

# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**by**

**The University of Texas System Administration**

**for the**

**Selection of a Vendor to Provide  
Unemployment Claims Management, Affordable Care Act Compliance  
and Employment Related Services**

**RFP No. ORM20151216**

**Submittal Deadline: January 20, 2016**

Issued: December 16, 2015

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

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## SECTION 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Description of University

The University of Texas System is (“University” or “UT System”) is the largest system of public higher education in Texas and is comprised of 14 institutions including both academic and health; located in all geographic regions of Texas, plus the UT System Administration office in Austin. The University of Texas System is a diverse community of institutions including major research universities, comprehensive academic universities, upper level institutions, comprehensive health science institutions and specialized hospitals.

In 1881, the Texas State Legislature established the “main System”, now known as The University of Texas at Austin, and a medical school known as The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. From these origins, The University of Texas System has grown to include 14 institutions and employ more than 100,000 faculty and staff employees. Rich in heritage and tradition, the UT System currently provides instruction to more than 216,000 students and is a national leader in various research endeavors.

#### 1.2 Background and Special Circumstances

The UT System is requesting proposals to provide employment-related services on behalf of UT System institutions including unemployment claims management, employment and income verifications, Affordable Care Act (ACA) Compliance and Form I-9 verification services.

In 1971, the Texas Legislature passed legislation to provide unemployment compensation insurance coverage for all state employees. Following this legislation, The University of Texas System (the UT System) UCI program was established. In accordance with The Board of Regents Rules and Regulations, it is the responsibility of the UT System Office of Risk Management (ORM) to administer an UCI program and fund to pay claims. As a reimbursing employer, the UT System reimburses the State Unemployment Trust Fund for any claims paid by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to former employees of the UT System in lieu of paying UCI taxes. ORM reimburses TWC on a quarterly basis and monitors the monthly receipt of UCI premiums from the UT System Institutions.

Employment and Wage Verifications services for University employees are provided to third parties using data provided by the University. These services are designed to assist the University, employees of the University, and commercial, private, non-profit and government entities who wish to verify a University employee’s employment and/or income and possess permissible purpose.

The ACA Compliance service will include data management technology with analytic and reporting services related to the Employer Shared Responsibility mandate under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Each UT institution and UT System Administration maintains a separate FEIN and is responsible to comply with the Employer Mandate under the ACA. The proposer will provide an on-line eligibility tracking system that provides the University near real-time ACA compliance metrics such as healthcare eligibility, hours worked, measurement periods, and counts of full and part-time employees. These

services are currently contracted through the 2016 tax year through our current service provider.

The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, as amended (the “Act”) makes it mandatory for employers to verify the employment eligibility of all employees hired after November 6, 1986. Employees are required to complete an Employment Eligibility Verification Form (Form I-9) and employers are required to retain the forms for three years after the date of hire or one year after employment ends, whichever is later. Proposer will provide automated Form I-9 services and e-Verify verifications for the University. Recent changes to the Act permit electronic signatures and electronic storage for Forms I-9. The selected Proposer will be expected to provide an I-9 service that allows entry into E-Verify, which verifies work authorization with the Department of Homeland Security and Social Security Administration.

Recognizing that the level of new hires, unemployment claims activity, and employment verifications may vary greatly over time, the following table shows relevant metrics for UT System during Fiscal Years ending August 31, 2012-2015.

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total UT System Employees	106,861	108,845	110,830	114,605
Total UCI Claims filed	3,582	2,990	2,763	2,453
Total Claims protested	1,254	1,276	1,160	1,049
Total Paid Unemployment Claims	2,594	1,830	1,735	1,528
Total Unemployment Claim Expenditures	\$8,800,147	\$5,642,283	\$6,441,706	\$5,087,452
TWC Unemployment hearings	353	315	362	304
Employment Verifications*	4,847	5,683	5,581	5,663
Income Verifications*	1,148	1,268	1,529	1,875
Work History*	41,116	61,969	82,944	62,801
Social Services Verifications*	4,909	4,481	6,387	8,908
Benefits Eligible Employees in Medical Plan	81,633	83,632	86,111	89,501

\* Verification metrics are on a calendar year basis, with 2015 totals through October 31, 2015

### 1.3 Objective of this Request for Proposal

The University of Texas System (“**University**”) is soliciting proposals in response to this Request for Proposal for Selection of a Vendor to Provide Unemployment Claim Management, Affordable Care Act Compliance and Employment Related Services (the “**Services**”), RFP No.ORM20151216 (this “**RFP**”), from qualified vendors. The Services, which are more specifically described in **Section 5.4** (Scope of Work) of this RFP, include (1) Unemployment Claims Management; (2) Employment and Income Verification Services; (3) Affordable Care Act Compliance Services; and (4) Form I-9 Management Services.

### 1.4 Group Purchase Authority

Texas law authorizes institutions of higher education (defined by Section 61.003, Education Code) to use the group purchasing procurement method (ref. Sections 51.9335, 73.115, and 74.008, Education Code). Additional Texas institutions of higher education may therefore elect to enter into a contract with the successful Proposer under this RFP. In particular, Proposer should note that University is part of The University of

Texas System ("UT System"), which is comprised of eight academic and six health universities described at <http://www.utsystem.edu/institutions>. UT System institutions routinely evaluate whether a contract resulting from a procurement conducted by one of the institutions might be suitable for use by another, and if so, this could give rise to additional purchase volumes. As a result, in submitting its proposal in response to this RFP, Proposer should consider proposing pricing and other commercial terms that take into account such higher volumes and other expanded opportunities that could result from the eventual inclusion of other institutions in the purchase contemplated by this RFP.

## SECTION 2

### NOTICE TO PROPOSER

#### 2.1 Submittal Deadline

University will accept proposals submitted in response to this RFP until 3:00 p.m., Central Prevailing Time on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 (the “**Submittal Deadline**”).

#### 2.2 University Contact Person

Proposers will direct all questions or concerns regarding this RFP to the following University contact (“**University Contact**”):

**Mr. Robert C. Carson**  
**Manager of Risk Accounting**  
**The University of Texas System**  
**Office of Risk Management**  
**E-mail address: [rcarson@utsystem.edu](mailto:rcarson@utsystem.edu)**

University specifically instructs all interested parties to restrict all contact and questions regarding this RFP to written communications forwarded to University Contact. University Contact must receive all questions or concerns no later than January 4, 2016. University will have a reasonable amount of time to respond to questions or concerns. It is University’s intent to respond to all appropriate questions and concerns; however, University reserves the right to decline to respond to any question or concern. University will not respond to questions individually but will submit a comprehensive list of questions and answers.

#### 2.3 Criteria for Selection

The successful Proposer, if any, selected by University in accordance with the requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP will be the Proposer that submits a proposal in response to this RFP on or before the Submittal Deadline that is the most advantageous to University. The successful Proposer is referred to as the “**Contractor**.”

Proposer is encouraged to propose terms and conditions offering the maximum benefit to University in terms of (1) services to University, (2) total overall cost to University, and (3) project management expertise. Proposers should describe all educational, state and local government discounts, as well as any other applicable discounts that may be available to University in a contract for the Services.

An evaluation team from University will evaluate proposals. The evaluation of proposals and the selection of Contractor will be based on the information provided by Proposer in its proposal. University may give consideration to additional information if University deems such information relevant.

The criteria to be considered by University in evaluating proposals and selecting Contractor, will be those factors listed below:

##### 2.3.1 Threshold Criteria Not Scored

- 2.3.1.1 Ability of University to comply with laws regarding Historically Underutilized Businesses; and
- 2.3.1.2 Ability of University to comply with laws regarding purchases from persons with disabilities.

2.3.2 Scored Criteria

- 2.3.2.1 the cost of goods and services;
- 2.3.2.2 the reputation of the Proposer and of the Proposer's goods or services;
- 2.3.2.3 the quality of the Proposer's goods or services;
- 2.3.2.4 the extent to which the goods or services meet the University's needs;
- 2.3.2.5 the Proposer's past relationship with the University;
- 2.3.2.6 the total long-term cost to the University of acquiring the Proposer's goods or services
- 2.3.2.7 the Proposer's exceptions to the terms and conditions set forth in Section 4 of this RFP.

**2.4 Key Events Schedule**

Issuance of RFP	December 16, 2015
Deadline for Questions/Concerns (ref. <b>Section 2.2</b> of this RFP)	January 4, 2016
Submittal Deadline (ref. <b>Section 2.1</b> of this RFP)	3:00p.m. Central Prevailing Time on January 20, 2016

**2.5 Historically Underutilized Businesses**

2.5.1 All agencies of the State of Texas are required to make a good faith effort to assist historically underutilized businesses (each a “HUB”) in receiving contract awards. The goal of the HUB program is to promote full and equal business opportunity for all businesses in contracting with state agencies. Pursuant to the HUB program, if under the terms of any agreement or contractual arrangement resulting from this RFP, Contractor subcontracts any of the Services, then Contractor must make a good faith effort to utilize HUBs certified by the Procurement and Support Services Division of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Proposals that fail to comply with the requirements contained in this Section 2.5 will constitute a material failure to comply with advertised specifications and will be rejected by University as non-responsive. Additionally, compliance with good faith effort guidelines is a condition precedent to awarding any agreement or contractual arrangement resulting from this RFP. Proposer acknowledges that, if selected by University, its obligation to make a good faith effort to utilize HUBs when subcontracting any of the Services will continue throughout the term of all agreements and contractual arrangements resulting from this RFP. Furthermore, any subcontracting of the Services by the Proposer is subject to review by University to ensure compliance with the HUB program.

- 2.5.2 University has reviewed this RFP in accordance with Title 34, *Texas Administrative Code*, Section 20.13 (a), and has determined that subcontracting opportunities are probable under this RFP.
- 2.5.3 A HUB Subcontracting Plan (“**HSP**”) is required as part of Proposer’s proposal. The HSP will be developed and administered in accordance with University’s Policy on Utilization of Historically Underutilized Businesses attached as **APPENDIX TWO** and incorporated for all purposes. The HUB goal on this RFP is 26% (Other Services).

*Each Proposer must complete and return the HSP in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP, including **APPENDIX TWO**. Proposers that fail to do so will be considered non-responsive to this RFP in accordance with Section 2161.252, Government Code.*

*Questions regarding the HSP may be directed to:*

*Contact: Ms. Amy Nemetz  
HUB Coordinator  
Phone: 512/499-4485  
Email: anemetz@utsystem.edu*

Contractor will not be permitted to change its HSP unless: (1) Contractor completes a newly modified version of the HSP in accordance with the terms of **APPENDIX TWO** that sets forth all changes requested by Contractor, (2) Contractor provides University with such a modified version of the HSP, (3) University approves the modified HSP in writing, and (4) all agreements or contractual arrangements resulting from this RFP are amended in writing by University and Contractor to conform to the modified HSP.

- 2.5.4 Proposer must submit three (3) originals of the HSP to University at the same time it submits its proposal to University (ref. **Section 3.2** of this RFP.) The three (3) originals of the HSP must be submitted under separate cover and in a separate envelope (the “HSP Envelope”). Proposer must ensure that the top outside surface of its HSP Envelope clearly shows and makes visible:
- 2.5.4.1 the RFP No. (ref. **Section 1.3** of this RFP) and the Submittal Deadline (ref. **Section 2.1** of this RFP), both located in the lower left hand corner of the top surface of the envelope,
- 2.5.4.2 the name and the return address of the Proposer, and
- 2.5.4.3 the phrase “HUB Subcontracting Plan”.

Any proposal submitted in response to this RFP that is not accompanied by a separate HSP Envelope meeting the above requirements will be rejected by University and returned to the Proposer unopened as that proposal will be considered non-responsive due to material failure to comply with advertised specifications. Furthermore, University will open a Proposer’s HSP Envelope prior to opening the proposal submitted by the Proposer, in order to ensure that the Proposer has submitted the number of completed and signed originals of the Proposer’s HSP that are required by this RFP. A Proposer’s failure to submit the number of completed and signed originals of the HSP that are required by this



RFP will result in University's rejection of the proposal submitted by that Proposer as non-responsive due to material failure to comply with advertised specifications; such a proposal will be returned to the Proposer unopened (ref. **Section 1.5** of **APPENDIX ONE** to this RFP). **Note:** The requirement that Proposer provide three originals of the HSP under this **Section 2.5.4** is separate from and does not affect Proposer's obligation to provide University with the number of copies of its proposal as specified in **Section 3.1** of this RFP.

## SECTION 3

### SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

#### 3.1 Number of Copies

Proposer must submit a total of seven (7) complete and identical copies of its *entire* proposal. An electronic copy of the proposal is also required. An *original* signature by an authorized officer of Proposer must appear on the Execution of Offer (ref. **Section 2** of **APPENDIX ONE**) of at least one (1) copy of the submitted proposal. The copy of the Proposer's proposal bearing an original signature should contain the mark "original" on the front cover of the proposal.

#### 3.2 Submission

Proposals must be received by University on or before the Submittal Deadline (ref. **Section 2.1** of this RFP) and should be delivered to:

Jenny Murphy  
Accounting & Purchasing Services  
The University of Texas System Administration  
210 West 6th Street  
Room B.140E  
Austin, TX 78701

#### 3.3 Proposal Validity Period

Each proposal must state that it will remain valid for University's acceptance for a minimum of ninety (90) days after the Submittal Deadline, to allow time for evaluation, selection, and any unforeseen delays.

#### 3.4 Terms and Conditions

3.4.1 Proposer must comply with the requirements and specifications contained in this RFP, the Terms and Conditions (ref. **Section 4** of this RFP), the Notice to Proposer (ref. **Section 2** of this RFP), Proposal Requirements (ref. **APPENDIX ONE**) and the Specifications and Additional Questions (ref. **Section 5** of this RFP). If there is a conflict among the provisions in this RFP, the provision requiring Proposer to supply the better quality or greater quantity of services will prevail, or if such conflict does not involve quality or quantity, then interpretation will be in the following order of precedence:

- 3.4.1.1. Specifications and Additional Questions (ref. **Section 5** of this RFP);
- 3.4.1.2. Terms and Conditions (ref. **Section 4** of this RFP);
- 3.4.1.3. Proposal Requirements (ref. **APPENDIX ONE**);
- 3.4.1.4. Notice to Proposers (ref. **Section 2** of this RFP).

### 3.5 Submittal Checklist

Proposer is instructed to complete, sign, and return the following documents as a part of its proposal. If Proposer fails to return each of the following items with its proposal, then University may reject the proposal:

- 3.5.1 Signed and Completed Execution of Offer (ref. **Section 2** of **APPENDIX ONE**)
- 3.5.2 Signed and Completed Pricing and Delivery Schedule (ref. **Section 6** of this RFP)
- 3.5.3 Responses to Proposer's General Questionnaire (ref. **Section 3** of **APPENDIX ONE**)
- 3.5.4 Signed and Completed Addenda Checklist (ref. Section 4 of **APPENDIX ONE**)
- 3.5.5 Responses to questions and requests for information in the Specifications and Additional Questions Section (ref. **Section 5** of this RFP)
- 3.5.6 Signed and completed originals of the HUB Subcontracting Plan or other applicable documents (ref. **Section 2.5** of this RFP and **APPENDIX TWO**).
- 3.5.7 Electronic copy of the proposal and all attachments on a thumb drive or CD.

**SECTION 4****GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS****4.1 General**

The terms and conditions contained in this **Section 4** or, in the sole discretion of University, terms and conditions substantially similar to these terms and conditions, will be included in any contract or agreement that results from this RFP (ref. **Section 1.4** of **APPENDIX ONE**). If Proposer takes exception to any terms or conditions set forth in this **Section 4**, Proposer will submit a list of the exceptions as part of its proposal in accordance with **Section 5.3.1** of this RFP. Proposer's exceptions will be reviewed by University and may result in disqualification of Proposer's proposal as non-responsive to this RFP. If Proposer's exceptions do not result in disqualification of Proposer's proposal, then University may consider Proposer's exceptions when University evaluates the Proposer's proposal.

As indicated in **Section 2.3** of this RFP, the successful Proposer is referred to as the "**Contractor.**"

## 4.2 Payment

University agrees to pay fees due under this Agreement in accordance with the Texas Prompt Payment Act ("**Act**"), Chapter 2251, *Government Code*. Pursuant to the Act, payment shall be deemed late on the 31<sup>st</sup> day after the later of: 1) the date the performance of the Services under this Agreement are completed, or 2) the date University receives an invoice for the Services. University will be responsible for interest on overdue payments equal to the sum of: 1) one percent, plus 2) the prime rate as published in the Wall Street Journal on the first day of July of the preceding fiscal year (University's fiscal year begins September 1) that does not fall on a Saturday or Sunday. University will have the right to verify the details set forth in Contractor's invoices and supporting documentation, either before or after payment, by (a) inspecting the books and records of Contractor at mutually convenient times; (b) examining any reports with respect to the Project; and (c) other reasonable action. The cumulative amount of all payments will not exceed the amount of this Agreement.

## 4.3 Tax Exemption

University, an agency of the State of Texas, is exempt from Texas Sales & Use Tax on the Services in accordance with Section 151.309, *Tax Code*, and Title 34 *Texas Administrative Code* ("**TAC**") Section 3.322.

## 4.5 Contractor's Obligations

- 4.5.1 Contractor will perform the Services in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local, laws, regulations, and ordinances ("**Applicable Laws**"). Contractor represents and warrants that neither Contractor nor any firm, corporation or institution represented by Contractor, or anyone acting for the firm, corporation or institution, (1) has violated the antitrust laws of the State of Texas, Chapter 15, *Business and Commerce Code*, or federal antitrust laws, or (2) has communicated directly or indirectly the content of Contractor's response to University's procurement solicitation to any competitor or any other person engaged in a similar line of business during the procurement process for this Agreement.
- 4.5.2 Contractor represents, warrants and agrees that (a) it will use commercially reasonable efforts to perform the Services in a good and workmanlike manner and in accordance with commercially reasonable standards of Contractor's profession or business, and (b) all of the Services to be performed will be of the quality that prevails among similar businesses engaged in providing similar services in major United States urban areas under the same or similar circumstances.
- 4.5.3 Contractor will call to University's attention in writing all information in any materials supplied to Contractor (by University or any other party) that Contractor regards as unsuitable, improper or inaccurate in connection with the purposes for which the material is furnished.
- 4.5.4 Contractor warrants and agrees that the Services will be accurate and free from any material defects. Contractor's duties and obligations under this Agreement will at no time be in any way diminished by reason of any approval by University nor will Contractor be released from any liability by reason of any approval by University, it being agreed that University at all times is relying upon Contractor's skill and knowledge in performing the Services.

- 4.5.5 Contractor will, at its own cost, correct all material defects in the Services as soon as practical after Contractor becomes aware of the defects. If Contractor fails to correct material defects in the Services within a reasonable time, then University may correct the defective Services at Contractor's expense. This remedy is in addition to, and not in substitution for, any other remedy for defective Services that University may have at law or in equity.
- 4.5.6 Contractor will maintain a staff of properly trained and experienced personnel to ensure satisfactory performance under this Agreement. Contractor will cause all persons connected with Contractor directly in charge of the Services to be duly registered and/or licensed under all applicable federal, state and local, laws, regulations, and ordinances. Contractor will assign to the Project a designated representative who will be responsible for the administration and coordination of the Services.
- 4.5.7 Contractor represents that if (i) it is a corporation, then it is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Texas, or a foreign corporation or limited liability company duly authorized and in good standing to conduct business in the State of Texas, that it has all necessary corporate power and has received all necessary corporate approvals to execute and deliver this Agreement, and the individual executing this Agreement on behalf of Contractor has been duly authorized to act for and bind Contractor; or (ii) if it is a partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, or limited liability company then it has all necessary power and has secured all necessary approvals to execute and deliver this Agreement and perform all its obligations hereunder, and the individual executing this Agreement on behalf of Contractor has been duly authorized to act for and bind Contractor.
- 4.5.8 Contractor represents and warrants that neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement by Contractor nor the performance of its duties and obligations under this Agreement will (a) result in the violation of any provision [i] if a corporation, of Contractor's articles of incorporation or by-laws, [ii] if a limited liability company, of its articles of organization or regulations, or [iii] if a partnership, of any partnership agreement by which Contractor is bound; (b) result in the violation of any provision of any agreement by which Contractor is bound; or (c) to the best of Contractor's knowledge and belief, conflict with any order or decree of any court or other body or authority having jurisdiction.
- 4.5.10 Contractor represents and warrants that: (i) the Services will be performed solely by Contractor, its full-time or part-time employees during the course of their employment, or independent contractors who have assigned in writing all right, title and interest in their work to Contractor for the benefit of University; (ii) University will receive free, good and clear title to all Work Material developed under this Agreement; (iii) the Work Material and the intellectual property rights protecting the Work Material are free and clear of all encumbrances, including security interests, licenses, liens, charges or other restrictions; (iv) the Work Material will not infringe upon or violate any patent, copyright, trade secret, trademark, service mark or other property right of any former employer, independent contractor, client or other third party; and (v) the use, reproduction, distribution, or modification of the Work Material will not violate the rights of any third parties in the Work Material, including trade secret, publicity, privacy, copyright, trademark, service mark and patent rights.

**4.7 Family Code Child Support Certification**

Pursuant to Section 231.006, *Family Code*, Contractor certifies that it is not ineligible to receive the award of or payments under this Agreement and acknowledges that this Agreement may be terminated and payment may be withheld if this certification is inaccurate.

**4.8 Tax Certification**

If Contractor is a taxable entity as defined by Chapter 171, *Tax Code* ("Chapter 171"), then Contractor certifies that it is not currently delinquent in the payment of any taxes due under Chapter 171, or that Contractor is exempt from the payment of those taxes, or that Contractor is an out-of-state taxable entity that is not subject to those taxes, whichever is applicable.

**4.9 Payment of Debt or Delinquency to the State**

Pursuant to Sections 2107.008 and 2252.903, *Government Code*, Contractor agrees that any payments owing to Contractor under this Agreement may be applied directly toward any debt or delinquency that Contractor owes the State of Texas or any agency of the State of Texas regardless of when it arises, until such debt or delinquency is paid in full.

**4.10 Loss of Funding**

Performance by University under this Agreement may be dependent upon the appropriation and allotment of funds by the Texas State Legislature (the “**Legislature**”) and/or allocation of funds by the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System (the “**Board**”). If the Legislature fails to appropriate or allot the necessary funds, or the Board fails to allocate the necessary funds, then University shall issue written notice to Contractor and University may terminate this Agreement without further duty or obligation hereunder. Contractor acknowledges that appropriation, allotment, and allocation of funds are beyond the control of University.

**4.11 Notices**

Except as otherwise provided in this Section, all notices, consents, approvals, demands, requests or other communications provided for or permitted to be given under any of the provisions of this Agreement will be in writing and will be sent via registered or certified mail, overnight courier, confirmed facsimile transmission (to the extent a facsimile number is set forth below), or email (to the extent an email address is set forth below), and notice will be deemed given (i) if mailed, when deposited, postage prepaid, in the United States mail, (ii) if sent by overnight courier, one business day after delivery to the courier, (iii) if sent by facsimile (to the extent a facsimile number is set forth below), when transmitted, and (iv) if sent by email (to the extent an email address is set forth below), when received:

If to University: Office of Business Affairs  
The University of Texas System Administration  
Attention: Executive Vice Chancellor  
201 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, TX 78701-2982

*with copy to:* Office of Risk Management  
The University of Texas System Administration  
Attention: Risk Accounting Manager  
210 West 6th Street  
Room B.140E  
Austin, TX 78701

If to Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attention: \_\_\_\_\_

or other person or address as may be given in writing by either party to the other in accordance with this Section.



Notwithstanding any other requirements for notices given by a party under this Agreement, if Contractor intends to deliver written notice to University pursuant to Section 2251.054, *Government Code*, then Contractor will send that notice to University as follows:

Dr. Scott C. Kelley  
 Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs  
 The University of Texas System  
 201 West 7th Street  
 Austin, Texas 78701-2982  
 Fax: (512) 499-4289  
 Email: LegalNotices@utsystem.edu

*with copy to:* Robert Carson  
 Office of Risk Management  
 The University of Texas System Administration  
 210 West 6th Street  
 Room B.140E  
 Austin, TX 78701  
 Fax: (512)499-4674  
 Email: rcarson@utsystem.edu

or other person or address as may be given in writing by University to Contractor in accordance with this Section.

#### **4.12 State Auditor's Office**

Contractor understands that acceptance of funds under this Agreement constitutes acceptance of the authority of the Texas State Auditor's Office, or any successor agency (collectively, "**Auditor**"), to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds pursuant to Sections 51.9335(c), 73.115(c) and 74.008(c), *Education Code*. Contractor agrees to cooperate with the Auditor in the conduct of the audit or investigation including providing all records requested. Contractor will include this provision in all contracts with permitted subcontractors.

#### **4.13 Venue; Governing Law**

Travis County, Texas, shall be the proper place of venue for suit on or in respect of this Agreement. This Agreement and all of the rights and obligations of the parties hereto and all of the terms and conditions hereof shall be construed, interpreted and applied in accordance with and governed by and enforced under the laws of the State of Texas.

#### **4.14 Breach of Contract Claims**

4.14.1 To the extent that Chapter 2260, *Government Code*, as it may be amended from time to time ("**Chapter 2260**"), is applicable to this Agreement and is not preempted by other applicable law, the dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260 will be used, as further described herein, by University and Contractor to attempt to resolve any claim for breach of contract made by Contractor:

4.14.1.1 Contractor's claims for breach of this Agreement that the parties cannot resolve pursuant to other provisions of this Agreement or in the ordinary course of business will be submitted to the negotiation process provided

in subchapter B of Chapter 2260. To initiate the process, Contractor will submit written notice, as required by subchapter B of Chapter 2260, to University in accordance with the notice provisions in this Agreement. Contractor's notice will specifically state that the provisions of subchapter B of Chapter 2260 are being invoked, the date and nature of the event giving rise to the claim, the specific contract provision that University allegedly breached, the amount of damages Contractor seeks, and the method used to calculate the damages. Compliance by Contractor with subchapter B of Chapter 2260 is a required prerequisite to Contractor's filing of a contested case proceeding under subchapter C of Chapter 2260. The Chief Business Officer of University, or the other officer of University as may be designated from time to time by University by written notice thereof to Contractor in accordance with the notice provisions in this Agreement, will examine Contractor's claim and any counterclaim and negotiate with Contractor in an effort to resolve the claims.

4.14.1.2 If the parties are unable to resolve their disputes under Section 4.14.1.1, the contested case process provided in subchapter C of Chapter 2260 is Contractor's sole and exclusive process for seeking a remedy for any and all of Contractor's claims for breach of this Agreement by University.

4.14.1.3 Compliance with the contested case process provided in subchapter C of Chapter 2260 is a required prerequisite to seeking consent to sue from the Legislature under Chapter 107, *Civil Practices and Remedies Code*. The parties hereto specifically agree that (i) neither the execution of this Agreement by University nor any other conduct, action or inaction of any representative of University relating to this Agreement constitutes or is intended to constitute a waiver of University's or the state's sovereign immunity to suit and (ii) University has not waived its right to seek redress in the courts.

4.14.2 The submission, processing and resolution of Contractor's claim is governed by the published rules adopted by the Texas Attorney General pursuant to Chapter 2260, as currently effective, thereafter enacted or subsequently amended.

4.14.3 University and Contractor agree that any periods set forth in this Agreement for notice and cure of defaults are not waived.

#### **4.15 Compliance with Law**

Contractor will perform the Services in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local, laws, regulations, and ordinances. Contractor represents and warrants that neither Contractor nor any firm, corporation or institution represented by Contractor, or anyone acting for the firm, corporation or institution, (1) has violated the antitrust laws of the State of Texas, Chapter 15, *Business and Commerce Code*, or federal antitrust laws, or (2) has communicated directly or indirectly the content of Contractor's response to University's procurement solicitation to any competitor or any other person engaged in a similar line of business during the procurement process for this Agreement.

## 4.16 Records

Records of Contractor's costs, any reimbursable expenses pertaining to the Services and payments will be available to University or its authorized representative during business hours and will be retained for four (4) years after final payment or abandonment of the Services, unless University otherwise instructs Contractor in writing.

## 4.17 Insurance

4.17.1 Contractor, consistent with its status as an independent contractor will carry and will cause its subcontractors to carry, at least the following insurance, with companies authorized to do insurance business in the State of Texas or eligible surplus lines insurers operating in accordance with the Texas Insurance Code, having an A.M. Best Rating of A-:VII or better, and in amounts not less than the following minimum limits of coverage:

4.17.1.1 Workers' Compensation Insurance with statutory limits, and Employer's Liability Insurance with limits of not less than \$1,000,000:

Employers Liability - Each Accident	\$1,000,000
Employers Liability - Each Employee	\$1,000,000
Employers Liability - Policy Limit	\$1,000,000

Workers' Compensation policy must include any state in which Work is to be performed for University.

4.17.1.2 Commercial General Liability Insurance with limits of not less than:

Each Occurrence Limit	\$1,000,000
Damage to Rented Premises	\$ 300,000
Personal & Advertising Injury	\$1,000,000
General Aggregate	\$2,000,000
Products - Completed Operations Aggregate	\$2,000,000

The required Commercial General Liability policy will be issued on a form that insures Contractor's and subcontractor's liability for bodily injury (including death), property damage, personal and advertising injury assumed under the terms of this Agreement.

4.17.1.3 Business Auto Liability Insurance covering all owned, non-owned or hired automobiles, with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 single limit of liability per accident for Bodily Injury and Property Damage;

4.17.1.4 Umbrella/Excess Liability Insurance with limits of not less than \$2,000,000 per occurrence and aggregate with a deductible of no more than \$10,000, and will be excess over and at least as broad as the underlying coverage as required under sections 5.1.1 Employer's Liability; 5.1.2 Commercial General Liability;

4.17.1.6 Professional Liability (Errors & Omissions) Insurance with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 each occurrence, \$3,000,000 aggregate. Such insurance will cover all Work performed by or on behalf of Contractor and its subcontractors under this Agreement. Renewal policies written

on a claims-made basis will maintain the same retroactive date as in effect at the inception of this Agreement. If coverage is written on a claims-made basis, Contractor agrees to purchase an Extended Reporting Period Endorsement, effective twenty-four (24) months after the expiration or cancellation of the policy. No Professional Liability policy written on an occurrence form will include a sunset or similar clause that limits coverage unless such clause provides coverage for at least twenty-four (24) months after the expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason.

4.17.2 Contractor will deliver to University:

4.17.2.1 Evidence of insurance on a Texas Department of Insurance approved certificate form verifying the existence and actual limits of all required insurance policies after the execution and delivery of this Agreement and prior to the performance of any Work by Contractor under this Agreement. Additional evidence of insurance will be provided verifying the continued existence of all required insurance no later than thirty (30) days after each annual insurance policy renewal.

4.17.2.1.1 **All insurance policies** (with the exception of workers' compensation, employer's liability and professional liability) will be endorsed and name the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System and University as Additional Insureds for liability caused in whole or in part by Contractor's acts or omissions with respect to its on-going and completed operations up to the actual liability limits of the required insurance policies maintained by Contractor. Commercial General Liability Additional Insured endorsement including ongoing and completed operations coverage will be submitted with the Certificates of Insurance. Commercial General Liability and Business Auto Liability will be endorsed to provide primary and non-contributory coverage.

4.17.2.1.2 Contractor hereby waives all rights of subrogation against the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System and University. **All insurance policies** will be endorsed to provide a waiver of subrogation in favor of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas and University. No policy will be canceled until after thirty (30) days' unconditional written notice to University. **All insurance policies** will be endorsed to require the insurance carrier providing coverage to send notice to University thirty (30) days prior to any cancellation, material change, or non-renewal relating to any insurance policy required in this **Section 5**.

4.17.2.1.3 Contractor will pay any deductible or self-insured retention for any loss. Any self-insured retention must be declared to and approved by University prior to the performance of any Work by Contractor under this Agreement. All deductibles and self-insured retentions will be shown on the Certificates of Insurance.

4.17.2.1.4 Certificates of Insurance and Additional Insured Endorsements as required by this Agreement will be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the following University contact:

Name: Eric Agnew

Address: Office of Risk Management  
 The University of Texas System Administration  
 210 West 6th Street  
 Room B.140E  
 Austin, TX 78701

Facsimile Number: (512)499-4674

Email Address: eagnew@utsystem.edu

4.17.3 Contractor's or subcontractor's insurance will be primary to any insurance carried or self-insurance program established by University or the University of Texas System. Contractor's or subcontractor's insurance will be kept in force until all Work has been fully performed and accepted by University in writing. **Option:**, except as provided in this **Section 5.3.]**

4.17.3.1 Professional Liability Insurance coverage written on a claims-made basis requires Contractor to purchase an Extended Reporting Period Endorsement, effective for twenty-four (24) months after the expiration or cancellation of this policy.

#### 4.18 Indemnification

4.18.1 TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, CONTRACTOR WILL AND DOES HEREBY AGREE TO INDEMNIFY, PROTECT, DEFEND WITH COUNSEL APPROVED BY UNIVERSITY, AND HOLD HARMLESS UNIVERSITY AND INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES INCURRED IN INVESTIGATING, DEFENDING OR SETTLING ANY OF THE FOREGOING (COLLECTIVELY "**CLAIMS**") BY ANY PERSON OR ENTITY, ARISING OUT OF, CAUSED BY, OR RESULTING FROM CONTRACTOR'S PERFORMANCE UNDER OR BREACH OF THIS AGREEMENT AND THAT ARE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY ANY NEGLIGENT ACT, NEGLIGENT OMISSION OR WILLFUL MISCONDUCT OF CONTRACTOR, ANYONE DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY CONTRACTOR OR ANYONE FOR WHOSE ACTS CONTRACTOR MAY BE LIABLE. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION WILL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE ANY OTHER INDEMNIFICATION OR RIGHT WHICH ANY INDEMNITEE HAS BY LAW OR EQUITY. ALL PARTIES WILL BE ENTITLED TO BE REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE.

4.18.2 IN ADDITION, CONTRACTOR WILL AND DOES HEREBY AGREE TO INDEMNIFY, PROTECT, DEFEND WITH COUNSEL APPROVED BY UNIVERSITY, AND HOLD HARMLESS INDEMNITEES FROM AND AGAINST ALL CLAIMS ARISING FROM INFRINGEMENT OR ALLEGED INFRINGEMENT OF ANY PATENT, COPYRIGHT, TRADEMARK OR OTHER PROPRIETARY INTEREST ARISING BY OR OUT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES OR THE PROVISION OF GOODS BY CONTRACTOR, OR THE USE BY INDEMNITEES, AT THE DIRECTION OF CONTRACTOR, OF ANY ARTICLE OR MATERIAL; PROVIDED, THAT, UPON BECOMING AWARE OF A SUIT OR THREAT OF SUIT FOR INFRINGEMENT, UNIVERSITY WILL PROMPTLY NOTIFY CONTRACTOR AND CONTRACTOR WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT. IN THE EVENT OF LITIGATION, UNIVERSITY AGREES TO REASONABLY COOPERATE WITH CONTRACTOR. ALL PARTIES WILL BE ENTITLED TO BE REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE.

**4.19 Ethics Matters; No Financial Interest**

Contractor and its employees, agents, representatives and subcontractors have read and understand University's Conflicts of Interest Policy available at: <http://www.utsystem.edu/policy/policies/int160.html> University's Standards of Conduct Guide available: <http://www.utsystem.edu/systemcompliance/SOCcombined.pdf>, and applicable state ethics laws and rules available at [www.utsystem.edu/ogc/ethics](http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/ethics). Neither Contractor nor its employees, agents, representatives or subcontractors will assist or cause University employees to violate University's Conflicts of Interest Policy, provisions described by University's Standards of Conduct Guide, or applicable state ethics laws or rules. Contractor represents and warrants that no member of the Board has a direct or indirect financial interest in the transaction that is the subject of this Agreement.

#### 4.20 Undocumented Workers

The *Immigration and Nationality Act* (8 *United States Code* 1324a) (“**Immigration Act**”) makes it unlawful for an employer to hire or continue employment of undocumented workers. The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Service has established the Form I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification Form (“**I-9 Form**”) as the document to be used for employment eligibility verification (8 *Code of Federal Regulations* 274a). Among other things, Contractor is required to: (1) have all employees complete and sign the I-9 Form certifying that they are eligible for employment; (2) examine verification documents required by the I-9 Form to be presented by the employee and ensure the documents appear to be genuine and related to the individual; (3) record information about the documents on the I-9 Form, and complete the certification portion of the I-9 Form; and (4) retain the I-9 Form as required by law. It is illegal to discriminate against any individual (other than a citizen of another country who is not authorized to work in the United States) in hiring, discharging, or recruiting because of that individual's national origin or citizenship status. If Contractor employs unauthorized workers during performance of this Agreement in violation of the Immigration Act then, in addition to other remedies or penalties prescribed by law, University may terminate this Agreement in accordance with **Section 4.28**. Contractor represents and warrants that it is in compliance with and agrees that it will remain in compliance with the provisions of the Immigration Act.

#### 4.21 Force Majeure

Neither party hereto will be liable or responsible to the other for any loss or damage or for any delays or failure to perform due to causes beyond its reasonable control including acts of God, strikes, epidemics, war, riots, flood, fire, sabotage, or any other circumstances of like character (“**force majeure occurrence**”).

#### 4.22 Entire Agreement; Modifications

This Agreement supersedes all prior agreements, written or oral, between Contractor and University and will constitute the entire agreement and understanding between the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement. This Agreement and each of its provisions will be binding upon the parties and may not be waived, modified, amended or altered except by a writing signed by both University and Contractor.

#### 4.23 Captions

The captions of sections and subsections in this Agreement are for convenience only and will not be considered or referred to in resolving questions of interpretation or construction.

#### 4.24 Waivers

No delay or omission in exercising any right accruing upon a default in performance of this Agreement will impair any right or be construed to be a waiver of any right. A waiver of any default under this Agreement will not be construed to be a waiver of any subsequent default under this Agreement.

#### 4.25 Ownership and Use of Work Material

- 4.25.1 All drawings, specifications, plans, computations, sketches, data, photographs, tapes, renderings, models, publications, statements, accounts, reports, studies, and other materials prepared by Contractor or any subcontractors in connection with the Services (collectively, "**Work Material**"), whether or not accepted or rejected by University, are the sole property of University and for its exclusive use and re-use at any time without further compensation and without any restrictions.
- 4.25.2 Contractor grants and assigns to University all rights and claims of whatever nature and whether now or hereafter arising in and to the Work Material and will cooperate fully with University in any steps University may take to obtain or enforce patent, copyright, trademark or like protections with respect to the Work Material.
- 4.25.3 Contractor will deliver all Work Material to University upon expiration or termination of this Agreement. University will have the right to use the Work Material for the completion of the Services or otherwise. University may, at all times, retain the originals of the Work Material. The Work Material will not to be used by any person other than University on other projects unless expressly authorized by University in writing.
- 4.25.4 The Work Material will not be used or published by Contractor or any other party unless expressly authorized by University in writing. Contractor will treat all Work Material as confidential.

#### 4.26 Confidentiality and Safeguarding of University Records; Press Releases; Public Information

Under this Agreement, Contractor may (1) create, (2) receive from or on behalf of University, or (3) have access to, records or record systems (collectively, "**University Records**"). Among other things, University Records may contain social security numbers, credit card numbers, or data protected or made confidential or sensitive by Applicable Laws. Contractor represents, warrants, and agrees that it will: (1) hold University Records in strict confidence and will not use or disclose University Records except as (a) permitted or required by this Agreement, (b) required by Applicable Laws, or (c) otherwise authorized by University in writing; (2) safeguard University Records according to reasonable administrative, physical and technical standards (such as standards established by (i) the National Institute of Standards and Technology and (ii) the Center for Internet Security, as well as the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards) that are no less rigorous than the standards by which Contractor protects its own confidential information; (3) continually monitor its operations and take any action necessary to assure that University Records are safeguarded and the confidentiality of University Records is maintained in accordance with all Applicable Laws, including FERPA and the Gramm-Leach Bliley Act, and the terms of this Agreement; and (4) comply with the University's rules, policies, and procedures regarding access to and use of University's computer systems, including UTS 165 at <http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/procedures/policy/policies/uts165.html>. At the request of University, Contractor agrees to provide University with a written summary of the procedures Contractor uses to safeguard and maintain the confidentiality of University Records.

- 4.26.1 **Notice of Impermissible Use.** If an impermissible use or disclosure of any University Records occurs, Contractor will provide written notice to University within one (1) business day after Contractor's discovery of that use or disclosure.



Contractor will promptly provide University with all information requested by University regarding the impermissible use or disclosure.

- 4.26.2 **Return of University Records.** Contractor agrees that within thirty (30) days after the expiration or termination of this Agreement, for any reason, all University Records created or received from or on behalf of University will be (1) returned to University, with no copies retained by Contractor; or (2) if return is not feasible, destroyed. Twenty (20) days before destruction of any University Records, Contractor will provide University with written notice of Contractor's intent to destroy University Records. Within five (5) days after destruction, Contractor will confirm to University in writing the destruction of University Records.
- 4.26.3 **Disclosure.** If Contractor discloses any University Records to a subcontractor or agent, Contractor will require the subcontractor or agent to comply with the same restrictions and obligations as are imposed on Contractor by this Section.
- 4.26.4 **Press Releases.** Except when defined as part of the Services, Contractor will not make any press releases, public statements, or advertisement referring to the Project or the engagement of Contractor as an independent contractor of University in connection with the Project, or release any information relative to the Project for publication, advertisement or any other purpose without the prior written approval of University.
- 4.26.5 **Public Information.** University strictly adheres to all statutes, court decisions and the opinions of the Texas Attorney General with respect to disclosure of public information under the *Texas Public Information Act* ("TPIA"), Chapter 552, *Texas Government Code*. In accordance with Section 552.002 of TPIA and Section 2252.907, *Texas Government Code*, and at no additional charge to University, Contractor will make any information created or exchanged with University pursuant to this Agreement (and not otherwise exempt from disclosure under TPIA) available in a format reasonably requested by University that is accessible by the public.
- 4.26.6 **Termination.** In addition to any other termination rights set forth in this Agreement and any other rights at law or equity, if University reasonably determines that Contractor has breached any of the restrictions or obligations set forth in this Section, University may immediately terminate this Agreement without notice or opportunity to cure.
- 4.26.7 **Duration.** The restrictions and obligations under this Section will survive expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason.

#### 4.28 Default and Termination

- 4.28.1 In the event of a material failure by a party to this Agreement to perform in accordance with the terms of this Agreement ("**default**"), the other party may terminate this Agreement upon fifteen (15) days' written notice of termination setting forth the nature of the material failure; provided, that, the material failure is through no fault of the terminating party. The termination will not be effective if the material failure is fully cured prior to the end of the fifteen-day period.
- 4.28.2 University may, without cause, terminate this Agreement at any time upon giving seven (7) days' advance written notice to Contractor. Upon termination pursuant to

this Section, Contractor will be entitled to payment of an amount that will compensate Contractor for the Services satisfactorily performed from the time of the last payment date to the termination date in accordance with this Agreement; provided, that, Contractor has delivered all Work Material to University. Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement to the contrary, University will not be required to pay or reimburse Contractor for any services performed or for expenses incurred by Contractor after the date of the termination notice that could have been avoided or mitigated by Contractor.

4.28.3 Termination under **Sections 4.28.1** or **4.28.2** will not relieve Contractor from liability for any default or breach under this Agreement or any other act or omission of Contractor.

4.28.4 If Contractor fails to cure any default within fifteen (15) days after receiving written notice of the default, University will be entitled (but will not be obligated) to cure the default and will have the right to offset against all amounts due to Contractor under this Agreement, any and all reasonable expenses incurred in connection with University's curative actions.

4.28.5 In the event that this Agreement is terminated, then within thirty (30) days after termination, Contractor will reimburse University for all fees paid by University to Contractor that were (a) not earned by Contractor prior to termination, or (b) for goods or services that University did not receive from Contractor prior to termination.

#### **4.29 Binding Effect**

This Agreement will be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective permitted assigns and successors.

#### **4.30 Severability**

In case any provision of this Agreement will, for any reason, be held invalid or unenforceable in any respect, the invalidity or unenforceability will not affect any other provision of this Agreement, and this Agreement will be construed as if the invalid or unenforceable provision had not been included.

#### **4.31 Limitation of Liability**

EXCEPT FOR UNIVERSITY'S OBLIGATION (IF ANY) TO PAY CONTRACTOR CERTAIN FEES AND EXPENSES UNIVERSITY WILL HAVE NO LIABILITY TO CONTRACTOR OR TO ANYONE CLAIMING THROUGH OR UNDER CONTRACTOR BY REASON OF THE EXECUTION OR PERFORMANCE OF THIS AGREEMENT. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY DUTY OR OBLIGATION OF UNIVERSITY TO CONTRACTOR OR TO ANYONE CLAIMING THROUGH OR UNDER CONTRACTOR, NO PRESENT OR FUTURE AFFILIATED ENTERPRISE, SUBCONTRACTOR, AGENT, OFFICER, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYEE, REPRESENTATIVE, ATTORNEY OR REGENT OF UNIVERSITY, OR THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM, OR ANYONE CLAIMING UNDER UNIVERSITY HAS OR WILL HAVE ANY PERSONAL LIABILITY TO CONTRACTOR OR TO ANYONE CLAIMING THROUGH OR UNDER CONTRACTOR BY REASON OF THE EXECUTION OR PERFORMANCE OF THIS AGREEMENT.

#### 4.32 Assignment and Subcontracting

Except as specifically provided in **Exhibit 2**, Historically Underutilized Business Subcontracting Plan, attached and incorporated for all purposes, Contractor's interest in this Agreement (including Contractor's duties and obligations under this Agreement, and the fees due to Contractor under this Agreement) may not be subcontracted, assigned, delegated, or otherwise transferred to a third party, in whole or in part, and any attempt to do so will (a) not be binding on University; and (b) be a breach of this Agreement for which Contractor will be subject to all remedial actions provided by Texas law, including Chapter 2161, *Government Code*, and 34 Texas Administrative Code ("**TAC**") Sections 20.101 through 20.108. The benefits and burdens of this Agreement are assignable by University.

#### 4.33 Historically Underutilized Business Subcontracting Plan

**Historically Underutilized Business Subcontracting Plan.** Contractor agrees to use good faith efforts to subcontract the Services in accordance with the Historically Underutilized Business Subcontracting Plan ("**HSP**") (ref. **Exhibit 2**). Contractor agrees to maintain business records documenting its compliance with the HSP and to submit a monthly compliance report to University in the format required by Texas Procurement and Support Services Division of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts or any successor agency (collectively, "**TPSS**"). Submission of compliance reports will be required as a condition for payment under this Agreement. If University determines that Contractor has failed to subcontract as set out in the HSP, University will notify Contractor of any deficiencies and give Contractor an opportunity to submit documentation and explain why the failure to comply with the HSP should not be attributed to a lack of good faith effort by Contractor. If University determines that Contractor failed to implement the HSP in good faith, University, in addition to any other remedies, may report nonperformance to the TPSS in accordance with 34 TAC Sections 20.101 through 20.108. University may also revoke this Agreement for breach and make a claim against Contractor.

4.33.1 **Changes to the HSP.** If at any time during the term of this Agreement, Contractor desires to change the HSP, before the proposed changes become effective (a) Contractor must comply with 34 TAC Section 20.14; (b) the changes must be reviewed and approved by University; and (c) if University approves changes to the HSP, this Agreement must be amended in accordance with **Section 4.19** to replace the HSP with the revised subcontracting plan.

4.33.2 **Expansion of the Services.** If University expands the scope of the Services through a change order or any other amendment, University will determine if the additional Services contains probable subcontracting opportunities *not* identified in the initial solicitation for the Services. If University determines additional probable subcontracting opportunities exist, Contractor will submit an amended subcontracting plan covering those opportunities. The amended subcontracting plan must comply with the provisions of 34 TAC Section 20.14 before (a) this Agreement may be amended to include the additional Services; or (b) Contractor may perform the additional Services. If Contractor subcontracts any of the additional subcontracting opportunities identified by University without prior authorization and without complying with 34 TAC Section 20.14, Contractor will be deemed to be in breach of this Agreement under **Section 4.28** and will be subject to any remedial actions provided by Texas law including Chapter 2161, *Government Code* and 34 TAC Section 20.14. University may report nonperformance under this Agreement to the TPSS in accordance with 34 TAC Sections 20.101 through 20.108.

#### **4.34 Responsibility for Individuals Performing Services; Criminal Background Checks**

Each individual who is assigned to perform the Services under this Agreement will be an employee of Contractor or an employee of a subcontractor engaged by Contractor. Contractor is responsible for the performance of all individuals performing the Services under this Agreement. Prior to commencing the Services, Contractor will (1) provide University with a list ("**List**") of all individuals who may be assigned to perform the Services, and (2) have an appropriate criminal background screening performed on all the individuals. Contractor will determine on a case-by-case basis whether each individual assigned to perform the Services is qualified to provide the services. Contractor will not knowingly assign any individual to provide services on University's campus who has a history of criminal conduct unacceptable for a university campus or healthcare center, including violent or sexual offenses. Contractor will update the List each time there is a change in the individuals assigned to perform the Services.

Prior to commencing performance of the Services under this Agreement, Contractor will provide University a letter signed by an authorized representative of Contractor certifying compliance with this Section. Contractor will provide University an updated certification letter each time there is a change in the individuals assigned to perform the Services.

#### **4.35 Limitations**

THE PARTIES ARE AWARE THAT THERE ARE CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY LIMITATIONS ON THE AUTHORITY OF UNIVERSITY (A STATE AGENCY) TO ENTER INTO CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS THAT MAY BE A PART OF THIS AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THOSE TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO LIENS ON UNIVERSITY'S PROPERTY; DISCLAIMERS AND LIMITATIONS OF WARRANTIES; DISCLAIMERS AND LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES; WAIVERS, DISCLAIMERS AND LIMITATIONS OF LEGAL RIGHTS, REMEDIES, REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESSES; LIMITATIONS OF PERIODS TO BRING LEGAL ACTION; GRANTING CONTROL OF LITIGATION OR SETTLEMENT TO ANOTHER PARTY; LIABILITY FOR ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF THIRD PARTIES; PAYMENT OF ATTORNEYS' FEES; DISPUTE RESOLUTION; INDEMNITIES; AND CONFIDENTIALITY (COLLECTIVELY, THE "**LIMITATIONS**"), AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO THE LIMITATIONS WILL NOT BE BINDING ON UNIVERSITY EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT AUTHORIZED BY THE LAWS AND CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS.

#### **4.36 Survival of Provisions**

No expiration or termination of this Agreement will relieve either party of any obligations under this Agreement that by their nature survive such expiration or termination.

#### **4.37 Relationship of the Parties**

For all purposes of this Agreement and notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, Contractor is an independent contractor and is not a state employee, partner, joint venturer, or agent of University. Contractor will not bind nor attempt to bind University to any agreement or contract. As an independent contractor, Contractor is solely responsible for all taxes, withholdings, and other statutory or contractual obligations of any sort, including workers' compensation insurance.

#### **4.40 External Terms**

This Agreement completely supplants, replaces, and overrides all other terms and conditions or agreements, written or oral, concerning Contractor's performance or provision

of goods or services under this Agreement (“**External Terms**”). The External Terms are null and void and will have no effect under this Agreement, regardless of whether University or its employees, contractors, or agents express assent or agreement to the External Terms. The External Terms include any shrinkwrap, clickwrap, browsewrap, web-based terms and conditions of use, and any other terms and conditions displayed in any format that University or its employees, contractors, or agents are required to accept or agree to before or in the course of accessing or using any goods or services provided by Contractor.

#### **4.41 Certifications of Nonsegregated Facilities and Equal Employment Opportunities Compliance**

Contractor certifies that, except for restrooms and wash rooms and one (1) or more lactation rooms each of which is segregated on the basis of sex: (1) it does not maintain or provide for its employees any segregated facilities at any of its establishments and that it does not permit its employees to perform their services at any location under its control where segregated facilities are maintained; (2) it will not maintain or provide for its employees any segregated facilities at any of its establishments; and (3) it will not permit its employees to perform their services at any location under its control where segregated facilities are maintained. A breach of this certification is a violation of the Equal Opportunity clause. The term "**segregated facilities**" means any waiting rooms, work areas, rest rooms and wash rooms, entertainment areas, and transportation or housing facilities provided for employees which are segregated by explicit directive or are in fact segregated on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, because of habit, local custom, or otherwise. Contractor further agrees that, except where it has contracts prior to the award with subcontractors exceeding \$10,000.00 which are not exempt from the provisions of the Equal Opportunity clause, Contractor will retain the certifications for each one of its subcontractors in Contractor's files, and that it will forward the following notice to all proposed subcontractors (except where the proposed subcontractors have submitted identical certifications for specific time periods):

NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE SUBCONTRACTORS OF REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATIONS OF NONSEGREGATED FACILITIES - A Certification on Nonsegregated Facilities must be submitted prior to the award of any subcontract exceeding \$10,000.00 which is not exempt from the provisions of the Equal Opportunity clause. The certification may be submitted either for each subcontract or for all subcontracts during a period (i.e. quarterly, semiannually, or annually).

Contractor understands that the penalty for making false statements regarding the subject matters of this Section is prescribed in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

#### 4.42 Debarment

Contractor confirms that neither Contractor nor its Principals are suspended, debarred, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the award of contracts from United States (“**U.S.**”) federal government procurement or nonprocurement programs, or are listed in the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement or Nonprocurement Programs (<http://www.sam.gov/>) issued by the U.S. General Services Administration. “**Principals**” means officers, directors, owners, partners, and persons having primary management or supervisory responsibilities within a business entity (e.g. general manager, plant manager, head of a subsidiary, division or business segment, and similar positions). Contractor will provide immediate written notification to University if, at any time prior to award, Contractor learns that this certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when University executes this Agreement. If it is later determined that Contractor knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to the other remedies available to University, University may terminate this Agreement for default by Contractor.

#### 4.43 Office of Inspector General Certification

Contractor acknowledges that University is prohibited by federal regulations from allowing any employee, representative, agent or subcontractor of Contractor to work on site at University's premises or facilities if that individual is not eligible to work on federal healthcare programs including Medicare, Medicaid, or other similar federal programs. Therefore, Contractor will not assign any employee, representative, agent or subcontractor that appears on the List of Excluded Individuals issued by the United States Office of the Inspector General ("**OIG**") to work on site at University's premises or facilities. Contractor will perform an **OIG** sanctions check quarterly on each of its employees, representatives, agents, and subcontractors during the time the employees, representatives, agents, or subcontractors are assigned to work on site at University's premises or facilities. Contractor acknowledges that University will require immediate removal of any employee, representative, agent, or subcontractor of Contractor assigned to work at University's premises or facilities if the employee, representative, agent, or subcontractor is found to be on the **OIG**'s List of Excluded Individuals. The **OIG**'s List of Excluded Individuals may be accessed through the following Internet website: <http://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov/>

#### 4.44 Access to Documents

To the extent applicable to this Agreement, in accordance with Section 1861(v)(l)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) as amended, and the provisions of 42 CFR Section 420.300, et seq., Contractor will allow, during and for a period of not less than four (4) years after the expiration or termination of this Agreement, access to this Agreement and its books, documents, and records; and contracts between Contractor and its subcontractors or related organizations, including books, documents and records relating to same, by the Comptroller General of the United States, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and their duly authorized representatives.

#### 4.45 Affirmative Action

A written copy of Contractor's Civil Rights "**Affirmative Action Compliance Program**" is attached as **Exhibit** \_\_\_\_ to this Agreement and incorporated for all purposes, or if Contractor is not required to have such a written program, the reason Contractor is not subject to such requirement is attached as **Exhibit** \_\_\_\_ to this Agreement and incorporated for all purposes.

#### 4.46 OSHA Compliance

To the extent applicable to the services to be performed under this Agreement, Contractor represents and warrants, that all articles and services furnished under this Agreement meet or exceed the safety standards established and promulgated under the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Law (Public Law 91-598) and its regulations in effect or proposed as of the date of this Agreement.

#### 4.47 Discrimination Prohibited

UNIVERSITY AND CONTRACTOR WILL ABIDE BY THE REQUIREMENTS OF 41 CFR 60-1.4(A), 60-300.5(A) AND 60-741.5(A) (COLLECTIVELY, THE “**REGULATIONS**”). THE REGULATIONS (1) PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS BASED ON THEIR STATUS AS PROTECTED VETERANS OR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, AND (2) PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ALL INDIVIDUALS BASED ON THEIR RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN. MOREOVER, THE REGULATIONS REQUIRE THAT UNIVERSITY AND CONTRACTOR TAKE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO EMPLOY AND ADVANCE IN EMPLOYMENT, INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN, PROTECTED VETERAN STATUS OR DISABILITY.

#### **4.48 FERPA Compliance**

Some of the University Records Contractor receives, creates or maintains for or on behalf of University constitute “Education Records” (as defined by FERPA), or “Personally Identifiable Information from Education Records” (as defined by FERPA) (collectively “**FERPA Data**”). Before Contractor may access, create or maintain any of University’s FERPA Data, Contractor must execute the FERPA compliance contract addendum (“**FERPA Confidentiality and Security Addendum**”), attached as **EXHIBIT A**, FERPA Confidentiality and Security Addendum, and incorporated for all purposes. The FERPA Confidentiality and Security Addendum contains terms required by University to ensure that Contractor complies with FERPA (including the requirements of 34 CFR § 99.33(a)) and University’s rules, policies, and procedures related to FERPA, including (i) a description of all FERPA Data subject to this Agreement, and (ii) recognition that University retains the right to control Contractor’s access, use, and disclosure of all FERPA Data. Except to the extent **Section 4.26** conflicts with the FERPA Confidentiality and Security Addendum, Contractor will comply with **Section 4.26** in connection with all FERPA Data. To the extent that the FERPA Confidentiality and Security Addendum conflicts with any term contained in this Agreement, the terms of the FERPA Confidentiality and Security Addendum will control.



**AGREED TO AND SIGNED BY THE PARTIES.**

**The University of Texas System Administration**

**Contractor**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SECTION 5

**SPECIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS****5.1 General**

The minimum requirements and the specifications for the Services, as well as certain requests for information to be provided by Proposer as part of its proposal, are set forth below. As indicated in **Section 2.3** of this RFP, the successful Proposer is referred to as the “**Contractor.**”

**5.2** Each Proposal must include information that clearly indicates that Proposer meets each of the following minimum qualification requirements:

- 5.2.1 Demonstrated competence in performing one or more of: unemployment claims management; employment and income verifications; Affordable Care Act (ACA) Compliance; or Form I-9 verification services.
- 5.2.2 Demonstrated competence in protecting the privacy and security of UT System data, collected or maintained by the vendor on System’s behalf, in compliance with applicable law and System’s own privacy and security requirements.

**5.3 Additional Questions Specific to this RFP**

Proposer must submit the following information as part of Proposer’s proposal:

- 5.3.1 If Proposer takes exception to any terms or conditions set forth in **Section 4** of this RFP, Proposer will submit a list of the exceptions.
- 5.3.2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.3.3 In its proposal, Proposer must indicate whether it will consent to include in the Agreement the “Access by Individuals with Disabilities” language that is set forth in **APPENDIX FOUR Access by Individuals with Disabilities**. If Proposer objects to the inclusion of the “Access by Individuals with Disabilities” language in the Agreement, Proposer must, as part of its proposal, specifically identify and describe in detail all of the reasons for Proposer’s objection. NOTE THAT A GENERAL OBJECTION IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION.
- 5.3.4 In its proposal, Proposer must respond to each item listed in **APPENDIX FIVE, Electronic and Information Resources (“EIR”) Environment Specifications**. **APPENDIX FIVE** will establish specifications, representations, warranties and agreements related to the EIR that Proposer is offering to provide to University. Responses to **APPENDIX FIVE** will be incorporated into the Agreement and will be binding on Contractor.

Pursuant to UTS165, “**Information Resources**” means any and all computer printouts, online display devices, mass storage media, and all computer-related activities involving any device capable of receiving email, browsing Web sites, or otherwise capable of

receiving, storing, managing, or transmitting Data including, but not limited to, mainframes, servers, Network Infrastructure, personal computers, notebook computers, hand-held computers, personal digital assistant (PDA), pagers, distributed processing systems, network attached and computer controlled medical and laboratory equipment (i.e. embedded technology), telecommunication resources, network environments, telephones, fax machines, printers and service bureaus. Additionally, it is the procedures, equipment, facilities, software, and Data that are designed, built, operated, and maintained to create, collect, record, process, store, retrieve, display, and transmit information.

Pursuant to UTS165, "**Data**" means recorded data, regardless of form or media in which it may be recorded, which constitute the original data necessary to support the business of UT System or original observations and methods of a study and the analyses of such original data that are necessary to support research activities and validate research findings. Data includes, but is not limited to: printed records, observations and notes; electronic data; video and audio records, photographs and negatives:

5.3.6 In its proposal, Proposer must respond to each item listed in **APPENDIX SIX, Security Characteristics and Functionality of Contractor's Information Resources**. **APPENDIX SIX** will establish specifications, representations, warranties and agreements related to the EIR that Proposer is offering to provide to University. Responses to **APPENDIX SIX** will be incorporated into the Agreement and will be binding on Contractor.

#### 5.4 Scope of Work

Proposer will provide to University one or more of the services outlined below.

5.4.1 The Proposer will provide comprehensive unemployment claims management services for the UT System institutions including the following:

5.4.1.1 Provide a secure process for uploading employment data from UT System Institutions into the Proposer's database including employee payroll and separation data.

5.4.1.2 Implement an Electronic Data Information Exchange (EDIE) for Unemployment Insurance information between UT System and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). If an interface with TWC does not exist then Proposer should indicate how they will convert TWC data into electronic records.

5.4.1.3 Provide UT System with access to an electronic unemployment claim management system. Access should include the ability to run standard and ad hoc reports with the option to export the data in standard formats.

5.4.1.4 Processing of all unemployment claim forms; responding promptly and accurately to all claim inquiries and working closely with UT institution (employer) representatives to develop any information for a timely and effective response to the initial claim.

5.4.1.5 Auditing of the claimant's eligibility, UT System's liability, and the benefit period for each claim.

5.4.1.6 Counseling and representation at all levels of unemployment compensation appeal hearings before the TWC.

- 5.4.1.7 Auditing of all benefit charges assessed against UT System and protesting of all improper charges. This would include providing a timely review and concurrence of corrections to Quarterly Statement of Benefits.
- 5.4.1.8 Evaluate all pertinent UT System Unemployment Compensation procedures. Make annual written and verbal recommendations to improve the unemployment claims process.
- 5.4.1.9 Provide an initial training seminar for to up to 50 institution representatives to cover the implementation plan, ongoing claim management and other services to be included in the contract.
- 5.4.1.10 Keep UT System representatives apprised of legislative changes impacting unemployment claims management with on-going education updates at least quarterly.
- 5.4.1.11 Maintain data security over UT System employment data in their possession, complying with best industry practices, applicable laws and UT System policies.
- 5.4.2 The proposer will provide\_Employment Verification services including the following:
  - 5.4.2.1 Provide employment, wage and social services verification services\_for University employees to third parties using data provided by the University in accordance with applicable laws and system policies.
  - 5.4.2.2 Provide a secure process for uploading payroll and employment data from UT System Institutions into the Proposer's database.
  - 5.4.2.3 The Proposer will also be expected to provide any marketing materials required by the University during the service during the service rollout phase.
  - 5.4.2.4 Maintain data security over UT System payroll and employment data in their possession, complying with best industry practices, applicable laws and UT System policies
- 5.4.3 The proposer will provide\_Affordable Care Act Compliance including the following:
  - 5.4.3.1 Assist in meeting University's Employer Mandate to IRS required by the Affordable Care Act.
  - 5.4.3.2 Includes University's determination of full-time employee and eligibility determinations.
  - 5.4.3.3 Provide fulfillment of employee tax form processing and distribution, both electronically and hard copy.
  - 5.4.3.4 Identify the University's current employees (both full-time and part-time employees) who would qualify for health insurance coverage under ACA, and determine the financial impact thereof.
  - 5.4.3.5 Offer a tracking system which will monitor and report on ACA measurement periods (i.e. Look-back, Stability and Administrative).

- 5.4.3.6 Identify and account for any applicable employment break periods and/or periods of special leave for each University employee who is evaluated using the Look-Back Measurement Method.
- 5.4.3.7 Be able to account for University's employees who must be treated as new, ongoing, variable-hour, full-time, part-time and/or seasonal employees under ACA for purposes of applying the measurement method and periods for determining eligibility of health insurance benefits from the University.
- 5.4.3.8 Offer best practices for communications and official notification procedures.
- 5.4.3.9 Analyze and advise on safe harbor options under ACA for calculating the affordability of health insurance coverage in accordance with each eligible employee's income.
- 5.4.3.10 Provide the University with penalty analysis for failing to offer health insurance benefits as required by the ACA.
- 5.4.3.11 Support IRS 6055 and 6056 Reporting.
- 5.4.3.12 Provide impact modeling for planned changes in workforce.
- 5.4.4 The proposer will provide I-9 processing and onboarding services of new employees including the following:
  - 5.4.4.1 Provide a secure web accessed process for candidates to complete Section 1 of Form I-9 online with electronic signature.
  - 5.4.4.2 Provide a secure web accessed process for employer to review and complete Section 2 of Form I-9 with electronic signature, and record non-electronic receipt of Sections 1 and 2 of Form I-9, including upload of signed documents.
  - 5.4.4.3 Provide a secure process for employer to record electronic media copy of Form I-9 images and corresponding indexing text data on file.
  - 5.4.4.4 Provide ability for employer to view and print completed Form I-9.
  - 5.4.4.5 Provide a secure process for employer to use e-Verify and receive clearances.
  - 5.4.4.6 Provide a printed document to present to candidates with potential mis-matches for both SSA and DHS with an option to print in Spanish.
  - 5.4.4.7 Provide automated reports and re-verification notices for expiring documents.
  - 5.4.4.8 Provide secure system with multiple authorized employer users in remote locations.
  - 5.4.4.9 Provides secure access to employer to create reports from system data base.

The proposer may list other services related to employment data that they propose to offer that would add value to UT System.

**SECTION 6**

**PRICING AND DELIVERY SCHEDULE**

**Proposal of:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Proposer Company Name)

**To:** The University of Texas System Administration

**Ref.:** Professional Services related to Unemployment Claims Management, Affordable Care Act Compliance and Employment Related Services

**RFP No.:** ORM20151216

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Having carefully examined all the specifications and requirements of this RFP and any attachments thereto, the undersigned proposes to furnish the employment related services required pursuant to the above-referenced Request for Proposal upon the terms quoted below.

**6.1 Pricing for Services Offered**

Unemployment Claims Management Services: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment Verification Services: \_\_\_\_\_

Affordable Care Act Compliance Services: \_\_\_\_\_

I-9 Management Services: \_\_\_\_\_

**6.2 Delivery Schedule of Events and Time Periods**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**6.3 University's Payment Terms**

University's standard payment terms for services are "Net 30 days." Proposer agrees that University will be entitled to withhold \_\_\_\_\_ percent (\_\_\_\_\_% ) of the total payment due under the Agreement until after University's acceptance of the final work product. Indicate below the prompt payment discount that Proposer will provide to University:

Prompt Payment Discount: \_\_\_\_\_%\_\_\_\_\_days/net 30 days

Respectfully submitted,

**Proposer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorized Signature for Proposer)

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

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

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

**APPENDIX ONE**  
**PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS**

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## SECTION 1

GENERAL INFORMATION**1.1 Purpose**

University is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from Proposers having suitable qualifications and experience providing services in accordance with the terms, conditions and requirements set forth in this RFP. This RFP provides sufficient information for interested parties to prepare and submit proposals for consideration by University.

By submitting a proposal, Proposer certifies that it understands this RFP and has full knowledge of the scope, nature, quality, and quantity of the services to be performed, the detailed requirements of the services to be provided, and the conditions under which such services are to be performed. Proposer also certifies that it understands that all costs relating to preparing a response to this RFP will be the sole responsibility of the Proposer.

PROPOSER IS CAUTIONED TO READ THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS RFP CAREFULLY AND TO SUBMIT A COMPLETE RESPONSE TO ALL REQUIREMENTS AND QUESTIONS AS DIRECTED.

**1.2 Inquiries and Interpretations**

University may in its sole discretion respond in writing to written inquiries concerning this RFP and mail its response as an Addendum to all parties recorded by University as having received a copy of this RFP. Only University's responses that are made by formal written Addenda will be binding on University. Any verbal responses, written interpretations or clarifications other than Addenda to this RFP will be without legal effect. All Addenda issued by University prior to the Submittal Deadline will be and are hereby incorporated as a part of this RFP for all purposes.

Proposers are required to acknowledge receipt of each Addendum as specified in this Section. The Proposer must acknowledge all Addenda by completing, signing and returning the Addenda Checklist (ref. **Section 4 of APPENDIX ONE**). The Addenda Checklist must be received by University prior to the Submittal Deadline and should accompany the Proposer's proposal.

Any interested party that receives this RFP by means other than directly from University is responsible for notifying University that it has received an RFP package, and should provide its name, address, telephone number and FAX number to University, so that if University issues Addenda to this RFP or provides written answers to questions, that information can be provided to such party.

**1.3 Public Information**

Proposer is hereby notified that University strictly adheres to all statutes, court decisions and the opinions of the Texas Attorney General with respect to disclosure of public information.

University may seek to protect from disclosure all information submitted in response to this RFP until such time as a final agreement is executed.

Upon execution of a final agreement, University will consider all information, documentation, and other materials requested to be submitted in response to this RFP, to be of a non-confidential and non-proprietary nature and, therefore, subject to public disclosure under the *Texas Public Information Act* (*Government Code*, Chapter 552.001, et seq.). Proposer will be advised of a request for public information that implicates their materials and will have the opportunity to raise any objections to disclosure to the Texas Attorney General. Certain information may be protected from release under Sections 552.101, 552.110, 552.113, and 552.131, *Government Code*.

**1.4 Type of Agreement**

Contractor, if any, will be required to enter into a contract with University in a form that (i) includes terms and conditions substantially similar to the terms and conditions set forth in **Section 4** of this RFP, and (ii) is otherwise acceptable to University in all respects (the "**Agreement**").

**1.5 Proposal Evaluation Process**

University will select Contractor by using the competitive sealed proposal process described in this Section. University will open the HSP Envelope submitted by a Proposer prior to opening the Proposer's proposal in order to ensure that the Proposer has submitted the number of completed and signed originals of the Proposer's HUB Subcontracting Plan (also called the HSP) that are required by this RFP (ref. **Section 2.5.4** of the RFP.) All proposals submitted by the Submittal Deadline accompanied by the number of completed and signed originals of the HSP that are required by this RFP will be opened publicly to identify the name of each Proposer submitting a proposal. Any proposals that are not submitted by the Submittal Date or that are not accompanied by the number of completed and signed originals of the HSP that are required by this RFP will be rejected by University as non-responsive due to material failure to comply with advertised specifications. After the opening of the proposals and upon completion of the initial review and evaluation of the proposals, University may invite one or more selected Proposers to participate in oral presentations. University will use commercially reasonable efforts to avoid public disclosure of the contents of a proposal prior to selection of Contractor.

University may make the selection of Contractor on the basis of the proposals initially submitted, without discussion, clarification or modification. In the alternative, University may make the selection of Contractor on the basis of negotiation

with any of the Proposers. In conducting such negotiations, University will use commercially reasonable efforts to avoid disclosing the contents of competing proposals.

At University's sole option and discretion, University may discuss and negotiate all elements of the proposals submitted by selected Proposers within a specified competitive range. For purposes of negotiation, University may establish, after an initial review of the proposals, a competitive range of acceptable or potentially acceptable proposals composed of the highest rated proposal(s). In that event, University will defer further action on proposals not included within the competitive range pending the selection of Contractor; provided, however, University reserves the right to include additional proposals in the competitive range if deemed to be in the best interests of University.

After submission of a proposal but before final selection of Contractor is made, University may permit a Proposer to revise its proposal in order to obtain the Proposer's best and final offer. In that event, representations made by Proposer in its revised proposal, including price and fee quotes, will be binding on Proposer. University will provide each Proposer within the competitive range with an equal opportunity for discussion and revision of its proposal. University is not obligated to select the Proposer offering the most attractive economic terms if that Proposer is not the most advantageous to University overall, as determined by University.

University reserves the right to (a) enter into an agreement for all or any portion of the requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP with one or more Proposers, (b) reject any and all proposals and re-solicit proposals, or (c) reject any and all proposals and temporarily or permanently abandon this selection process, if deemed to be in the best interests of University. Proposer is hereby notified that University will maintain in its files concerning this RFP a written record of the basis upon which a selection, if any, is made by University.

#### **1.6 Proposer's Acceptance of Evaluation Methodology**

By submitting a proposal, Proposer acknowledges (1) Proposer's acceptance of [a] the Proposal Evaluation Process (ref. **Section 1.5** of **APPENDIX ONE**), [b] the Criteria for Selection (ref. **2.3** of this RFP), [c] the Specifications and Additional Questions (ref. **Section 5** of this RFP), [d] the terms and conditions set forth in **Section 4** of this RFP, and [e] all other requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP; and (2) Proposer's recognition that some subjective judgments must be made by University during this RFP process.

#### **1.7 Solicitation for Proposal and Proposal Preparation Costs**

Proposer understands and agrees that (1) this RFP is a solicitation for proposals and University has made no representation written or oral that one or more agreements with University will be awarded under this RFP; (2) University issues this RFP predicated on University's anticipated requirements for the Services, and University has made no representation, written or oral, that any particular scope of services will actually be required by University; and (3) Proposer will bear, as its sole risk and responsibility, any cost that arises from Proposer's preparation of a proposal in response to this RFP.

#### **1.8 Proposal Requirements and General Instructions**

- 1.8.1 Proposer should carefully read the information contained herein and submit a complete proposal in response to all requirements and questions as directed.
- 1.8.2 Proposals and any other information submitted by Proposer in response to this RFP will become the property of University.
- 1.8.3 University will not provide compensation to Proposer for any expenses incurred by the Proposer for proposal preparation or for demonstrations or oral presentations that may be made by Proposer. Proposer submits its proposal at its own risk and expense.
- 1.8.4 Proposals that (i) are qualified with conditional clauses; (ii) alter, modify, or revise this RFP in any way; or (iii) contain irregularities of any kind, are subject to disqualification by University, at University's sole discretion.
- 1.8.5 Proposals should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of Proposer's ability to meet the requirements and specifications of this RFP. Emphasis should be on completeness, clarity of content, and responsiveness to the requirements and specifications of this RFP.
- 1.8.6 University makes no warranty or guarantee that an award will be made as a result of this RFP. University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities, procedural requirements, or minor technical inconsistencies, and delete any requirement or specification from this RFP or the Agreement when deemed to be in University's best interest. University reserves the right to seek clarification from any Proposer concerning any item contained in its proposal prior to final selection. Such clarification may be provided by telephone conference or personal meeting with or writing to University, at University's sole discretion. Representations made by Proposer within its proposal will be binding on Proposer.
- 1.8.7 Any proposal that fails to comply with the requirements contained in this RFP may be rejected by University, in University's sole discretion.

## 1.9 Preparation and Submittal Instructions

### 1.9.1 Specifications and Additional Questions

Proposals must include responses to the questions in Specifications and Additional Questions (ref. **Section 5** of this RFP). Proposer should reference the item number and repeat the question in its response. In cases where a question does not apply or if unable to respond, Proposer should refer to the item number, repeat the question, and indicate N/A (Not Applicable) or N/R (No Response), as appropriate. Proposer should explain the reason when responding N/A or N/R.

### 1.9.2 Execution of Offer

Proposer must complete, sign and return the attached Execution of Offer (ref. **Section 2** of **APPENDIX ONE**) as part of its proposal. The Execution of Offer must be signed by a representative of Proposer duly authorized to bind the Proposer to its proposal. Any proposal received without a completed and signed Execution of Offer may be rejected by University, in its sole discretion.

### 1.9.3 Pricing and Delivery Schedule

Proposer must complete and return the Pricing and Delivery Schedule (ref. **Section 6** of this RFP), as part of its proposal. In the Pricing and Delivery Schedule, the Proposer should describe in detail (a) the total fees for the entire scope of the Services; and (b) the method by which the fees are calculated. The fees must be inclusive of all associated costs for delivery, labor, insurance, taxes, overhead, and profit.

University will not recognize or accept any charges or fees to perform the Services that are not specifically stated in the Pricing and Delivery Schedule.

In the Pricing and Delivery Schedule, Proposer should describe each significant phase in the process of providing the Services to University, and the time period within which Proposer proposes to be able to complete each such phase.

### 1.9.4 Proposer's General Questionnaire

Proposals must include responses to the questions in Proposer's General Questionnaire (ref. **Section 3** of **APPENDIX ONE**). Proposer should reference the item number and repeat the question in its response. In cases where a question does not apply or if unable to respond, Proposer should refer to the item number, repeat the question, and indicate N/A (Not Applicable) or N/R (No Response), as appropriate. Proposer should explain the reason when responding N/A or N/R.

### 1.9.5 Addenda Checklist

Proposer should acknowledge all Addenda to this RFP (if any) by completing, signing and returning the Addenda Checklist (ref. **Section 4** of **APPENDIX ONE**) as part of its proposal. Any proposal received without a completed and signed Addenda Checklist may be rejected by University, in its sole discretion.

### 1.9.6 Submission

Proposer should submit all proposal materials enclosed in a sealed envelope, box, or container. The RFP No. (ref. **Section 1.3** of this RFP) and the Submittal Deadline (ref. **Section 2.1** of this RFP) should be clearly shown in the lower left-hand corner on the top surface of the container. In addition, the name and the return address of the Proposer should be clearly visible.

Proposer must also submit the number of originals of the HUB Subcontracting Plan (also called the HSP) as required by this RFP (ref. **Section 2.5** of the RFP.)

Upon Proposer's request and at Proposer's expense, University will return to a Proposer its proposal received after the Submittal Deadline if the proposal is properly identified. University will not under any circumstances consider a proposal that is received after the Submittal Deadline or which is not accompanied by the number of completed and signed originals of the HSP that are required by this RFP.

University will not accept proposals submitted by telephone, proposals submitted by Facsimile ("FAX") transmission, or proposals submitted by electronic transmission (i.e., e-mail) in response to this RFP.

Except as otherwise provided in this RFP, no proposal may be changed, amended, or modified after it has been submitted to University. However, a proposal may be withdrawn and resubmitted at any time prior to the Submittal Deadline. No proposal may be withdrawn after the Submittal Deadline without University's consent, which will be based on Proposer's submittal of a written explanation and documentation evidencing a reason acceptable to University, in University's sole discretion.

By signing the Execution of Offer (ref. **Section 2** of **APPENDIX ONE**) and submitting a proposal, Proposer certifies that any terms, conditions, or documents attached to or referenced in its proposal are applicable to this procurement only to the extent that they (a) do not conflict with the laws of the State of Texas or this RFP and (b) do not place any requirements on University that are not set forth in this RFP or in the Appendices to this

RFP. Proposer further certifies that the submission of a proposal is Proposer's good faith intent to enter into the Agreement with University as specified herein and that such intent is not contingent upon University's acceptance or execution of any terms, conditions, or other documents attached to or referenced in Proposer's proposal.

## SECTION 2

**EXECUTION OF OFFER**

**THIS EXECUTION OF OFFER MUST BE COMPLETED, SIGNED AND RETURNED WITH PROPOSER'S PROPOSAL. FAILURE TO COMPLETE, SIGN AND RETURN THIS EXECUTION OF OFFER WITH THE PROPOSER'S PROPOSAL MAY RESULT IN THE REJECTION OF THE PROPOSAL.**

- 2.1 By signature hereon, Proposer represents and warrants the following:
- 2.1.1 Proposer acknowledges and agrees that (1) this RFP is a solicitation for a proposal and is not a contract or an offer to contract; (2) the submission of a proposal by Proposer in response to this RFP will not create a contract between University and Proposer; (3) University has made no representation or warranty, written or oral, that one or more contracts with University will be awarded under this RFP; and (4) Proposer will bear, as its sole risk and responsibility, any cost arising from Proposer's preparation of a response to this RFP.
  - 2.1.2 Proposer is a reputable company that is lawfully and regularly engaged in providing the Services.
  - 2.1.3 Proposer has the necessary experience, knowledge, abilities, skills, and resources to perform the Services.
  - 2.1.4 Proposer is aware of, is fully informed about, and is in full compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations and ordinances.
  - 2.1.5 Proposer understands (i) the requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP and (ii) the terms and conditions set forth in Section 4 of this RFP, under which Proposer will be required to operate.
  - 2.1.6 If selected by University, Proposer will not delegate any of its duties or responsibilities under this RFP or the Agreement to any sub-contractor, except as expressly provided in the Agreement.
  - 2.1.7 If selected by University, Proposer will maintain any insurance coverage as required by the Agreement during the term thereof.
  - 2.1.8 All statements, information and representations prepared and submitted in response to this RFP are current, complete, true and accurate. Proposer acknowledges that University will rely on such statements, information and representations in selecting Contractor. If selected by University, Proposer will notify University immediately of any material change in any matters with regard to which Proposer has made a statement or representation or provided information.
  - 2.1.9 PROPOSER WILL DEFEND WITH COUNSEL APPROVED BY UNIVERSITY, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM, THE STATE OF TEXAS, AND ALL OF THEIR REGENTS, OFFICERS, AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES, FROM AND AGAINST ALL ACTIONS, SUITS, DEMANDS, COSTS, DAMAGES, LIABILITIES AND OTHER CLAIMS OF ANY NATURE, KIND OR DESCRIPTION, INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES INCURRED IN INVESTIGATING, DEFENDING OR SETTLING ANY OF THE FOREGOING, ARISING OUT OF, CONNECTED WITH, OR RESULTING FROM ANY NEGLIGENT ACTS OR OMISSIONS OR WILLFUL MISCONDUCT OF PROPOSER OR ANY AGENT, EMPLOYEE, SUBCONTRACTOR, OR SUPPLIER OF PROPOSER IN THE EXECUTION OR PERFORMANCE OF ANY CONTRACT OR AGREEMENT RESULTING FROM THIS RFP.
  - 2.1.10 Pursuant to Sections 2107.008 and 2252.903, *Government Code*, any payments owing to Proposer under any contract or agreement resulting from this RFP may be applied directly to any debt or delinquency that Proposer owes the State of Texas or any agency of the State of Texas regardless of when it arises, until such debt or delinquency is paid in full.
- 2.2 By signature hereon, Proposer offers and agrees to furnish the Services to University and comply with all terms, conditions, requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP.
- 2.3 By signature hereon, Proposer affirms that it has not given or offered to give, nor does Proposer intend to give at any time hereafter, any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor or service to a public servant in connection with its submitted proposal. Failure to sign this Execution of Offer, or signing with a false statement, may void the submitted proposal or any resulting contracts, and the Proposer may be removed from all proposal lists at University.
- 2.4 By signature hereon, Proposer certifies that it is not currently delinquent in the payment of any taxes due under Chapter 171, *Tax Code*, or that Proposer is exempt from the payment of those taxes, or that Proposer is an out-of-state taxable entity that is not subject to those taxes, whichever is applicable. A false certification will be deemed a material breach of any resulting contract or agreement and, at University's option, may result in termination of any resulting contract or agreement.
- 2.5 By signature hereon, Proposer hereby certifies that neither Proposer nor any firm, corporation, partnership or institution represented by Proposer, or anyone acting for such firm, corporation or institution, has violated the antitrust laws of the State of Texas, codified in Section 15.01, et seq., *Business and Commerce Code*, or the Federal antitrust laws, nor communicated directly or indirectly the proposal made to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business.

- 2.6 By signature hereon, Proposer certifies that the individual signing this document and the documents made a part of this RFP, is authorized to sign such documents on behalf of Proposer and to bind Proposer under any agreements and other contractual arrangements that may result from the submission of Proposer's proposal.
- 2.7 By signature hereon, Proposer certifies as follows:  
 "Under Section 231.006, *Family Code*, relating to child support, Proposer certifies that the individual or business entity named in the Proposer's proposal is not ineligible to receive the specified contract award and acknowledges that any agreements or other contractual arrangements resulting from this RFP may be terminated if this certification is inaccurate."
- 2.8 By signature hereon, Proposer certifies that (i) no relationship, whether by blood, marriage, business association, capital funding agreement or by any other such kinship or connection exists between the owner of any Proposer that is a sole proprietorship, the officers or directors of any Proposer that is a corporation, the partners of any Proposer that is a partnership, the joint venturers of any Proposer that is a joint venture or the members or managers of any Proposer that is a limited liability company, on one hand, and an employee of any component of The University of Texas System, on the other hand, other than the relationships which have been previously disclosed to University in writing; (ii) Proposer has not been an employee of any component institution of The University of Texas System within the immediate twelve (12) months prior to the Submittal Deadline; and (iii) no person who, in the past four (4) years served as an executive of a state agency was involved with or has any interest in Proposer's proposal or any contract resulting from this RFP (ref. Section 669.003, *Government Code*). All disclosures by Proposer in connection with this certification will be subject to administrative review and approval before University enters into a contract or agreement with Proposer.
- 29 By signature hereon, Proposer certifies its compliance with all federal laws and regulations pertaining to Equal Employment Opportunities and Affirmative Action.
- 210 By signature hereon, Proposer represents and warrants that all products and services offered to University in response to this RFP meet or exceed the safety standards established and promulgated under the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Law (Public Law 91-596) and the *Texas Hazard Communication Act*, Chapter 502, *Health and Safety Code*, and all related regulations in effect or proposed as of the date of this RFP.
- 211 Proposer will and has disclosed, as part of its proposal, any exceptions to the certifications stated in this Execution of Offer. All such disclosures will be subject to administrative review and approval prior to the time University makes an award or enters into any contract or agreement with Proposer.
- 2.12 If Proposer will sell or lease computer equipment to the University under any agreements or other contractual arrangements that may result from the submission of Proposer's proposal then, pursuant to Section 361.965(c), *Health & Safety Code*, Proposer certifies that it is in compliance with the Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Computer Equipment Collection and Recovery Act set forth in Chapter 361, Subchapter Y, *Health & Safety Code* and the rules adopted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality under that Act as set forth in Title 30, Chapter 328, Subchapter I, *Texas Administrative Code*. Section 361.952(2), *Health & Safety Code*, states that, for purposes of the Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Computer Equipment Collection and Recovery Act, the term "computer equipment" means a desktop or notebook computer and includes a computer monitor or other display device that does not contain a tuner.
- 213 **Proposer should complete the following information:**  
 If Proposer is a Corporation, then State of Incorporation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 If Proposer is a Corporation then Proposer's Corporate Charter Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 RFP No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE:** WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED ON REQUEST TO BE INFORMED ABOUT THE INFORMATION THAT GOVERNMENTAL BODIES OF THE STATE OF TEXAS COLLECT ABOUT SUCH INDIVIDUALS. UNDER SECTIONS 552.021 AND 552.023, *GOVERNMENT CODE*, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW SUCH INFORMATION. UNDER SECTION 559.004, *GOVERNMENT CODE*, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED TO HAVE GOVERNMENTAL BODIES OF THE STATE OF TEXAS CORRECT INFORMATION ABOUT SUCH INDIVIDUALS THAT IS INCORRECT.

**Submitted and Certified By:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Proposer Institution's Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Duly Authorized Representative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Name/Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Proposer's Street Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip Code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(FAX Number)

SECTION 3

**PROPOSER'S GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE**

**NOTICE:** WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED ON REQUEST TO BE INFORMED ABOUT THE INFORMATION THAT GOVERNMENTAL BODIES OF THE STATE OF TEXAS COLLECT ABOUT SUCH INDIVIDUALS. UNDER SECTIONS 552.021 AND 552.023, GOVERNMENT CODE, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW SUCH INFORMATION. UNDER SECTION 559.004, GOVERNMENT CODE, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED TO HAVE GOVERNMENTAL BODIES OF THE STATE OF TEXAS CORRECT INFORMATION ABOUT SUCH INDIVIDUALS THAT IS INCORRECT.

Proposals must include responses to the questions contained in this Proposer's General Questionnaire. Proposer should reference the item number and repeat the question in its response. In cases where a question does not apply or if unable to respond, Proposer should refer to the item number, repeat the question, and indicate N/A (Not Applicable) or N/R (No Response), as appropriate. Proposer will explain the reason when responding N/A or N/R.

**3.1 Proposer Profile**

3.1.1 Legal name of Proposer company:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address of principal place of business:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address of office that would be providing service under the Agreement:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of years in Business: \_\_\_\_\_

State of incorporation: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Employees: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Revenues Volume: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent Corporation, if any \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: If Proposer is a subsidiary, University prefers to enter into a contract or agreement with the Parent Corporation or to receive assurances of performance from the Parent Corporation.**

3.1.2 State whether Proposer will provide a copy of its financial statements for the past two (2) years, if requested by University.

3.1.3 Proposer will provide a financial rating of the Proposer entity and any related documentation (such as a Dunn and Bradstreet analysis) that indicates the financial stability of Proposer.

3.1.4 Is Proposer currently for sale or involved in any transaction to expand or to become acquired by another business entity? If yes, Proposer will explain the expected impact, both in organizational and directional terms.

3.1.5 Proposer will provide any details of all past or pending litigation or claims filed against Proposer that would affect its performance under the Agreement with University (if any).

3.1.6 Is Proposer currently in default on any loan agreement or financing agreement with any bank, financial institution, or other entity? If yes, Proposer will specify the pertinent date(s), details, circumstances, and describe the current prospects for resolution.

3.1.7 Proposer will provide a customer reference list of no less than three (3) organizations with which Proposer currently has contracts and/or to which Proposer has previously provided services (within the past five (5) years) of a type and scope similar to those required by University's RFP. Proposer will include in its customer reference list the customer's company name, contact person, telephone number, project description, length of business relationship, and background of services provided by Proposer.



- 3.1.8 Does any relationship exist (whether by family kinship, business association, capital funding agreement, or any other such relationship) between Proposer and any employee of University? If yes, Proposer will explain.
- 3.1.9 Proposer will provide the name and Social Security Number for each person having at least 25% ownership interest in Proposer. This disclosure is mandatory pursuant to Section 231.006, *Family Code*, and will be used for the purpose of determining whether an owner of Proposer with an ownership interest of at least 25% is more than 30 days delinquent in paying child support. Further disclosure of this information is governed by the *Texas Public Information Act*, Chapter 552, *Government Code*, and other applicable law.

### 3.2 Approach to Project Services

- 3.2.1 Proposer will provide a statement of the Proposer's service approach and will describe any unique benefits to University from doing business with Proposer. Proposer will briefly describe its approach for each of the required services identified in **Section 5.4** Scope of Work of this RFP.
- 3.2.2 Proposer will provide an estimate of the earliest starting date for services following execution of the Agreement.
- 3.2.3 Proposer will submit a work plan with key dates and milestones. The work plan should include:
- 3.2.3.1 Identification of tasks to be performed;
  - 3.2.3.2 Time frames to perform the identified tasks;
  - 3.2.3.3 Project management methodology;
  - 3.2.3.4 Implementation strategy; and
  - 3.2.3.5 The expected time frame in which the services would be implemented.
- 3.2.4 Proposer will describe the types of reports or other written documents Proposer will provide (if any) and the frequency of reporting, if more frequent than required in the RFP. Proposer will include samples of reports and documents if appropriate.

### 3.3 General Requirements

- 3.3.1 Proposer will provide summary resumes for its proposed key personnel who will be providing services under the Agreement with University, including their specific experiences with similar service projects, and number of years of employment with Proposer.
- 3.3.2 Proposer will describe any difficulties it anticipates in performing its duties under the Agreement with University and how Proposer plans to manage these difficulties. Proposer will describe the assistance it will require from University.

### 3.4 Service Support

Proposer will describe its service support philosophy, how it is implemented, and how Proposer measures its success in maintaining this philosophy.

### 3.5 Quality Assurance

Proposer will describe its quality assurance program, its quality requirements, and how they are measured.

### 3.6 Miscellaneous

- 3.6.1 Proposer will provide a list of any additional services or benefits not otherwise identified in this RFP that Proposer would propose to provide to University. Additional services or benefits must be directly related to the goods and services solicited under this RFP.
- 3.6.2 Proposer will provide details describing any unique or special services or benefits offered or advantages to be gained by University from doing business with Proposer. Additional services or benefits must be directly related to the goods and services solicited under this RFP.
- 3.6.3 Does Proposer have a contingency plan or disaster recovery plan in the event of a disaster? If so, then Proposer will provide a copy of the plan.
- 3.6.4 How does Proposer plan to minimize the number of data transmissions from UT System institutions to fulfill the Scope of Services of this RFP?
- 3.6.5 Does Proposer have the ability to provide a real time data query of employee employment and income verification to University to utilize in Workers' compensation reporting? If so how would this function?

**SECTION 4**

**ADDENDA CHECKLIST**

**Proposal of:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Proposer Company Name)

**To:** The University of Texas System Administration

**Ref.:** Unemployment Claims Management, Affordable Care Act Compliance and Employment Related Services

**RFP No.:** ORM20151216

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The undersigned Proposer hereby acknowledges receipt of the following Addenda to the captioned RFP (initial if applicable).

No. 1 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 2 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 3 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 4 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,

**Proposer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorized Signature for Proposer)

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

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

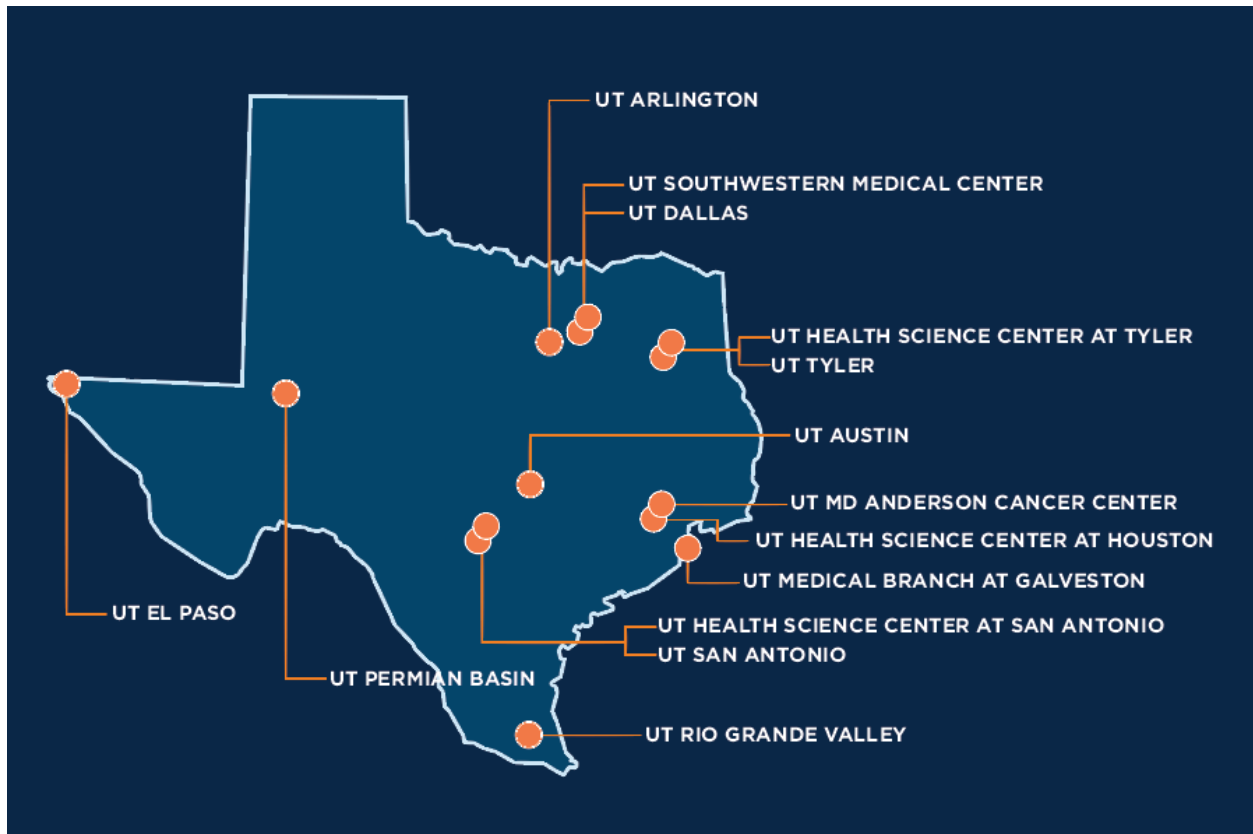
**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX TWO**  
**HUB SUBCONTRACTING PLAN**

Attached as a separate document.

## APPENDIX THREE

### CAMPUS MAP



## APPENDIX FOUR

### ACCESS BY INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

**Access by Individuals with Disabilities.** Contractor represents and warrants (“EIR Accessibility Warranty”) that the electronic and information resources and all associated information, documentation, and support that it provides to University under this Agreement (collectively, the “EIRs”) comply with the applicable requirements set forth in Title 1, Chapter 213, *Texas Administrative Code*, and Title 1, Chapter 206, Rule §206.70, *Texas Administrative Code* (as authorized by Chapter 2054, Subchapter M, *Government Code*.) To the extent Contractor becomes aware that the EIRs, or any portion thereof, do not comply with the EIR Accessibility Warranty, then Contractor represents and warrants that it will, at no cost to University, either (1) perform all necessary remediation to make the EIRs satisfy the EIR Accessibility Warranty or (2) replace the EIRs with new EIRs that satisfy the EIR Accessibility Warranty. In the event that Contractor fails or is unable to do so, then University may terminate this Agreement and Contractor will refund to University all amounts University has paid under this Agreement within thirty (30) days after the termination date. Contractor will provide all assistance and cooperation necessary for the performance of accessibility testing conducted by University or University’s third party testing resources as required by Title 1, Rule §213.38(g) of the *Texas Administrative Code*.

## APPENDIX FIVE

### ELECTRONIC AND INFORMATION RESOURCES ENVIRONMENT SPECIFICATIONS

The specifications, representations, warranties and agreements set forth in Proposer's responses to this **APPENDIX FIVE** will be incorporated into the Agreement.

#### Basic Specifications

1. If the EIR will be hosted by University, please describe the overall environment requirements for the EIR (size the requirements to support the number of concurrent users, the number of licenses and the input/output generated by the application as requested in the application requirements).
  - A. Hardware: If Proposer will provide hardware, does the hardware have multiple hard drives utilizing a redundant RAID configuration for fault tolerance? Are redundant servers included as well?
  - B. Operating System and Version:
  - C. Web Server: Is a web server required? If so, what web application is required (Apache or IIS)? What version? Are add-ins required?
  - D. Application Server:
  - E. Database:
  - F. Other Requirements: Are any other hardware or software components required?
  - G. Assumptions: List any assumptions made as part of the identification of these environment requirements.
  - H. Storage: What are the space/storage requirements of this implementation?
  - I. Users: What is the maximum number of users this configuration will support?
  - J. Clustering: How does the EIR handle clustering over multiple servers?
  - K. Virtual Server Environment: Can the EIR be run in a virtual server environment?
2. If the EIR will be hosted by Proposer, describe in detail what the hosted solution includes, and address, specifically, the following issues:
  - A. Describe the audit standards of the physical security of the facility; and
  - B. Indicate whether Proposer is willing to allow an audit by University or its representative.
3. If the user and administrative interfaces for the EIR are web-based, do the interfaces support Firefox on Mac as well as Windows and Safari on the Macintosh?
4. If the EIR requires special client software, what are the environment requirements for that client software?
5. Manpower Requirements: Who will operate and maintain the EIR? Will additional University full time employees (FTEs) be required? Will special training on the EIR be required by Proposer's technical staff? What is the estimated cost of required training.
6. Upgrades and Patches: Describe Proposer's strategy regarding EIR upgrades and patches for both the server and, if applicable, the client software. Included Proposer's typical release

schedule, recommended processes, estimated outage and plans for next version/major upgrade.

### **Security**

1. Has the EIR been tested for application security vulnerabilities? For example, has the EIR been evaluated against the Open Web Application Security Project (“**OWASP**”) Top 10 list that includes flaws like cross site scripting and SQL injection? If so, please provide the scan results and specify the tool used. University will not take final delivery of the EIR if University determines there are serious vulnerabilities within the EIR.
2. Which party, Proposer or University, will be responsible for maintaining critical EIR application security updates?
3. If the EIR is hosted, indicate whether Proposer’s will permit University to conduct a penetration test on University’s instance of the EIR.
4. If confidential data, including HIPAA or FERPA data, is stored in the EIR, will the data be encrypted at rest and in transmittal?

### **Integration**

5. Is the EIR authentication Security Assertion Markup Language (“**SAML**”) compliant? Has Proposer ever implemented the EIR with Shibboleth authentication? If not, does the EIR integrate with Active Directory? Does the EIR support TLS connections to this directory service?
6. Does the EIR rely on Active Directory for group management and authorization or does the EIR maintain a local authorization/group database?
7. What logging capabilities does the EIR have? If this is a hosted EIR solution, will University have access to implement logging with University’s standard logging and monitoring tools, RSA’s Envision?
8. Does the EIR have an application programming interface (“**API**”) that enables us to incorporate it with other applications run by the University? If so, is the API .Net based? Web Services-based? Other?
9. Will University have access to the EIR source code? If so, will the EIR license permit University to make modifications to the source code? Will University’s modifications be protected in future upgrades?
10. Will Proposer place the EIR source code in escrow with an escrow agent so that if Proposer is no longer in business or Proposer has discontinued support, the EIR source code will be available to University?

## Accessibility Information

Proposer must provide the following, as required by Title 1, Rule §213.38(b) of the *Texas Administrative Code*:

1. Accessibility information for the electronic and information resources (“EIR”)<sup>1</sup> products or services proposed by Proposer, where applicable, through one of the following methods:
  - (A) the URL to completed Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates (“VPATs”)<sup>2</sup> or equivalent reporting templates;
  - (B) an accessible electronic document that addresses the same accessibility criteria in substantially the same format as VPATs or equivalent reporting templates; or
  - (C) the URL to a web page which explains how to request completed VPATs, or equivalent reporting templates, for any product under contract; and
2. Credible evidence of Proposer’s capability or ability to produce accessible EIR products and services. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, Proposer’s internal accessibility policy documents, contractual warranties for accessibility, accessibility testing documents, and examples of prior work results.

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<sup>1</sup> Electronic and information resources are defined in Section 2054.451, *Texas Government Code* ([link](#)) and Title 1, Rule §213.1 (6) of the *Texas Administrative Code* ([link](#)).

<sup>2</sup> Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates are defined in Title 1, Rule §213.1 (19) of the *Texas Administrative Code* ([link](#)). For further information, see this [link](#) to a VPAT document provided by the Information Technology Industry Council.



## APPENDIX SIX

### SECURITY CHARACTERISTICS AND FUNCTIONALITY OF CONTRACTOR'S INFORMATION RESOURCES

The specifications, representations, warranties and agreements set forth in Proposer's responses to this **APPENDIX SIX** will be incorporated into the Agreement.

**"Information Resources"** means any and all computer printouts, online display devices, mass storage media, and all computer-related activities involving any device capable of receiving email, browsing Web sites, or otherwise capable of receiving, storing, managing, or transmitting Data including, but not limited to, mainframes, servers, Network Infrastructure, personal computers, notebook computers, hand-held computers, personal digital assistant (PDA), pagers, distributed processing systems, network attached and computer controlled medical and laboratory equipment (i.e. embedded technology), telecommunication resources, network environments, telephones, fax machines, printers and service bureaus. Additionally, it is the procedures, equipment, facilities, software, and Data that are designed, built, operated, and maintained to create, collect, record, process, store, retrieve, display, and transmit information.

**"University Records"** means records or record systems that Proposer (1) creates, (2) receives from or on behalf of University, or (3) has access, and which may contain confidential information (including credit card information, social security numbers, and private health information ("**PHI**") subject to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("**HIPAA**") of 1996 (Public Law 104-191), or education records subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("**FERPA**").

#### General Protection of University Records

1. Describe the security features incorporated into Information Resources (ref. **Section 5.3.4** of the RFP) to be provided or used by Proposer pursuant to this RFP.
2. List all products, including imbedded products that are a part of Information Resources and the corresponding owner of each product.
3. Describe any assumptions made by Proposer in its proposal regarding information security outside those already listed in the proposal.

*Complete the following additional questions if the Information Resources will be hosted by Proposer:*

4. Describe the monitoring procedures and tools used for monitoring the integrity and availability of all products interacting with Information Resources, including procedures and tools used to, detect security incidents and to ensure timely remediation.
5. Describe the physical access controls used to limit access to Proposer's data center and network components.
6. What procedures and best practices does Proposer follow to harden all systems that would interact with Information Resources, including any systems that would hold or process University Records, or from which University Records may be accessed?
7. What technical security measures does the Proposer take to detect and prevent unintentional, accidental and intentional corruption or loss of University Records?

8. Will the Proposer agree to a vulnerability scan by University of the web portal application that would interact with Information Resources, including any systems that would hold or process University Records, or from which University Records may be accessed? If Proposer objects, explain basis for the objection to a vulnerability scan.
9. Describe processes Proposer will use to provide University assurance that the web portal and all systems that would hold or process University Records can provide adequate security of University Records.
10. Does Proposer have a data backup and recovery plan supported by policies and procedures, in place for Information Resources? If yes, briefly describe the plan, including scope and frequency of backups, and how often the plan is updated. If no, describe what alternative methodology Proposer uses to ensure the restoration and availability of University Records.
11. Does Proposer encrypt backups of University Records? If yes, describe the methods used by Proposer to encrypt backup data. If no, what alternative safeguards does Proposer use to protect backups against unauthorized access?
12. Describe the security features incorporated into Information Resources to safeguard University Records containing confidential information.

*Complete the following additional question if Information Resources will create, receive, or access University Records containing PHI subject to HIPAA:*

13. Does Proposer monitor the safeguards required by the HIPAA Security Rule (45 C.F.R. § 164 subpts. A, E (2002)) and Proposer's own information security practices, to ensure continued compliance? If yes, provide a copy of or link to the Proposer's HIPAA Privacy & Security policies and describe the Proposer's monitoring activities and the frequency of those activities with regard to PHI.

### **Access Control**

1. How will users gain access (i.e., log in) to Information Resources?
2. Do Information Resources provide the capability to use local credentials (i.e., federated authentication) for user authentication and login? If yes, describe how Information Resources provide that capability.
3. Do Information Resources allow for multiple security levels of access based on affiliation (e.g., staff, faculty, and student) and roles (e.g., system administrators, analysts, and information consumers), and organizational unit (e.g., college, school, or department)? If yes, describe how Information Resources provide for multiple security levels of access.
4. Do Information Resources provide the capability to limit user activity based on user affiliation, role, and/or organizational unit (i.e., who can create records, delete records, create and save reports, run reports only, etc.)? If yes, describe how Information Resources provide that capability. If no, describe what alternative functionality is provided to ensure that users have need-to-know based access to Information Resources.
5. Do Information Resources manage administrator access permissions at the virtual system level? If yes, describe how this is done.

6. Describe Proposer's password policy including password strength, password generation procedures, password storage specifications, and frequency of password changes. If passwords are not used for authentication or if multi-factor authentication is used to Information Resources, describe what alternative or additional controls are used to manage user access.

*Complete the following additional questions if Information Resources will be hosted by Proposer:*

7. What administrative safeguards and best practices does Proposer have in place to vet Proposer's and third-parties' staff members that would have access to the environment hosting University Records to ensure need-to-know-based access?

8. What procedures and best practices does Proposer have in place to ensure that user credentials are updated and terminated as required by changes in role and employment status?

9. Describe Proposer's password policy including password strength, password generation procedures, and frequency of password changes. If passwords are not used for authentication or if multi-factor authentication is used to Information Resources, describe what alternative or additional controls are used to manage user access.

### **Use of Data**

*Complete the following additional questions if Information Resources will be hosted by Proposer:*

1. What administrative safeguards and best practices does Proposer have in place to vet Proposer's and third-parties' staff members that have access to the environment hosting all systems that would hold or process University Records, or from which University Records may be accessed, to ensure that University Records will not be accessed or used in an unauthorized manner?

2. What safeguards does Proposer have in place to segregate University Records from system data and other customer data and/or as applicable, to separate specific University data, such as HIPAA and FERPA protected data, from University Records that are not subject to such protection, to prevent accidental and unauthorized access to University Records ?

3. What safeguards does Proposer have in place to prevent the unauthorized use, reuse, distribution, transmission, manipulation, copying, modification, access, or disclosure of University Records?

4. What procedures and safeguards does Proposer have in place for sanitizing and disposing of University Records according to prescribed retention schedules or following the conclusion of a project or termination of a contract to render University Records unrecoverable and prevent accidental and unauthorized access to University Records? Describe the degree to which sanitizing and disposal processes addresses University data that may be contained within backup systems. If University data contained in backup systems is not fully sanitized, describe processes in place that would prevent subsequent restoration of backed-up University data.

### **Data Transmission**

1. Do Information Resources encrypt all University Records in transit and at rest? If yes, describe how Information Resources provide that security. If no, what alternative methods are used to safeguard University Records in transit and at rest?

*Complete the following additional questions if Information Resources will be hosted by Proposer:*

2. How does data flow between University and Information Resources? If connecting via a private circuit, describe what security features are incorporated into the private circuit. If connecting via a public network (e.g., the Internet), describe the way Proposer will safeguard University Records.

3. Do Information Resources secure data transmission between University and Proposer? If yes, describe how Proposer provides that security. If no, what alternative safeguards are used to protect University Records in transit?

### **Notification of Security Incidents**

*Complete the following additional questions if Information Resources will be hosted by Proposer:*

1. Describe Proposer's procedures to isolate or disable all systems that interact with Information Resources in the event a security breach is identified, including any systems that would hold or process University Records, or from which University Records may be accessed.

2. What procedures, methodology, and timetables does Proposer have in place to detect information security breaches and notify University and other customers? Include Proposer's definition of security breach.

3. Describe the procedures and methodology Proposer has in place to detect information security breaches, including unauthorized access by Proposer's and subcontractor's own employees and agents and provide required notifications in a manner that meets the requirements of the state breach notification law.

### **Compliance with Applicable Legal & Regulatory Requirements**

*Complete the following additional questions if Information Resources will be hosted by Proposer:*

1. Describe the procedures and methodology Proposer has in place to retain, preserve, backup, delete, and search data in a manner that meets the requirements of state and federal electronic discovery rules, including how and in what format University Records are kept and what tools are available to University to access University Records.

2. Describe the safeguards Proposer has in place to ensure that systems (including any systems that would hold or process University Records, or from which University Records may be accessed) that interact with Information Resources reside within the United States of America. If no such controls, describe Proposer's processes for ensuring that data is protected in compliance with all applicable US federal and state requirements, including export control.

3. List and describe any regulatory or legal actions taken against Proposer for security or privacy violations or security breaches or incidents, including the final outcome.