



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**RFP No. 720-2016
External Evaluator Services**

Proposal Submittal Deadline: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 2:30 PM CST

The University of Texas System
Office of Health Affairs

Prepared By:
Ben Kalenak
The University of Texas System
210 West 7th Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2982
bkalenak@utsystem.edu
7/30/2020

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Description of The University of Texas System

For more than 130 years, The University of Texas System has been committed to improving the lives of Texans and people all over the world through education, research and health care.

The University of Texas System is one of the nation's largest systems of higher education, with [14 institutions](#) that educate more than 230,000 students. Each year, UT institutions award more than one-third of all undergraduate degrees in Texas and almost two-thirds of all health professional degrees. With about 20,000 faculty – including Nobel laureates – and more than 80,000 health care professionals, researchers, student advisors and support staff, the UT System is one of the largest employers in the state.

Life-changing research and invention of new technologies at UT institutions places the UT System among the [top 10 “World’s Most Innovative Universities,”](#) according to Reuters. The UT System [ranks eighth in the nation in patent applications](#), and because of the high caliber of scientific research conducted at UT institutions, the UT System is ranked No. 1 in Texas and No. 3 in the nation in federal research expenditures.

In addition, the UT System is home to three of the nation's National Cancer Institute Cancer Centers – UT MD Anderson, UT Southwestern and UT Health Science Center-San Antonio – which must meet rigorous criteria for world-class programs in cancer research. And the UT System is the only System in the country to have four Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health.

Transformational initiatives implemented over the past several years have cemented UT as a national leader in higher education, including the expansion of educational opportunities in South Texas with the opening of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in 2015. And UT was the only system of higher education in the nation that established not one, but two new medical schools in 2016 at The University of Texas at Austin and UT Rio Grande Valley.

University of Texas institutions are setting the standard for excellence in higher education and will continue to do so thanks to our generous donors and the leadership of the [Chancellor](#), [Board of Regents](#) and [UT presidents](#).

1.2 Background and Special Circumstances

The Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (“**TCMHCC**”) was created by the 86th Texas Legislature to leverage the expertise and capacity of the health-related institutions of higher education to address urgent mental health challenges and improve the mental health care system in this state in relation to children and adolescents.

For more information about TCMHCC, visit the following website: [HTTP://www.utsystem.edu/pophealth/tcmhcc/](http://www.utsystem.edu/pophealth/tcmhcc/).

TCMHCC Implementation Goals:

- Create a consortium to help coordinate children’s mental health initiatives across Texas' publicly funded health-related institutions of higher education;
- The Child Psychiatry Access Network (CPAN) is a network of academic hubs that provide telemedicine-based consultation and training to pediatricians to assist them with identifying mental health issues in their patients. The objective of CPAN is to enroll 75% of primary care practices in the covered regions by the end of the second year of implementation. The network consists of the following components:
 - State-wide telephone system that responds to calls from primary care providers within 5 minutes, and if immediate assistance is needed connects the provider with a child and adolescent specialist within 30 minutes.
 - State-wide data management system that tracks calls and responses in order to measure both need and responsiveness.
 - Educational content for primary care providers, developed by CPAN members, to assist in assessing and referring children and adolescents with behavioral health needs.
 - Marketing to raise awareness of CPAN services and to disseminate educational material.
- The Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHAT) program is tapping into existing telemedicine or telehealth programs to assist school districts with identifying mental health care needs and accessing services. The program consists of the following components:
 - Telepsychiatry or counseling services for children and adolescent within the schools.
 - Educational and training materials for school staff to assist in assessing, supporting, and referring children and adolescents with mental health needs.
 - Analysis and mapping of existing telemedicine and telehealth programs that are currently providing, or can be adapted to provide, services to schools.
 - State-wide data management system that tracks calls and responses in order to measure both need and responsiveness.
- The Consortium supports the expansion of the child and adolescent psychiatry workforce in Texas through two means.
 - Funding full-time psychiatrists to serve as academic medical directors at community mental health providers as well as new resident rotations at those facilities
 - Funding additional fellowship positions in child and adolescent psychiatry at the state-funded health related institutions.

In addition to the above initiative, the TCMHCC is implementing 2 multi-institutional research projects in the area of depression and trauma to advance the care and treatment for children and adolescents in Texas. The multi-institutional research will be excluded from the scope of work of the External Evaluation performed as a result of this RFP..

1.3 Objective of Request for Proposal

The University of Texas System is soliciting proposals in response to this Request for Proposal No. 720-2016 (this “**RFP**”), from qualified vendors to provide services (the “**Services**”) more specifically described in **Section 5** of this RFP.

SECTION 2

NOTICE TO PROPOSER

2.1 Submittal Deadline

University will accept proposals submitted in response to this RFP until 2:30 p.m., Central Standard Time (“**CST**”) on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 (the “**Submittal Deadline**”).

2.2 Criteria for Selection

The successful Proposer, if any, selected by University through this RFP will be the Proposer that submits a proposal on or before the Submittal Deadline that is the most advantageous to University. The successful Proposer is referred to as “**Contractor**.”

Proposer is encouraged to propose terms and conditions offering the maximum benefit to University in terms of (1) service, (2) total overall cost, and (3) project management expertise.

The evaluation of proposals and the selection of Contractor will be based on the information provided in the proposal. University may consider additional information if University determines the information is relevant.

Criteria to be considered by University in evaluating proposals and selecting Contractor, will be these factors:

2.2.1 Threshold Criteria Not Scored

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

2.2.2 Scored Criteria

- A. Cost (10%);
- B. Vendor Experience (35%);
- C. Data Management (15%)
- D. Strategy for conducting the External Evaluation (40%)

2.3 Key Events Schedule

Issuance of RFP	July 30, 2020
Pre-Proposal Conference (ref. Section 2.6 of this RFP)	August 11, 2020
Deadline for Questions / Concerns (ref. Section 2.2 of this RFP)	August 13, 2020
Submittal Deadline (ref. Section 2.1 of this RFP)	2:30 p.m. CST on Tuesday, September 1, 2020

2.4 Historically Underutilized Businesses

- 2.4.1 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 Proposer is subject to review by University to ensure compliance with the HUB program.
- 2.4.2 University has reviewed this RFP in accordance with [Title 34, Texas Administrative Code, Section 20.285](#), and has determined that subcontracting opportunities (HUB and/or Non-HUB) are probable under this RFP. The HUB participation goal for this RFP is **26%**.
- 2.4.3 A HUB Subcontracting Plan (“HSP”) is required as part of, *but submitted separately from*, Proposer’s proposal. The HSP will be developed and administered in accordance with University’s Policy on Utilization of Historically Underutilized Businesses and incorporated for all purposes.

*Each Proposer, **whether self-performing or planning to subcontract**, must complete and return the HSP in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP. Proposers that fail to do so will be considered non-responsive to this RFP in accordance with [§2161.252, Government Code](#).*

Questions regarding the HSP may be directed to:

Contact: Kyle Hayes
HUB Coordinator
Phone: 512-322-3745
Email: khayes@utsystem.edu

Contractor will not be permitted to change its HSP after the deadline submittal date unless: (1) Contractor completes a new HSP, setting forth all modifications requested by Contractor, (2) Contractor provides the modified HSP to University, (3) University HUB Program Office approves the modified HSP in writing, and (4) all agreements resulting from this RFP are amended in writing to conform to the modified HSP.

Instructions on completing an HSP

Proposer must visit <https://www.utsystem.edu/offices/historically-underutilized-business/hub-forms> to download the most appropriate HUB Subcontracting Plan (HSP) / Exhibit H form for use with this Request for Proposal. Proposer will find, on the HUB Forms webpage, a link to “[Guide to Selecting the Appropriate HSP Option](#)”. **Click on this link and read the Guide first before selecting an HSP Option.** Proposer shall select, from the four (4) Options available, the Option that is most applicable to Proposer’s

subcontracting intentions. These forms are in **fillable** PDF format and must be downloaded and opened with *Adobe Acrobat / Reader* to utilize the fillable function. If Proposer has any questions regarding which Option to use, Proposer shall submit the question via Bonfire portal.

Proposer must complete the HSP, then print, sign and scan *all pages* of the HSP Option selected, with additional support documentation*, **and submit via Bonfire portal**. NOTE: signatures must be “wet” signatures. Digital signatures are not acceptable.

Any proposal submitted in response to this RFP that does not have a corresponding HSP meeting the above requirements may be rejected by University and returned to Proposer as non-responsive due to material failure to comply with advertised specifications.

Each Proposer’s HSP will be evaluated for completeness and compliance prior to opening the proposal to confirm Proposer compliance with HSP rules and standards. Proposer’s failure to submit one (1) completed and signed HUB Subcontracting Plan **to the Bonfire portal** may result in University’s rejection of the proposal as non-responsive due to material failure to comply with advertised specifications.

***If Proposer’s submitted HSP refers to specific page(s) / Sections(s) of Proposer’s proposal that explain how Proposer will perform entire contract with its own equipment, supplies, materials and/or employees, Proposer must submit copies of those pages with the HSP sent to the Bonfire Portal. In addition, all solicitation emails to potential subcontractors must be included as backup documentation to the Proposer’s HSP to demonstrate Good Faith Effort.** Failure to do so will slow the evaluation process and may result in DISQUALIFICATION.

- 2.4.4 University may offer Proposer an opportunity to seek informal review of its draft HSP by University’s HUB Office before the Submittal Deadline. If University extends this offer, details will be provided at the Pre-Proposal Conference (ref. **Section 2.6** of this RFP) or by other means. Informal review is designed to help address questions Proposer may have about how to complete its HSP properly. Concurrence or comment on Proposer’s draft HSP by University will *not* constitute formal approval of the HSP, and will *not* eliminate the need for Proposer to submit its final HSP to University as instructed by **Section 2.4**.

2.5 Pre-Proposal Conference

University will hold a pre-proposal conference call at 2:30 p.m. CST on Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

Call-in Information:

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[+1 737-220-2549](#) United States, Austin (Toll)

Conference ID: 886 691 55#

[Local numbers](#) | [Reset PIN](#) | [Learn more about Teams](#) | [Meeting options](#)

SECTION 3

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

3.1 Proposal Validity Period

Each proposal must state that it will remain valid for University's acceptance for a minimum of one hundred and twenty (120) days after the Submittal Deadline, to allow time for evaluation, selection, and any unforeseen delays.

3.2 Terms and Conditions

3.2.1 Proposer must comply with the requirements and specifications contained in this RFP, including the Agreement (ref. **APPENDIX TWO**), 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:

3.2.1.1. Specifications and Additional Questions (ref. **Section 5** of this RFP);

3.2.1.2. Agreement (ref. **Section 4** and **APPENDIX TWO**);

3.2.1.3. Proposal Requirements (ref. **APPENDIX ONE**);

3.2.1.4. Notice to Proposers (ref. **Section 2** of this RFP).

SECTION 4

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The terms and conditions contained in the attached Agreement (ref. **APPENDIX TWO**) or, in the sole discretion of University, terms and conditions substantially similar to those contained in the Agreement, will constitute and govern any agreement that results from this RFP. If Proposer takes exception to any terms or conditions set forth in the Agreement, Proposer will submit redlined **APPENDIX TWO** 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.

Note: The agreement type may be adjusted based on the awarded entity. **APPENDIX TWO** is a sample but the terms and conditions contained within will remain substantially the same regardless of the agreement type.

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.**”

Contract Term: University intends to enter into an agreement with the Contractor to perform the Services for an initial one (1) year base term, with the option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year renewal periods, upon mutual written agreement of both parties.

Approval by the Board of Regents: No Agreement resulting from this RFP will be effective for amounts exceeding one million dollars (\$1,000,000) until approved by the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System.

5.2 Minimum Requirements

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

5.2.1 Proposer must be an accredited Institution of Higher Education based in the State of Texas. The primary can subcontract out to other entities outside of Texas and not-for-profits, if needed. Preference will be for all entities involved to be Texas based. Texas schools of medicine that are members of the TCMHCC may not apply to be part of the external evaluation contract.

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 the Agreement (ref. **APPENDIX TWO**), Proposer must redline APPENDIX TWO and include **APPENDIX TWO** as part of its Proposal. If Proposer agrees with terms or conditions set forth in the **APPENDIX TWO**, Proposer will submit a written statement acknowledging it.

5.4 Scope of Work

Contractor will provide the following services to University:

Conduct an independent, external, program-specific, and comprehensive evaluation.

The overall goal of the independent evaluation will be to provide policymakers and Consortium members with program outcome assessments to guide quality improvement and inform the consortium and legislature as they deliberate about future program policies, implementation, dissemination and financial planning. The project will include a formative (process) summary to document the initial implementation, as well as preliminary summative (outcome) and cost analysis evaluations.

5.4.1 External Evaluation

The evaluation will center on a systematic approach to planning with program-specific comprehensive evaluations. The evaluations will use mixed quantitative and qualitative

methods, with a specific focus on implementation science, quality improvement, and health economics. Focus will also include participatory approaches to engage stakeholders affected by the programs.

1. Specific areas of the evaluation will include:
 - A. Assessment of the delivery models and infrastructure used for the CPAN, TCHAT and CPWE by each institution and region to identify evidence of achieving intended outcomes and identifying best practices and local features.
 - B. Assessment of cost effectiveness and return on investment for the implementation models.
 - C. Assessment of holistic implementation that incorporates the local needs and that addresses health, economic and racial equity.
 - D. Comparison of the implementation by the Health-related Institutions (HRIs) and a comparison between the Texas model and other states.
 - E. Recommendations to improve fidelity of implementation to legislative priorities and service outcomes.

2. To achieve the above listed areas of the evaluation, the external evaluator will examine:
 - A. Diversity and scope of care through analysis of demographic, clinical, and outcome data collected by the Consortium,
 - B. Health disparities and equity in outcomes across sites, with specific focus on barriers to access related to cultural, linguistic, and geographic factors, and;
 - C. Satisfaction with the services provided by the initiatives by Consortium consumers, including people served, their families, school personnel involved in TCHAT, and primary care practices involved in CPAN,
 - D. Outcomes of children and families served by CPAN, TCHAT and CPWE programs within each HRI. This should include multiple data sources, in addition to archival data available through the Consortium.

5.4.2 Personnel

Contractor's Principal Investigator(s), senior staff, and team members must collectively have experience in the following areas:

- Mixed methods research, including: quantitative and qualitative methods;
- Implementation science;
- Quality improvement;
- Health economics;
- Mental health research and evaluation;
- Health services research and evaluation;
- Health policy and systems research and evaluation; and
- Peer reviewed publications related to children's mental health services evaluation.

Contractor will not exchange or substitute personnel during project without notice and approval of personnel changes by University prior to any change request.

5.4.3 Deliverables

Contractor will provide the following:

Date	Deliverable	Description
09/2020	Presentation on evaluation plan to Consortium. A draft of the Evaluation Plan will be submitted to the UT System by 08/21/2020 to include the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims and objectives of the evaluation • Detailed methods for the evaluation, including timeline • Measures and outcomes collected for the evaluation Incorporate input from UT System / External Evaluation Workgroup and present at the September 2020 EC meeting.	Draft plan to review with Consortium in August for final presentation and approval by Consortium in September
End of first week of each month	Monthly progress report (beginning November 2020 – July 2021)	Report should provide a high-level overview of activities completed during the prior month and any challenges encountered.
02/2021	Present on findings to date to Consortium	Present initial findings and feedback on implementation progress to Consortium
05/2021	Interim report on implementation progress for legislative oversight	This report will focus on implementation progress, draft findings and recommendations to improve fidelity of implementation to SB11 requirements
08/2021	Final report on implementation progress and initial outcomes	This report will be the final report for the biennium and include findings and recommendations to improve both fidelity of implementation and outcomes

Note: Deliverable Date may vary based on Agreement execution.

5.5 Additional Questions Specific to this RFP

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

Vendor Experience (35%)

1. Provide references from three (3) of Proposer's customers from the past five (5) years for services that are similar in scope, size, and complexity to the Services described in this RFP.

Provide the following information for each customer:

- Customer name and address;
 - Contact name with email address and phone number;
 - Time period in which work was performed;
 - Short description of work performed.
2. Has Proposer worked with University institutions in the past five (5) years? If "yes," state University Institution name, department name, department contact, and provide a brief description of work performed.
 3. Describe Proposer's experience in evaluating a mental health initiative or services.
 4. Describe Proposer's experience with child mental health services
 5. Describe Proposer's experience with conducting an independent evaluation. What steps did you take to assure the independence and objectivity of the evaluation?
 6. List all staff identified as part of the team, include their roles for this engagement and identify whether they are current staff, vacant positions that you will be recruiting, or contracts that you plan to set up. Include resumes for all identified staff in the application.
 7. If some of the staff positions needed are not currently filled or will be contracted out, provide a plan on how you would recruit these positions or execute contracts to assure their availability to meet the needs of the project and delivery schedule outlined in **Section 5.4.3**.

Data Management (15%)

8. Describe Proposer's procedures used to identify irregularities with access to data, including unauthorized access to sensitive or confidential information.
9. Describe the structure of the Proposer's privacy framework, including policies for approach to confidential data such as storage, retention and any certifications obtained by the Proposer for its Privacy and Security program.
10. Describe Proposer's approach to compliance with state and federal laws related to the security and handling of confidential information, sensitive information, and reputational or intellectual property data.
11. Include Proposer's privacy and security team and credentials associated with their experience.

12. Describe Proposer's HIPAA workforce training, new employee onboarding, and monitoring of compliance with HIPAA training.
13. Provide a link to the Proposer's HIPAA policies and Notice of Privacy Practices, including any website or web portal privacy notices.
14. If Proposer uses any third parties or sub-contractors to perform any services for this engagement, please provide a list of the organizations or individuals and the contractual relationship between Proposer and such parties.
15. Provide a copy of Proposer's recent risk assessment, if possible, related to privacy framework, or privacy impact assessment or similar assessment.

Strategy for conducting the External Evaluation (40%)

Using the following description of the CPAN model and its implementation framework and proposed data metrics to be collected by each HRI, Proposer must provide responses for questions 16 through 22.

The Child Psychiatry Access Network (CPAN) is a network of academic hubs that provides telemedicine-based consultation and training to pediatricians to assist them with identifying mental health issues in their patients. It consists of the following components:

- A. *State-wide telephone system that responds to calls from primary care providers within 5 minutes, and if immediate assistance is needed will connect the provider with a child and adolescent specialist within 30 minutes.*
- B. *State-wide data management system that tracks calls and responses in order to measure both need and responsiveness.*
- C. *Educational content for primary care providers, developed by CPAN members, to assist in assessing and referring children and adolescents with behavioral health needs.*
- D. *Marketing to raise awareness of CPAN services and to disseminate educational material.*

Proposed Data Metrics:

- I. *Percentage of PCPs within each region that are enrolled.*
- II. *Percentage of phone calls answered, by team and statewide, within 5 minutes*
- III. *Percentage of consultative requests responded to within 30 minutes, by team and statewide*
- IV. *Percentage of enrolled PCPs using consultation services at least once, by team and statewide*
- V. *PCPs' satisfaction score*
- VI. *PCPs' comfort score*
- VII. *Number of phone consultations provided*
- VIII. *Number of unique children served*
- IX. *Number of pediatric practices enrolled*
- X. *Number of family medicine practices enrolled*
- XI. *Documentation of the reasons why practices unenroll*
- XII. *Outcomes from calls*
 - *Referrals to a local child and adolescent psychiatrist*
 - *Instances where PCP manages the patient*
 - *Referrals to a local therapist*
 - *Referrals to a higher level of care*
- XIII. *Number of calls that are resource or referral requests*
- XIV. *Number of calls that are medication-related*

For Questions 16 to 19, describe in general how Proposer would plan for each of the following assessments for the CPAN program, including the types of information that Proposer would need and use in the assessment. Limit the response to no more than 2-pages per assessment / evaluation.

16. Evaluation of the delivery models and infrastructure used for the CPAN by each institution and region to identify evidence of achieving intended outcome and identifying best practices and local features
17. Assessment of cost effectiveness and return on investment for the implementation models.
18. Assessment of the implementation of the initiatives and their ability to incorporate holistic and local needs that addresses health, economic and racial equity.
19. Comparison of the implementation by the Health-related Institutions (HRIs) and a comparison between the Texas model and other states.
20. Identify and provide potential barriers to effectively evaluate CPAN based on your responses to 16 through 19, and provide strategies to overcome some of these barriers.
21. Provide identified strategies to overcome some of the barriers listed in question 20.
22. Describe how Proposer's team will be able to meet the deliverables identified (ref. **Section 5.4.3**) while evaluating the criteria listed in questions 16 through 21.

SECTION 6

PRICING AND DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Proposal of: _____
(Proposer Company Name)

To: The University of Texas System

RFP No.: 720-2016 – External Evaluation Services

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Having carefully examined all the specifications and requirements of this RFP and any attachments thereto, the undersigned proposes to furnish the required pursuant to the above-referenced Request for Proposal upon the terms quoted (firm fixed price) below. The University will not accept proposals which include assumptions or exceptions to the work identified in this RFP.

6.1 Pricing for Services Offered (10%)

Proposer will provide the following:

Percentage of Project budget going to salaried staff costs: _____%

6.2 Detailed Budget

Complete the information below with budgeted expenditure per following categories. Proposer may add additional lines to table categories as needed.

Category	Description	Cost
Salaried Staff, including role		
Contracted Staff, including role		
Travel, listing assumptions		
Data Systems/Technology (itemized)		
Other (itemized)		

Note: Administrative costs are limited to 10%. Project budget must not exceed a maximum of \$750,000.

6.3 Discounts

Describe all discounts that may be available to University, including, educational, federal, state and local discounts.

6.4 Schedule for Completion of Tasks and Submittal of Deliverables

Indicate number of calendar days needed to commence the Services from the execution of the services agreement:

_____ Calendar Days

6.5 Payment Terms

University’s standard payment terms are “net 30 days” as mandated by the *Texas Prompt Payment Act* (ref. [Chapter 2251, Government Code](#)).

University will provide payments based on the deliverable schedule listed in **Section 5.4.3** and based on the following payment schedule:

Deliverable	Percentage of Budget
Presentation on evaluation plan to Consortium	20%
Progress report summarizing work performed up to 10/31/2020	6.6667%
Progress report summarizing work performed during the month of November 2020	6.6667%
Progress report summarizing work performed during the month of December 2020	6.6667%
Present on findings to date to Consortium	6.6667%
Progress report summarizing work performed during the month of January 2021	6.6667%
Progress report summarizing work performed during the month of February 2021	6.6667%
Progress report summarizing work performed during the month of March 2021	6.6667%
Progress report summarizing work performed during the month of April 2021	6.6667%
Interim report on implementation progress, findings and recommendations for legislative oversight	6.6667%
Progress report summarizing work performed during the month of May 2021	6.6667%
Progress report summarizing work performed during the month of June 2021	6.6667%
Final report	6.6667%

Indicate below the prompt payment discount that Proposer offers:

Prompt Payment Discount: _____% _____ days / net 30 days.

[Section 51.012, Education Code](#), authorizes University to make payments through electronic funds transfer methods. Proposer agrees to accept payments from University through those methods, including the automated clearing house system (“ACH”). Proposer agrees to provide Proposer’s banking information to University in writing on Proposer letterhead signed by an authorized representative of Proposer. Prior to the first payment, University will confirm Proposer’s banking information. Changes to Proposer’s bank information must be communicated to University in writing at least thirty (30) days before the effective date of the change and must include an [IRS Form W-9](#) signed by an authorized representative of Proposer.

University, an agency of the State of Texas, is exempt from Texas Sales & Use Tax on goods and services in accordance with [§151.309, Tax Code](#), and [Title 34 TAC §3.322](#). Pursuant to [34 TAC §3.322\(c\)\(4\)](#), University is not required to provide a tax exemption certificate to establish its tax exempt status.

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 and facsimile (**FAX**) numbers, and email address, to University, so that if University issues Addenda to this RFP or provides written answers to questions, that information can be provided to that 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* (ref. [Chapter 552, Government Code](#)). 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 §§[552.101](#), [552.104](#), [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 substantially similar to the Agreement between University and Contractor (the "**Agreement**") attached to this RFP as **APPENDIX TWO** and incorporated for all purposes.

1.5 Proposal Evaluation Process

University will select Contractor by using the competitive sealed proposal process described in this Section. Any proposals that are not submitted by the Submittal Deadline or that are not accompanied by required number of completed and signed originals of the HSP will be rejected by University as non-responsive due to material failure to comply with this RFP (ref. **Section 2.5.4** of this RFP). Upon completion of the initial review and evaluation of 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 negotiations, University will use commercially reasonable efforts to avoid disclosing the contents of competing proposals.

University may discuss and negotiate all elements of proposals submitted by 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 may 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 interest of University.

After the Submittal Deadline but before final selection of Contractor, University may permit 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 RFP Terms

Proposer (1) accepts [a] Proposal Evaluation Process (ref. **Section 1.5** of **APPENDIX ONE**), [b] Criteria for Selection (ref. **2.3** of this RFP), [c] Specifications and Additional Questions (ref. **Section 5** of this RFP), [d] terms and conditions of the Agreement (ref. **APPENDIX TWO**), and [e] all other requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP; and (2) acknowledges 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 as instructed in **Section 3** of this RFP. RFP No. (ref. **Title Page** of this RFP) and Submittal Deadline (ref. **Section 2.1** of this RFP) should be clearly shown (1) in the Subject line of any email transmitting the proposal, and (2) in the lower left-hand corner on the top surface of any envelope or package containing the proposal. In addition, the name and the return address of the Proposer should be clearly visible in any email or on any envelope or package.*

University will not under any circumstances consider a proposal that is received after the Submittal Deadline or which is not accompanied by the HSP as required by **Section 2.5** of this RFP. University will not accept proposals submitted by email, telephone or FAX transmission.

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 written request explaining and documenting the reason for withdrawal, which is acceptable to University.

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 Representations and Warranties.** Proposer represents, warrants, certifies, acknowledges, and agrees as follows:
- 2.1.1 Proposer will furnish the Services to University and comply with all terms, conditions, requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP and any resulting Agreement.
 - 2.1.2 This RFP is a solicitation for a proposal and is not a contract or an offer to contract. Submission of a proposal by Proposer in response to this RFP will not create a contract between University and Proposer. University has made no representation or warranty, written or oral, that one or more contracts with University will be awarded under this RFP. Proposer will bear, as its sole risk and responsibility, any cost arising from Proposer's preparation of a response to this RFP.
 - 2.1.3 Proposer is a reputable company that is lawfully and regularly engaged in providing the Services.
 - 2.1.4 Proposer has the necessary experience, knowledge, abilities, skills, and resources to perform the Services.
 - 2.1.5 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 relating to performance of the Services.
 - 2.1.6 Proposer understands (i) the requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP and (ii) the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement under which Proposer will be required to operate.
 - 2.1.7 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.
 - 2.1.8 Proposer will maintain any insurance coverage required by the Agreement during the entire term.
 - 2.1.9 All statements, information and representations prepared and submitted in response to this RFP are current, complete, true and accurate. 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.
 - 2.1.10 PROPOSER WILL DEFEND WITH COUNSEL APPROVED BY UNIVERSITY, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS UNIVERSITY, 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.
 - 2.1.11 Pursuant to §§[2107.008](#) and [2252.903](#), *Government Code*, any payments owing to Proposer under the Agreement 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.
 - 2.1.12 Any terms, conditions, or documents attached to or referenced in Proposer's 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. Submission of a proposal is Proposer's good faith intent to enter into the Agreement with University as specified in this RFP and that Proposer's 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.
 - 2.1.13 Pursuant to [Chapter 2270, Government Code](#), Proposer certifies Proposer (1) does not currently boycott Israel; and (2) will not boycott Israel during the Term of the Agreement. Proposer acknowledges the Agreement may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.
 - 2.1.14 Pursuant to [Subchapter F, Chapter 2252, Government Code](#), Proposer certifies Proposer is not engaged in business with Iran, Sudan, or a foreign terrorist organization. Proposer acknowledges the Agreement may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.
- 2.2 No Benefit to Public Servants.** Proposer 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 proposal. Failure to sign this Execution of Offer, or signing with a false statement, may void the submitted proposal or any resulting Agreement, and Proposer may be removed from all proposer lists at University.
- 2.3 Tax Certification.** Proposer is not currently delinquent in the payment of any taxes due under [Chapter 171, Tax Code](#), or Proposer is exempt from the payment of those taxes, or 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 Agreement.

- 2.4 Antitrust Certification.** Neither Proposer nor any firm, corporation, partnership or institution represented by Proposer, nor anyone acting for such firm, corporation or institution, has violated the antitrust laws of the State of Texas, codified in [§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.
- 2.5 Authority Certification.** The individual signing this document and the documents made a part of this RFP, is authorized to sign the documents on behalf of Proposer and to bind Proposer under any resulting Agreement.
- 2.6 Child Support Certification.** Under [§231.006, Family Code](#), relating to child support, the individual or business entity named in Proposer's proposal is not ineligible to receive award of the Agreement, and any Agreements resulting from this RFP may be terminated if this certification is inaccurate.
- 2.7 Relationship Certifications.**
- 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 member institution of University, on the other hand, other than the relationships which have been previously disclosed to University in writing.
 - Proposer has not been an employee of any member institution of University within the immediate twelve (12) months prior to the Submittal Deadline.
 - 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. [§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 any Agreement resulting from this RFP with Proposer.
- 2.8 Compliance with Equal Employment Opportunity Laws.** Proposer is in compliance with all federal laws and regulations pertaining to Equal Employment Opportunities and Affirmative Action.
- 2.9 Compliance with Safety Standards.** All products and services offered by Proposer 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.
- 2.10 Exceptions to Certifications.** Proposer will and has disclosed, as part of its proposal, any exceptions to the information stated in this [Execution of Offer](#). All information will be subject to administrative review and approval prior to the time University makes an award or enters into any Agreement with Proposer.
- 2.11 Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Computer Equipment Collection and Recovery Act Certification.** If Proposer will sell or lease computer equipment to University under any Agreement resulting from this RFP then, pursuant to [§361.965\(c\), Health & Safety Code](#), Proposer 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 [30 TAC Chapter 328, §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.
- 2.12 Conflict of Interest Certification.**
- Proposer is not a debarred vendor or the principal of a debarred vendor (i.e. owner, proprietor, sole or majority shareholder, director, president, managing partner, etc.) either at the state or federal level.
 - Proposer's provision of services or other performance under any Agreement resulting from this RFP will not constitute an actual or potential conflict of interest.
 - Proposer has disclosed any personnel who are related to any current or former employees of University.
 - Proposer has not given, 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 an officer or employee of University in connection with this RFP.

214 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.: 720-2016 – External Evaluator Services

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 §§[552.021](#) AND [552.023](#), GOVERNMENT CODE, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW SUCH INFORMATION. UNDER [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)

(Email Address)

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 §§**552.021** AND **552.023**, *GOVERNMENT CODE*, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW SUCH INFORMATION. UNDER **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 [§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* (ref. [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 this 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.

SECTION 4

ADDENDA CHECKLIST

Proposal of: _____
(Proposer Company Name)

To: The University of Texas System

Ref.: External Evaluation Services

RFP No.: 720-2016

Ladies and Gentlemen:

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

Note: If there was only one (1) Addendum, initial just the first blank after No. 1, not all five (5) blanks below.

No. 1 _____ No. 2 _____ No. 3 _____ No. 4 _____ No. 5 _____

Respectfully submitted,

Proposer: _____

By: _____
(Authorized Signature for Proposer)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX TWO
SAMPLE AGREEMENT
(INCLUDED AS SEPARATE ATTACHMENT)