the property related to the contract which is in the possession of the Contractor and in which DOM has or may acquire an interest;
7. Fully train DOM staff or other individuals at the direction of DOM in the operation and maintenance of the process;
8. Promptly transfer all information necessary for the reimbursement of any outstanding claims; and
9. Complete each portion of the Turnover Phase after receipt of the Notice of Termination. The Contractor shall proceed immediately with the performance of the above obligations notwithstanding any allowable delay in determining or adjusting the amount of any item of reimbursable price under this clause.

The Contractor has an absolute duty to cooperate and help with the orderly transition of the duties to DOM or its designated contractor following termination of the contract for any reason.

4.3.3.2 DOM Responsibilities

Except for Termination for Contractor Default, DOM will make payment to the Contractor on termination and at contract price for completed deliverables delivered to and accepted by DOM. The Contractor shall be reimbursed for partially completed deliverables at a price commensurate with actual cost of performance.

In the event of the failure of the Contractor and DOM to agree in whole or in part as to the amounts to be paid to the Contractor in connection with any termination described in this RFP, DOM shall determine on the basis of information available the amount, if any, due to the Contractor by reason of termination and shall pay to the Contractor the amount so determined.

The Contractor shall have the right of appeal, as stated under Disputes (Paragraph 3.9.6) from any such determination made by DOM.

4.3.4 Assignment of the Contract

The Contractor shall not sell, transfer, assign, or otherwise dispose of the contract or any portion thereof or of any right, title, or interest therein without written consent of DOM. Any such purported assignment or transfer shall be void. If approved, any assignee shall be subject to all terms and conditions of this contract. No approval by DOM of any assignment may be deemed to obligate DOM beyond the provisions of this contract. This provision includes reassignment of the contract due to change in ownership of the Contractor. DOM shall at all times be entitled to assign or transfer its rights, duties, and/or obligations under this contract to another governmental agency in the State of Mississippi upon giving prior written notice to the Contractor.

4.3.5 Excusable Delays

The Contractor and DOM shall be excused from performance under this contract for any period that they are prevented from performing any services under this Contract as a result of an act of God, war, civil disturbance, epidemic, court order, government act or omission, or other cause beyond their reasonable control.

4.3.6 Applicable Law

The contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi, excluding its conflict of law provisions, and any litigation with respect thereto shall be brought in the courts of the State of Mississippi. The Contractor shall comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

4.4 NOTICES

Whenever, under this RFP, one party is required to give notice to the other, except for purposes of Notice of Termination under Section 4.3, such notice shall be deemed given upon delivery, if delivered by hand, or upon the date of receipt or refusal, if sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested or by other carriers that require signature upon receipt. Notice may be delivered by facsimile transmission, with original to follow by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by other carriers that require signature upon receipt, and shall be deemed given upon transmission and facsimile confirmation that it has been received. Notices shall be addressed as follows:

In case of notice to the Contractor:

Project Manager
Contractor
Street Address
City, State Zip Code

In case of notice to DOM:

Executive Director
Division of Medicaid
Walter Sillers Building, Suite 1000
550 High Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Copy to Contract Administrator, DOM

4.5 COST OR PRICING DATA

If DOM determines that any price, including profit or fee, negotiated in connection with this RFP was increased because the Contractor furnished incomplete or inaccurate cost or pricing data not current as certified in the Contractor's certification of current cost or pricing data, then such price or cost shall be reduced accordingly and this RFP shall be modified in writing and acknowledged by the Contractor to reflect such reduction.

4.6 SUBCONTRACTING

The Contractor is solely responsible for fulfillment of the Contract terms with DOM. DOM will make Contract payments only to the Contractor.

The Contractor shall not subcontract any portion of the services to be performed under this Contract without the prior written approval of DOM. The Contractor shall notify DOM not less than thirty (30) days in advance of its desire to subcontract and include a copy of the proposed subcontract with the proposed subcontractor.

Approval of any subcontract shall neither obligate DOM nor the State of Mississippi as a party to that subcontract nor create any right, claim, or interest for the subcontractor against the State of Mississippi or DOM, their agents, their employees, their representatives, or successors.

Any subcontract shall be in writing and shall contain provisions such that it is consistent with the Contractor's obligations pursuant to this Contract.

The Contractor shall be solely responsible for the performance of any subcontractor under such subcontract approved by DOM.

The Contractor shall give DOM immediate written notice by certified mail, facsimile, or any other carrier that requires signature upon receipt of any action or suit filed and prompt notice of any claim made against the Contractor or Contractor which in the opinion of the Contractor may result in litigation related in any way to the Contract with DOM.

4.7 PROPRIETARY RIGHTS

4.7.1 Ownership of Documents

Where activities supported by this contract produce original writing, sound recordings, pictorial reproductions, drawings, or other graphic representation and works of any similar nature, DOM shall have the right to use, duplicate, and disclose such materials in whole or in part, in any manner, for any purpose whatsoever and to have others do so. If the material is qualified for copyright, the Contractor may copyright such material, with approval of DOM, but DOM shall reserve a royalty-free, non-exclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, and use such materials, in whole or in part, and to authorize others to do so.

4.7.2 Ownership of Information and Data

DOM, The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the State of Mississippi, and/or their agents shall have unlimited rights to use, disclose, or duplicate, for any purpose whatsoever, all information and data developed, derived, documented, or furnished by the Contractor under any contract resulting from this RFP.

The Contractor agrees to grant in its own behalf and on behalf of its agents, employees, representatives, assignees, and contractors to DOM, DHHS, CMS and the State of Mississippi and to their officers, agents, and employees acting in their official capacities a royalty-free, non-exclusive, and irrevocable license throughout the world to publish, reproduce, translate, deliver, and dispose of all such information now covered by copyright of the proposed Contractor.

Excluded from the foregoing provisions in this Section 4.7.2, however, are any pre-existing, proprietary tools owned, developed, or otherwise obtained by Contractor independently of this Contract. Contractor is and shall remain the owner of all rights, title and interest in and to the Proprietary Tools, including all copyright, patent, trademark, trade secret and all other proprietary rights thereto arising under federal and state law, and no license or other right to the Proprietary Tools is granted or otherwise implied. Any right that DOM may have with respect to the Proprietary Tools shall arise only pursuant to a separate written agreement between the parties.

4.7.3 Public Information

Offerors must bind separately those provisions of the proposal which contain trade secrets or other proprietary data which they believe may remain confidential in accordance with Sections 25-61-9 and 79-23-1, et seq. of the Mississippi Code Annotated of 1972, as amended.

4.7.4 Right of Inspection

DOM, the Mississippi Department of Audit, The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Office of Inspector General (OIG), the General Accounting Office (GAO), or any other auditing agency prior-approved by DOM, or their authorized representative shall, at all reasonable times, have the right to enter onto the Contractor's premises, or such other places where duties under this contract are being performed, to inspect, monitor, or otherwise evaluate (including periodic systems testing) the work being performed. The Contractor must provide access to all facilities and assistance for DOM and Mississippi Audit Department representatives. All inspections and evaluations shall be performed in such a manner as will not unduly delay work. Refusal by the Contractor to allow access to all documents, papers, letters or other materials, shall constitute a breach of contract.

All audits performed by persons other than DOM staff will be coordinated through DOM and its staff.

4.7.5 Licenses, Patents and Royalties

DOM does not tolerate the possession or use of unlicensed copies of proprietary software. The Contractor shall be responsible for any penalties or fines imposed as a result of unlicensed or otherwise defectively titled software.

The Contractor, without exception, shall indemnify, save, and hold harmless DOM and its employees from liability of any nature or kind, including cost and expenses for or on account of any copyrighted, patented, or non-patented invention, process, or article manufactured by the Contractor. The Contractor has no liability when such claim is solely and exclusively due to the combination, operation or use of any article supplied hereunder with equipment or data not supplied by the Contractor or is based solely and exclusively upon DOM's alteration of the article. DOM will provide prompt written notification of a claim of copyright or patent infringement.

Further, if such a claim is made or is pending, the Contractor may, at its option and expense, procure for DOM the right to continue use of, replace or modify the article to render it non-infringing. If none of the alternatives is reasonably available, the Contractor agrees to take back the article and refund the total amount DOM has paid the Contractor under this contract for use of the article.

If the Contractor uses any design, device, or materials covered by letters, patent or copyright, it is mutually agreed and understood without exception that the proposed prices shall include all royalties or costs arising from the use of such design, device, or materials in any way involved in the work.

4.7.6 Records Retention Requirements

The Contractor shall maintain detailed records evidencing all expenses incurred pursuant to the Contract, the provision of services under the Contract, and complaints, for the purpose of audit and evaluation by DOM and other federal or State personnel. All records, including training records, pertaining to the Contract must be readily retrievable within three (3) workdays for review at the request of DOM and its authorized representatives. All records shall be maintained and available for review by authorized federal and State personnel during the entire term of the Contract and for a period of five (5) years thereafter, unless an audit is in progress. When an audit is in progress or audit findings are unresolved, records shall be kept for a period of five (5) years or until all issues are finally resolved, whichever is later.

4.8 REPRESENTATION REGARDING CONTINGENT FEES

The Contractor represents by executing this contract that it has not retained a person to solicit or secure a State contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee except as disclosed in the contractor's bid or proposal.

4.9 INTERPRETATIONS/CHANGES/DISPUTES

In the event of a conflict in language among any of the components of the contract, the RFP shall govern. DOM reserves the right to clarify any contractual relationship in writing and such clarification will govern in case of conflict with the requirements of the RFP. Any ambiguity in the RFP shall be construed in favor of DOM.

The contract represents the entire agreement between the Contractor and DOM and it supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, or agreements, either written or oral between the parties hereto relating to the subject matter hereof.

4.9.1 Conformance with Federal and State Regulations

The Contractor shall be required to conform to all federal and state laws, regulations, and policies as they exist or as amended.

In the event that the Contractor requests that the Executive Director of DOM or his/her designee issue policy determinations or operating guidelines required for proper performance of the contract, DOM shall do so in a timely manner. The Contractor shall be entitled to rely upon and act in accordance with such policy determinations and operating guidelines unless the Contractor acts negligently, maliciously, fraudulently, or in bad faith.

4.9.2 Waiver

No covenant, condition, duty, obligation, or undertaking contained in or made a part of this contract will be waived except by the written agreement of the parties, and forbearance or indulgence in any other form or manner by either party in any regard whatsoever shall not constitute a waiver of the covenant, condition, duty, obligation, or undertaking to be kept, performed, or discharged by the party to which the same may apply; and until complete

performance or satisfaction of all such covenants, conditions, duties, obligations, and undertakings, the other party shall have the right to invoke any remedy available under law or equity, notwithstanding any such forbearance or indulgence.

4.9.3 Contract Variations

If any provision of the contract (including items incorporated by reference) is declared or found to be illegal, unenforceable, or void, then both DOM and the Contractor shall be relieved of all obligations arising under such provision; if the remainder of the contract is capable of performance, it shall not be affected by such declaration or funding and shall be fully performed.

4.9.4 Headings

The headings used throughout the contract are for convenience only and shall not be resorted to for interpretation of the contract.

4.9.5 Change Orders and/or Amendments

The Executive Director of DOM or designated representative may, at any time, by written order delivered to the Contractor at least thirty (30) days prior to the commencement date of such change, make administrative changes within the general scope of the contract. If any such change causes an increase or decrease in the cost of the performance of any part of the work under the contract an adjustment commensurate with the costs of performance under this contract shall be made in the contract price or delivery schedule or both. Any claim by the Contractor for equitable adjustment under this clause must be asserted in writing to DOM within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt by the Contractor of the notification of change. Failure to agree to any adjustment shall be a dispute within the meaning of the Dispute Clause of this Contract. Nothing in this case, however, shall in any manner excuse the Contractor from proceeding diligently with the contract as changed.

If the parties are unable to reach an agreement within thirty (30) days of DOM receipt of the Contractor's cost estimate, the Executive Director of DOM shall make a determination of the revised price, and the Contractor shall proceed with the work according to a schedule approved by DOM subject to the Contractor's right to appeal the Executive Director's determination of the price pursuant to the Disputes Section. Nothing in this clause shall in any manner excuse the Contractor from proceeding diligently with the contract as changed.

The rate of payment for changes or amendments completed per contract year shall be at the rates specified by the Contractor's proposal.

At any time during the term of this contract, DOM may increase the quantity of goods or services purchased under this contract by sending the Contractor a written amendment or modification to that effect which references this contract and is signed by the Executive Director of DOM. The purchase price shall be the lower of the unit cost identified in the Contractor's proposal or the Contractor's then-current, published price. The foregoing shall not apply to services provided to DOM at no charge. The delivery schedule for any items added by exercise of this option shall be set by mutual agreement.

4.9.6 Disputes

Any dispute concerning the contract which is not disposed of by agreement shall be decided by the Executive Director of DOM who shall reduce such decision to writing and mail or otherwise furnish a copy thereof to the Contractor. The decision of the Executive Director shall be final and conclusive unless within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of such copy, the Contractor mails or otherwise furnishes to the Attorney General a written request to render an interpretation

addressed to the Office of the Attorney General, 550 High St., Suite 1200, Jackson, Mississippi 39205. The interpretation of the Attorney General or his duly authorized representative shall be final and conclusive. The Contractor and DOM shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard and to offer evidence in support of their interpretations. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to relieve the Contractor of full and diligent performance of the contract.

4.9.7 Cost of Litigation

In the event that DOM deems it necessary to take legal action to enforce any provision of the contract, the Contractor shall bear the cost of such litigation, as assessed by the court, in which DOM prevails. Neither the State of Mississippi nor DOM shall bear any of the Contractor's cost of litigation for any legal actions initiated by the Contractor against DOM regarding the provisions of the contract. Legal action shall include administrative proceedings.

4.9.8 Attorney Fees

The Contractor agrees to pay reasonable attorney fees incurred by the State and DOM in enforcing this agreement or otherwise reasonably related thereto.

4.10 INDEMNIFICATION

The Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend, save, and hold harmless DOM, the State of Mississippi, their officers, agents, employees, representatives, assignees, and contractors from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any and all the Contractor employees, agents, subcontractors, laborers, and any other person, association, partnership, entity, or corporation furnishing or supplying work, services, materials, or supplies in connection with performance of this contract, and from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any such person, association, partnership, entity, or corporation who may be injured, damaged, or suffer any loss by the Contractor in the performance of the contract.

The Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend, save, and hold harmless DOM, the State of Mississippi, their officers, agents, employees, representatives, assignees, and contractors against any and all liability, loss, damage, costs or expenses which DOM may sustain, incur or be required to pay: 1.) by reason of any person suffering personal injury, death or property loss or damage of any kind either while participating with or receiving services from the Contractor under this contract, or while on premises owned, leased, or operated by the Contractor or while being transported to or from said premises in any vehicle owned, operated, leased, chartered, or otherwise contracted for or in the control of the Contractor or any officer, agent, or employee thereof; or 2.) by reason of the Contractor or its employee, agent, or person within its scope of authority of this contract causing injury to, or damage to the person or property of a person including but not limited to DOM or the Contractor, their employees or agents, during any time when the Contractor or any officer, agent, employee thereof has undertaken or is furnishing the services called for under this contract.

The Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend, save, and hold harmless DOM, the State of Mississippi, their officers, agents, employees, representatives, assignees, and contractors against any and all liability, loss, damages, costs or expenses which DOM or the State may incur, sustain or be required to pay by reason of the Contractor, its employees, agents or assigns: 1.) failing to honor copyright, patent or licensing rights to software, programs or technology of any kind in providing services to DOM, or 2.) breaching in any manner the confidentiality required pursuant to federal and state law and regulations.

The Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend, save, and hold harmless DOM, the State of Mississippi, their officers, agents, employees, representatives, assignees, and contractors from

all claims, demands, liabilities, and suits of any nature whatsoever arising out of the contract because of any breach of the contract by the Contractor, its agents or employees, including but not limited to any occurrence of omission or commission or negligence of the Contractor, its agents or employees.

If in the reasonable judgment of DOM a default by the Contractor is not so substantial as to require termination and reasonable efforts to induce the Contractor to cure the default are unsuccessful and the default is capable of being cured by DOM or by another resource without unduly interfering with the continued performance of the Contractor, DOM may provide or procure such services as are reasonably necessary to correct the default. In such event, the Contractor shall reimburse DOM for the reasonable cost of those services. DOM may deduct the cost of those services from the Contractor's monthly administrative invoices. The Contractor shall cooperate with DOM or those procured resources in allowing access to facilities, equipment, data or any other Contractor resources to which access is required to correct the default. The Contractor shall remain liable for ensuring that all operational performance standards remain satisfied.

4.10.1 No Limitation of Liability

Nothing in this contract shall be interpreted as excluding or limiting any liability of the Contractor for harm caused by the intentional or reckless conduct of the Contractor, or for damages incurred in the negligent performance of duties by the Contractor, or for the delivery by the Contractor of products that are defective, or for breach of contract or any other duty by the Contractor. Nothing in the contract shall be interpreted as waiving the liability of the Contractor for consequential, special, indirect, incidental, punitive or exemplary loss, damage, or expense related to the Contractor's conduct or performance under this contract.

4.11 STATUS OF THE CONTRACTOR

4.11.1 Independent Contractor

It is expressly agreed that the Contractor is an independent Contractor performing professional services for DOM and is not an officer or employee of the State of Mississippi or DOM. It is further expressly agreed that the contract shall not be construed as a partnership or joint venture between the Contractor and DOM.

The Contractor shall be solely responsible for all applicable taxes, insurance, licensing and other costs of doing business. Should the Contractor default on these or other responsibilities jeopardizing the Contractor's ability to perform services effectively, DOM, in its sole discretion, may terminate this contract.

The Contractor shall not purport to bind DOM, its officers or employees nor the State of Mississippi to any obligation not expressly authorized herein unless DOM has expressly given the Contractor the authority to do so in writing. The Contractor shall give DOM immediate notice in writing of any action or suit filed, or of any claim made by any party which might reasonably be expected to result in litigation related in any manner to this contract or which may impact the Contractor's ability to perform.

No other agreements of any kind may be made by the Contractor with any other party for furnishing any information or data accumulated by the Contractor under this contract or used in the operation of this program without the written approval of DOM. Specifically, DOM reserves the right to review any data released from reports, histories, or data files created pursuant to this Contract.

In no way shall the Contractor represent itself directly or by inference as a representative of the State of Mississippi or the Division of Medicaid except within the confines of its role as a contractor for the Division of Medicaid. DOM's approval must be received in all instances in which the Contractor distributes publications, presents seminars, presents workshops, or performs any other outreach.

The Contractor shall not use DOM's name or refer to the contract directly or indirectly in any advertisement, news release, professional trade or business presentation without prior written approval from DOM.

4.11.2 Employment of DOM Employees

The Contractor shall not knowingly engage on a full-time, part-time, or other basis during the period of the contract, any professional or technical personnel who are or have been at any time during the period of the contract in the employ of DOM, without the written consent of DOM. Further, the Contractor shall not knowingly engage in this project, on a full-time, part-time, or other basis during the period of the contract, any former employee of DOM who has not been separated from DOM for at least one year, without the written consent of DOM.

The Contractor shall give priority consideration to hiring interested and qualified adversely affected State employees at such times as requested by DOM to the extent permitted by this contract or state law.

4.11.3 Conflict of Interest

No official or employee of DOM and no other public official of the State of Mississippi or the Federal Government who exercises any functions or responsibilities in the review or approval of the undertaking or carrying out of the project shall, prior to the completion of the project, voluntarily acquire any personal interest, direct or indirect, in the contract or proposed contract. A violation of this provision shall constitute grounds for termination of this contract. In addition, such violation will be reported to the State Ethics Commission, Attorney General, and appropriate federal law enforcement officers for review.

The Contractor covenants that it presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its services hereunder. The Contractor further covenants that in the performance of the contract no person having any such known interests shall be employed including subsidiaries or entities that could be misconstrued as having a joint relationship, and to employment by the Contractor of immediate family members of Medicaid providers.

4.11.4 Personnel Practices

All employees of the Contractor involved in the Medicaid function will be paid as any other employee of the Contractor who works in another area of their organization in a similar position. The Contractor shall develop any and all methods to encourage longevity in Contractor's staff assigned to this contract.

Employees of the Contractor shall receive all benefits afforded to other similarly situated employees of the Contractor.

The Contractor must agree to sign the Drug Free Workplace Certificate (Exhibit 1).

4.11.5 No Property Rights

No property rights inure to the Contractor except for compensation for work that has already been performed.

4.12 EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

The Contractor shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, political affiliations, or disability. The Contractor must act affirmatively to ensure that employees, as well as applicants for employment, are treated without discrimination because of their race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, political affiliation, or disability.

Such action shall include, but is not limited to the following: employment, promotion, demotion or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment notices setting forth the provisions of this clause.

The Contractor shall, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, political affiliation, or disability, except where it relates to a bona fide occupational qualification or requirement.

The Contractor shall comply with the non-discrimination clause contained in Federal Executive Order 11246, as amended by Federal Executive Order 11375, relative to Equal Employment Opportunity for all persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and the implementing rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Labor and with Title 41, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 60. The Contractor shall comply with related state laws and regulations, if any.

The Contractor shall comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and any amendments thereto, and the rules and regulations thereunder, and Section 504 of Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Mississippi Human Rights Act of 1977.

If DOM finds that the Contractor is not in compliance with any of these requirements at any time during the term of this contract, DOM reserves the right to terminate this contract or take such other steps as it deems appropriate, in its sole discretion, considering the interests and welfare of the State.

4.13 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Contractor may insure any portion of the risk under the provision of the contract based upon the Contractor's ability (size and financial reserves included) to survive a series of adverse experiences, including withholding of payment by DOM, or imposition of penalties by DOM.

On or before beginning performance under this Contract, the Contractor shall obtain from an insurance company, duly authorized to do business and doing business in Mississippi, insurance as follows:

4.13.1 Workers' Compensation

The Contractor shall take out and maintain, during the life of this contract, workers' compensation insurance for all employees employed at the project in Mississippi. Such insurance shall fully

comply with the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Law. In case any class of employees engaged in hazardous work under this contract at the site of the project is not protected under the Workers' Compensation Statute, the Contractor shall provide adequate insurance satisfactory for protection of his or her employees not otherwise protected.

4.13.2 Liability

The Contractor shall ensure that professional staff and other decision making staff shall be required to carry professional liability insurance in an amount commensurate with the professional responsibilities and liabilities under the terms of this RFP.

The Contractor shall obtain, pay for and keep in force during the contract period general liability insurance against bodily injury or death in an amount commensurate with the responsibilities and liabilities under the terms of this RFP; and insurance against property damage and fire insurance including contents coverage for all records maintained pursuant to this contract in an amount commensurate with the responsibilities and liabilities under the terms of this RFP. The Contractor shall furnish to DOM certificates evidencing such insurance is in effect on the first working day following contract signing.

4.14 CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

4.14.1 Confidentiality of Beneficiary Information

All information as to personal facts and circumstances concerning Medicaid beneficiaries obtained by the Contractor shall be treated as privileged communications, shall be held confidential, and shall not be divulged without the written consent of DOM and the written consent of the enrolled beneficiary, his attorney, or his responsible parent or guardian, except as may be required by DOM.

The use or disclosure of information concerning beneficiaries shall be limited to purposes directly connected with the administration of the contract.

All of the Contractor officers and employees performing any work for or on the contract shall be instructed in writing of this confidentiality requirement and required to sign such a document upon employment and annually thereafter.

The Contractor shall notify DOM promptly of any unauthorized possession, use, knowledge or attempt thereof, of DOM's data files or other confidential information. The Contractor shall promptly furnish DOM full details of the attempted unauthorized possession, use or knowledge, and assist in investigating or preventing the recurrence thereof.

4.14.2 Confidentiality of Proposals and Contract Terms

After award of the contract, all Offeror's proposals, including those terms bid in the Business Proposal, are subject to disclosure under the State's Access to Public Records Act and the Federal Freedom of Information Act. Information specified by an Offeror as proprietary information shall be available for disclosure as provided by State statute.

In the event that either party to this agreement receives notice that a third party requests divulgence of confidential or otherwise protected information and/or has served upon it a subpoena or other validly issued administrative or judicial process ordering divulgence of confidential or otherwise protected information, that party shall promptly inform the other party and thereafter respond in conformity with such subpoena to the extent mandated by State law. This provision shall survive termination or completion of this agreement. The parties agree that

this provision is subject to and superseded by Miss. Code Ann. Section 25-61-1, et seq. regarding Public Access to Public Records.

4.15 CONTRACTOR COMPLIANCE ISSUES

The Contractor agrees that all work performed as part of this contract will comply fully with administrative and other requirements established by federal and state laws, regulations and guidelines, and assumes responsibility for full compliance with all such laws, regulations and guidelines, and agrees to fully reimburse DOM for any loss of funds, resources, overpayments, duplicate payments or incorrect payments resulting from noncompliance by the Contractor, its staff, or agents, as revealed in any audit.

4.15.1 Federal, State, and Local Taxes

Unless otherwise provided herein, the contract price shall include all applicable federal, state, and local taxes.

The Contractor shall pay all taxes lawfully imposed upon it with respect to this contract or any product delivered in accordance herewith. DOM makes no representation whatsoever as to exemption from liability to any tax imposed by any governmental entity on the Contractor.

4.15.2 License Requirements

The Contractor shall have, or obtain, any license/permits that are required prior to and during the performance of work under this contract.

4.15.3 HIPAA Compliance

The Contractor must ensure that all work supports the HIPAA Security Rules and sign a HIPAA Business Associate Agreement.

4.15.4 Site Rules and Regulations

The Contractor shall use its best efforts to ensure that its employees and agents, while on DOM premises, shall comply with site rules and regulations.

4.15.5 Environmental Protection

The Contractor shall be in compliance with all applicable standards, orders or requirements issued under Section 306 of the Clean Air Act (45 USC 1857 [h]), Section 508 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1368), Executive Order 11738, and Environmental Protection Agency regulation (40 CFR Part 15) which prohibit the use under non-exempt federal contracts, grants, or loans of facilities included on the EPA list of Violating Facilities. The Contractor shall report violations to the applicable grantor federal agency and the U. S. EPA Assistant Administrator for Enforcement.

4.15.6 Lobbying

The Contractor certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that no federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the Contractor to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member 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.

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, 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 Contractor shall complete and submit "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance is placed when entering into this contract. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this contract imposed under Title 31, Section 1352, U.S. Code. Failure to file the required certification shall be subject to civil penalties for such failure.

The Contractor shall abide by lobbying laws of the State of Mississippi.

4.15.7 Bribes, Gratuities and Kickbacks Prohibited

The receipt or solicitation of bribes, gratuities and kickbacks is strictly prohibited.

No elected or appointed officer or other employee of the Federal Government or of the State of Mississippi shall benefit financially or materially from this contract. No individual employed by the State of Mississippi shall be permitted any share or part of this contract or any benefit that might arise there from.

The Contractor represents that it has not violated, is not violating, and promises that it will not violate the prohibitions against gratuities set forth in Section 7-204 (Gratuities) of the Mississippi Personal Service Contract Procurement Regulations.

4.15.8 Small and Minority Businesses

DOM encourages the employment of small business and minority business enterprises. Therefore, the Contractor shall report, separately, the involvement in this contract of small businesses and businesses owned by minorities and women. Such information shall be reported on an invoice annually on the contract anniversary and shall specify the actual dollars contracted to-date with such businesses, actual dollars expended to date with such businesses, and the total dollars planned to be contracted for with such businesses on this contract.

4.15.9 Suspension and Debarment

The Contractor certifies that it is not suspended or debarred under federal law and regulations or any other state's laws and regulations.

4.15.10 Compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act

The Contractor represents and warrants that it will ensure its compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act (Senate Bill 2988 from the 2010 Regular Legislative Session) and will register and participate in the status verification system for all newly hired employees. The term "employee" as used herein means any person that is hired to perform work within the State of Mississippi. As used herein, "status verification system" means the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 that is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, also known as the E-Verify Program, or any other successor electronic verification system replacing the E-Verify Program.

Contractor agrees to maintain records of such compliance and, upon request of the State, to provide a copy of each such verification to the State. Contractor further represents and warrants that any person assigned to perform services hereunder meets the employment eligibility requirements of all immigration laws of the State of Mississippi. Contractor understands and agrees that any breach of these warranties may subject Contractor to the following: (a) Termination of this Agreement and ineligibility for any state or public contract in Mississippi for up to three (3) years with notice of such cancellation/termination being made public, or (b) The loss of any license, permit, certification or other document granted to Contractor by an agency, department or governmental entity for the right to do business in Mississippi for up to one (1) year, or (c) Both. In the event of such termination/cancellation, Contractor would also be liable for any additional costs incurred by the State due to contract cancellation or loss of license or permit.

The Contractor certifies that it is not suspended or debarred under federal law and regulations or any other state's laws and regulations.

4.15.11 E-Invoicing and E-Payment

The State requires the Contractor to submit invoices electronically throughout the term of the agreement. Vendor invoices shall be submitted to the state agency using the processes and procedures identified by the State. Payments by state agencies using the Statewide Automated Accounting System (SAAS) shall be made and remittance information provided electronically as directed by the State. These payments shall be deposited into the bank account of the Contractor's choice. The State may, at its sole discretion, require the Contractor to submit invoices and supporting documentation electronically at any time during the term of this Agreement. The Contractor understands and agrees that the State is exempt from the payment of taxes. All payments shall be in United States currency.

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5.0 TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Proposals should be submitted in three-ring binders or spiral bound binders with each section indexed with tabs. The main body of the proposal pages must be numbered and submitted in 12-point font on 8 ½ x 11 inch paper, single spaced. The size and/or style of pictures, graphics, tabs, attachments, margin notes/highlights, etc. are not restricted by this RFP and their use and style are at the Offeror's discretion.

The Technical Proposal must include the following sections:

1. Transmittal Letter
2. Executive Summary
3. Corporate Background and Experience
4. Project Organization and Staffing
5. Methodology
6. Project Management and Control
7. Work Plan and Schedule

Items to be included under each of these headings are identified in the paragraphs below. Each section within the Technical Proposal should include all items listed in the paragraphs below. The evaluation of proposals will be done on a section-by-section basis. A format that easily follows the requirements and order of the RFP should be used.

Any proposal that does not adhere to these requirements may be deemed non-responsive and rejected on that basis.

5.2 TRANSMITTAL LETTER

The Transmittal Letter shall be in the form of a standard business letter on letterhead of the proposing company and shall be signed by an individual authorized to legally bind the Offeror. It shall be included in each Technical Proposal. The letter should identify all material and enclosures being submitted in response to the RFP. The transmittal letter shall include:

1. A statement indicating that the Offeror is a corporation or other legal entity;
2. A statement confirming that the Contractor is registered to do business in Mississippi and providing their corporate charter number to work in Mississippi, if applicable;
3. A statement that the Contractor agrees that any lost or reduced federal matching money resulting from unacceptable performance of a contractor task or responsibility, as defined in this RFP, shall be accompanied by reductions in state payments to the Contractor;
4. A statement identifying the Offeror's Federal tax identification number;
5. A statement that no attempt has been made or will be made by the Offeror to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit a proposal;

6. A statement that the Contractor has not violated, is not violating, and promises that it will not violate the prohibition against gratuities set forth in Section 7-204 of the Mississippi Personal Service Contract Procurement Regulations.
7. A statement of Affirmative Action, that the Offeror does not discriminate in its employment practices with regard to race, color, religion, age (except as provided by law), sex, marital status, political affiliation, national origin, or disability;
8. A statement that no cost or pricing information has been included in this letter or any other part of the technical proposal;
9. A statement identifying all amendments to this RFP issued by DOM which have been received by the Offeror. If no amendments have been received, a statement to that effect should be included;
10. A statement that the Offeror has read, understands and agrees to all provisions of this RFP without reservation;
11. Certification that the Offeror's offer will be firm and binding for 180 days from the proposal due date;
12. A statement naming any outside firms responsible for writing the proposal;
13. A statement agreeing that the Contractor and all subcontractors will sign the Drug Free Workplace Certificate (Exhibit 1);
14. A statement that the Offeror has included the signed DHHS Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters for Primary Covered Transactions (Exhibit 2) with the Transmittal letter;
15. All proposals submitted by corporations must contain certifications by the secretary or other appropriate corporate official other than the corporate official signing the corporate proposal that the corporate official signing the corporate proposal has the full authority to obligate and bind the corporation to the terms, conditions, and provisions of the proposal; and,
16. All proposals submitted must include a statement that the bidder presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of services under this contract, and it shall not employ, in the performance of this contract, any person having such interest.
17. If the proposal deviates from the detailed specifications and requirements of the RFP, the transmittal letter must identify and explain these deviations. DOM reserves the right to reject any proposal containing such deviations or to require modifications before acceptance.

5.3 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Executive Summary shall condense and highlight the contents of the Technical Proposal in such a way as to provide a broad understanding of the entire proposal. It should demonstrate the Offeror's understanding of the services requested in this RFP, the nature of the contract, and any problems anticipated in accomplishing the work. Specifically, the Executive Summary should demonstrate the Offeror's familiarity with the project elements, a summary of its solution(s) to the problems presented and knowledge of the requested services and/or deliverable.

In this component, Offerors may designate those provisions of the proposal which contain trade secrets or other proprietary data which they believe may remain confidential in accordance with Section 25-61-9 and 79-23-1 of the Mississippi Code.

The Executive Summary should be no more than five (5) single-spaced typed pages in length.

5.4 CORPORATE BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

The Corporate Background and Experience Section should demonstrate the Offeror's ability to be both fiscally and professionally responsible. Therefore, Offerors must include sufficient financial documentation to establish financial stability and satisfactory information regarding their professional responsibility. The time frame to be covered should begin, at a minimum, in January 2008 through present date.

5.4.1 Corporate Background

The details of the background of the corporation shall cover, at a minimum:

1. date established;
2. location of the principal place of business;
3. location of the place of performance of the proposed contract;
4. ownership (e.g.: public company, partnership, subsidiary);
5. total number of employees;
6. number of personnel currently engaged in project operations;
7. computer resources;
8. performance history and reputation;
9. current products and services; and
10. professional accreditations pertinent to the services provided by this RFP.

5.4.2 Financial Stability

Financial statements for the contracting entity shall be provided for each of the last five (5) years, including at a minimum:

1. statement of income
2. balance sheet
3. statement of changes in financial position during the last five (5) years
4. statement of cash flow
5. auditors' reports
6. notes to financial statements
7. summary of significant accounting policies

The State reserves the right to request any additional information to assure itself of an Offeror's financial status.

5.4.3 Corporate Experience

The corporate experience section must present the details of the Offeror's experience with the type of service to be provided by this RFP and Medicaid experience. A minimum of one (1) corporate reference is required for each type of experience. DOM will check references at its option. DOM reserves the right to contact officials of customers other than those indicated by the Offeror. Overlapping responsibilities on the same customer's contract should be depicted so that they are easily recognized.

The Offeror must provide for each:

1. customer name and address;
2. name of the project administrator or senior official who is familiar with the Offeror's performance including phone number;
3. description of the work performed;
4. time period of contract;
5. staff months expended;
6. personnel requirements;
7. publicly funded contract cost; and
8. any contractual termination within the past five (5) years

5.5 PROJECT ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Project Organization and Staffing section is for Offerors to demonstrate the strength and applicability of prior experience in providing the requested services. This section should discuss the organizational structure and the anticipated roles of personnel during all phases of the contract. All proposed key team leaders must be identified for each phase, including descriptions of their responsibilities and estimates of the staff-hours by major task(s) (within phases) to be provided by proposed positions.

5.5.1 Organization

This component must include an organizational chart for each phase as described in the RFP. Charts must identify all proposed personnel and positions indicating full-time and part-time status of each employee.

5.5.2 Key Staff Experience and References

This component must include previous experience of all proposed key staff persons such as the Project Manager and other staff assigned to lead responsibilities on this contract.

Offerors shall submit a curriculum vitae or résumé for each person to include, at a minimum:

1. Duration and experience as an employee of the Offeror;
2. Knowledge and experience in working with Medicaid programs;
3. Relevant education, training, professional credentials, including any degrees, licenses and recent and relevant continuing education;

4. Experience in managing projects as described in this RFP, including a project description and number of people supervised, if applicable; and
5. References from at least three (3) projects and the persons who can give information regarding the individual's experience and competence. Provide the customer names, customer reference including positions, phone numbers and email addresses, time period of the project, and the time period the person performed, as well as a brief description of the project and the person's responsibilities.

Current DOM staff shall not be submitted for any reference for the above requirements.

If project management responsibilities will be assigned to more than one (1) individual during the project (i.e., management may be changed following implementation), the above information must be provided for all persons.

5.5.3 Backup Personnel Plan

If additional staff is required to perform the functions of the contract, the Offeror should outline specifically its plans and resources for adapting to these situations. The Offeror should also address plans to ensure the longevity of staff in order to allow for effective DOM support.

5.6 METHODOLOGY

The Methodology Section should describe the Contractor's approach to providing the services described in the scope of work, Section 1, of the RFP. This section should contain a comprehensive description of the proposed work plan. Proposals that merely offer to provide services as stated in this RFP and/or simply restate the RFP requirements will be considered non-responsive. The narrative descriptions should describe how the services will be performed to meet the requirements of the RFP and include, at a minimum, the following:

1. The description shall encompass the requirements of this RFP as outlined in the Scope of Work.
2. The proposal must describe the methodology to be followed in sufficient detail to demonstrate the Offeror understands the requirements of this RFP and how the Offeror can accomplish all responsibilities, including any resources to be used.
3. The proposal must include a high-level project plan for the project. This project plan must be at the level of major tasks and milestones and be submitted in Microsoft Project or comparable tool.
4. The proposal must summarize how State of Mississippi agency staff will be used as resources in this project. It is the State's desire that agency staff be advised of all aspects of the engagement.
5. The proposal should include information about past performance results and a plan for evaluating the proposed project.

5.7 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The Project Management Section shall include details of the planning, organizing, securing and managing of resources to bring about the successful completion of all responsibilities defined in this RFP. This section should address project management for each phase beginning with the initiation to the monitoring of each requirement.

This section should provide sufficient information to be used as a managing tool and provide the following information, at a minimum:

1. Project management approach
2. Project control approach
3. Manpower and time estimating methods
4. Project status reporting, including examples of types of reports and internal quality control findings.
5. Approach to DOM's communications (verbal and written) with contract management/staff
6. Procedures to ensure accuracy of all deliverables and major activities. The schedule should allow a minimum of ten (10) work days for DOM approval of each submission or re-submission of each deliverable.
7. Management of performance standards
8. Identified and/or anticipated problem areas and the approach to managing these areas, including loss of key personnel, loss of technical personnel, etc.
9. Risk assessment and plan for management of potential and actual problems.
10. Internal quality control monitoring procedures that provide for on-going review and assessment of all project activities, monitoring and evaluation the services rendered according to the RFP and the process to effect improvements as needed. The Contractor must generate quarterly progress reports (based on these internal quality control procedures) and make available reports for DOM monitoring purposes.

5.8 WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE

The Work Plan and Schedule should provide a description of the deliverables to be provided along with a detailed work plan identifying how the major tasks are to be accomplished and each individual performing those tasks. The work plan must include all responsibilities and deliverables outlined previously in this RFP. A Work Breakdown Schedule should supplement the work plan.

The work plan should show the overall design of the project in response to achieving all components and deliverables of the RFP and must include, at a minimum:

1. The assumptions and/or constraints identified by the Offeror in developing the work plan.
2. A Gantt chart or similar diagram showing the planned start and end dates for all tasks and subtasks, indicating the interrelationships of all tasks and subtasks and identifying the critical path.
3. The personnel responsible for each task and subtask should be documented as well.
4. The schedule should allow a minimum of five (5) business days for DOM review of each submission and/or re-submission of each deliverable.

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6.0 BUSINESS/COST PROPOSAL

6.1 GENERAL

All Offerors must certify in the transmittal letter that their offer shall be binding upon the Offeror for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days following the proposal due date. Pricing will be considered as a separate criteria of the overall bid package.

Offerors must propose a firm fixed price for each of the requirements contained on the pricing schedule (Appendix A).

6.2 BID MODIFICATION IN THE EVENT OF A FEDERAL AND/OR STATE LAW, REGULATION OR POLICY

In the event any change occurs in federal law, federal regulations, state law, state regulations, state policies, or state Medicaid plan coverage, and DOM determines that these changes impact materially on proposal pricing, DOM reserves the right to require the Offerors to amend their proposals. The failure of an Offeror to negotiate these required changes will exclude such Offeror from further consideration for contract award. All proposals shall be based upon the provisions of federal and state laws and regulations and DOM's approved Medicaid State Plan coverage in effect on the issuance date of this RFP, unless this RFP is amended in writing to include changes prior to the closing date for receipt of proposals.

6.3 PROPOSAL CONTENT

The Business/Cost Proposal shall include only the following:

1. A detailed worksheet by line item of all costs as it pertains to the Contractor Responsibilities and Deliverables as found in Section 1.0 of the RFP.
2. The budget summary provided in Appendix A must be signed and dated by an authorized corporate official.
3. All proposals submitted by corporations must contain certification by the secretary or other appropriate corporate official, other than the signer of the corporate proposal, that the corporate official signing the corporate proposal has the authority to obligate and bind the corporation to the terms, conditions and provisions of the proposal.

Proposals received that do not include both of the above will be rejected. Proposals that contain any material other than the above will be rejected.

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7 PROPOSAL EVALUATION

7.1 GENERAL

An evaluation committee comprised of DOM staff will be established to judge the merits of eligible proposals. The committee will be appointed by the Executive Director of the Division of Medicaid and will include members who have extensive experience in the Medicaid program. The committee will be responsible for the evaluation of the technical and business proposals.

7.2 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

A standard evaluation form will be utilized by the evaluation committee to ensure consistency in evaluation criteria.

A maximum of 1,000 points will be available for each proposal which shall be comprised of a technical and a business/cost proposal. The points awarded per phase by the evaluation committee will be totaled to determine the points awarded per proposal.

Evaluation of eligible proposals will be conducted in five phases. The Procurement Officer will complete Phase One, the technical proposal evaluation committee will complete Phase Two, and the business/cost proposal evaluation committee will complete Phase Three. In Phase Four, the Procurement Officer will compile the results of the technical and business evaluations and make a recommendation to the Executive Director of Medicaid based on the results of the evaluation. The fifth phase is the award decision of the Executive Director.

At its option, the State may request an interview from Contractors in a competitive range in the evaluation. Contractors must be prepared to meet with DOM staff within five (5) days of notification. All costs associated with the interview will be the responsibility of the Contractor.

7.2.1 Phase One - Evaluation of Bidders' Response to RFP

In this phase, the Procurement Officer reviews each proposal to determine if each proposal complies with the instructions to bidders in the RFP. Each proposal that is incomplete will be declared non-responsive and may be rejected with no further evaluation.

The Procurement Officer will determine if an incomplete proposal is sufficiently responsive to continue to Phase Two.

7.2.2 Phase Two - Evaluation of Technical Proposal

Only those proposals which meet the requirements in Phase One will be considered in Phase Two.

Any technical proposal that is incomplete or has significant inconsistencies or inaccuracies may be rejected. DOM reserves the right to waive minor variances or reject any or all proposals. In addition, DOM reserves the right to request clarifications or enter into discussions with all Offerors.

The evaluation committee will review each proposal to determine if it sufficiently addresses all of the RFP requirements and the Offeror has developed a specific approach to meeting each requirement.

Maximum number of points that may be awarded for the technical evaluation is 700.

<u>Maximum Points per Section</u>	
Corporate Background and Experience	100
Organization and Staffing	125
Methodology	200
Project Management	175
Work Plan and Schedule	100
Total Points	700

Proposals must score a minimum of 70% (490 points) of the total score in order to proceed to the Business/Cost phase of the evaluation. Proposals receiving less than 70% will not be considered for the Business/Cost evaluation or contract award.

Technical proposal evaluations may be adjusted based on information gathered during the oral presentations, if held.

7.2.2.1 Executive Summary

The Evaluation Committee will review the Executive Summary to determine if it provides all information required in Section 5.3 of this RFP and is five (5) pages or less in length.

7.2.2.2 Corporate Background and Experience

The Evaluation Committee will evaluate the experience, performance on similar contracts, resources, and qualifications of the Offeror to provide the services required by the RFP. The evaluation criteria will address:

1. Experience of Offeror in providing the requested services.
2. Corporate experience providing similar services.
3. Amount and level of resources proposed by the Offeror.
4. Specific qualifications that evidence the Offeror's ability to provide the services requested.
5. Current financial position and cash flow of the Offeror and evidence that the Offeror has a history of financial solvency.
6. Any sanctions, contract terminations or non-renewals within the past five (5) years.

7.2.2.3 Project Organization and Staffing

The Evaluation Committee will review this section of the Offeror's proposal to determine if the proposed organizational structure and staffing level are sufficient to accomplish the requirements of the RFP. The committee will review the organizational chart(s), time lines, the job descriptions including job qualifications, the curriculum vitae or resumes of staff and their qualifications for the positions they will hold, and the relationship of their past experience to their proposed responsibilities under this contract. The committee will evaluate the explanation of the Offeror regarding the relationship between the Offeror and the Project Manager to determine if they will have sufficient autonomy to make management decisions to improve the Offeror's delivery of services to DOM.

7.2.2.4 Methodology

The Evaluation Committee will evaluate the approach and process offered to provide services as required by this RFP. In addition to the information required in Section 1.0 of this RFP, the evaluation criteria will address, at a minimum, the following (if applicable):

1. Processes and requirements for completion of the project;
2. Data management plans including data needs;
3. Plans to ensure coordination of program design with DOM and others;
4. Processes for maintaining confidentiality of protected health information;
5. Processes for development and submission of required deliverables; and
6. Scope of services provided through partnerships or subcontractors.

7.2.2.5 Project Management

Each Offeror's proposal will be evaluated to determine if the Offeror understands the requirements of the services to be provided. Specifically, the committee will evaluate, at a minimum, the following:

1. Tasks to be accomplished, as well as the method of accomplishment, identification of staff responsible for each one, time required for their accomplishment, and assistance (if any) required by DOM;
2. Approach to the management of the project to determine the ability to keep the project on target and to ensure that the requested services are provided;
3. Processes to control the project and ensure, on an on-going basis, that all requests are being met and that the Offeror is able to identify and resolve problems which occur;
4. Methods for estimating and documenting personnel hours spent by staff on project activities are sound and fair;
5. Plans to comply with the reporting requirements of the contract, including the provision of status reports to DOM, and whether the reports are appropriate and sufficient to keep DOM informed of all aspects of the implementation and operation of the project;
6. Identification of problems and risks with proposed plans to correct and methods that will be used for ongoing assessments; and
7. Processes to ensure performance measures are met and the internal control reporting processes for notification and correction.

7.2.2.6 Work Plan and Schedule

The committee will review and evaluate the work plan and schedule to determine if all tasks are included and if, for each task, a timeline and identification of staff responsible for the task's accomplishment are indicated. The work plan must provide a logical sequence of tasks and a sufficient amount of time for their accomplishment.

7.2.3 Phase Three - Evaluation of Business/Cost Proposal

Only those proposals considered for Phase 2 will be considered for Phase Three. Three hundred (300) points will be awarded to the lowest and best acceptable bid. Any bid price determined by DOM to be unrealistically or unreasonably low may not be considered acceptable, as such a proposal has a high probability of not being accomplished for the cost proposed. The Offeror may be required to produce additional documentation to authenticate the proposal price.

In the event that there are two or more proposals, a maximum of three hundred (300) points will be assigned to the lowest acceptable proposal. Points for each proposal will be assigned using the formula:

$$\frac{X}{Y} * 300 = Z$$

Z = assigned points

X = lowest bid price

Y = price of Offeror's bid

DOM reserves the right to waive minor variances or reject any or all proposals.

7.3 SELECTION

After the evaluation committee has completed the evaluation of the proposals, a summary report including all evaluations will be submitted to the Executive Director of DOM. The Executive Director will make the final decision regarding the winning proposal.

7.4 INTENT TO AWARD NOTICE

The notice of intended contract award shall be sent by mail, email or fax to all Offerors.

7.5 STATE APPROVAL

Approval from the Personal Services Contract Review Board must be received before the contract is signed, which is final approval. Every effort will be made by DOM, both before and after selection, to facilitate rapid approval.

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Appendix A Budget Summary

Section 6.0 addresses submission of the Budget Summary. Failure to follow the submittal instructions will immediately disqualify the Offeror.

Budget Summary				
MEDICAID PHARMACY RATE SETTING SERVICES				
RFP #20110422				
Offeror:				
	SFY2012 07/18/2011 to 06/30/2012	SFY2013 07/01/2012 to 06/30/2013	SFY2014 07/01/2013 to 06/30/2014	Total
Implementation Cost				
<i>Ingredient Cost Development</i>				
<i>Dispensing Fee Survey</i>				
Operations Cost				
Total Contract Price				
I certify that I am legally obligating the above name Offeror to the conditions of this contract.				
Signature:		Date:		
Printed Name:		Title:		

EXHIBIT 1 Drug free Workplace Requirements and Certification

DHHS CERTIFICATION REGARDING DRUG FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS:

GRANTEES OTHER THAN INDIVIDUALS

Instructions for Certification

By signing and/or submitting this application or grant agreement, the grantee is providing the certification set out below.

1) This certification is required by regulations implementing the Drug-Free Act of 1988, 45 CFR Part 76, Subpart F. The regulations, published in the May 25, 1990, Federal Register, require certification by grantees that they will maintain a drug-free workplace. The certification set out below is a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) determines to award the grant. If it is later determined that the grantee knowingly rendered a false certification, or otherwise violates the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act, HHS, in addition to any other remedies available to the Federal Government, may take action authorized under the Drug-Free Workplace Act.

2) Workplaces under grants, for grantees other than individuals, need not be identified on the certification. If known, they may be identified in the grant application. If the grantee does not identify the workplaces at the time of application, or upon award, if there is no application, the grantee must keep the identity of the workplace(s) on file in its office and make the information available for Federal inspection. Failure to identify all known workplaces constitutes a violation of the grantee's drug-free workplace requirements.

3) Workplace identifications must include the actual address of buildings (or parts of buildings) or other sites where work under the grant takes place. Categorical descriptions may be used (e.g., all vehicles of a mass transit authority or State highway department while in operation, State employees in each local unemployment office, performers in concert halls or radio studios).

4) If the workplace identified to DOM changes during the performance of the grant, the grantee shall inform DOM of the change(s), if it previously identified the workplaces in question (see above).

5) Definitions of terms in the Nonprocurement Suspension and Debarment common rule and Drug-Free Workplace common rule apply to this certification. Grantees' attention is called, in particular, to the following definitions from these rules:

"Controlled substance" means a controlled substance in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) and as further defined by regulation (21 CFR 1308.11 through 1308.15);

"Conviction" means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or imposition of sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility to determine violations of the Federal or State criminal drug statutes;

"Criminal drug statute" means a Federal or non-Federal criminal statute involving the manufacture, distribution, dispensing, use, or possession of any controlled substance;

"Employee" means the employee of a grantee directly engaged in the performance of work under a grant, including (i) all direct charge employees; (ii) all indirect charge employees unless their impact or involvement is insignificant to the performance of the grant; and (iii) temporary personnel and consultants who are directly engaged in the performance of work under the grant and who are on the grantee's payroll. This definition does not include workers not on the payroll of the grantee (e.g., volunteers, even if used to meet a matching requirement; consultants or independent contractors not on the grantee's payroll; or employees of subrecipients or subcontractors in covered workplaces).

The grantee certifies that it will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by

a) Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition;

b) Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about

1) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace; 2) the grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace; 3) any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and 4) the penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace;

c) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph (a);

d) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (a) that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will

1) Abide by the terms of the statement; and 2) notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;

e) Notifying DOM in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under paragraph (d)(2) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer or other designee on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;

f) Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under paragraph (d)(2), with respect to any employee who is so convicted:

1) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or 2) requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;

g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f).

The grantee may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with the specific grant (use attachments if needed):

Place of Performance:

Street Address

City

County

State

Zip Code

Check if there are workplaces on file that are not identified here. ☐

NOTE: Sections 76.630(c) and (d)(2) and 76.635(a)(1) and (b) provide that a Federal agency may designate a central receipt point for STATE-WIDE AND STATE AGENCY-WIDE certifications, and for notification of criminal drug convictions. For HHS, the central receipt point is Division of Grants Management and Oversight, Office of Management and Acquisition, HHS, Room 517-D, 200 Independence Ave, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201

Signature

Date

Title

Organization

EXHIBIT 2 Debarment and Suspension Form

DHHS Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters
Primary Covered Transactions
45 CFR Part 76, Appendix A

- (1) The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief that it and its principals:
- a. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by any Federal department or agency;
 - b. Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - c. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b) of this certification; and
 - d. Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.
- (2) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Signature

Date

Title

Organization