



State of New Hampshire
Department of Health and Human Services

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

FOR

Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness
(PATH)

RFA-2024-DBH-02-PATHH

RELEASE DATE: March 2, 2023

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW	3
2. STATEMENT OF WORK	6
3. RESPONSE EVALUATION	11
4. RESPONSE PROCESS	11
5. RESPONSE SUBMISSION	12
6. RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS	13
7. ADDITIONAL TERMS	13
8. APPENDICES	25

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

1. PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

1.1. Introduction

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health (“Department”) is seeking responses to this Request for Applications (solicitation) from qualified Vendors to provide specialized services to individuals with serious mental illnesses or co-occurring serious mental illness and substance use disorders, who are imminently at risk of, or experiencing homelessness.

The Department anticipates awarding four (4) contracts for the services in this solicitation.

1.2. Key Information

The information in the table below is as anticipated by the Department. All information is subject to change, the availability of funds, and/or approval by the Governor and Executive Council.

Contract Effective Date	July 1, 2023	
Contract End Date	June 30, 2025	
Renewal Options	The Department may extend contracted services for up to five (5) additional years.	
Funding for the resulting contract(s) is anticipated to be approximately:	\$576,000, \$144,000 per award, at a cost reimbursement rate of \$72,000 per SFY	
Funding Source	The Department anticipates using Federal funds for resulting contract(s).	
	Assistance Listing #	93.150
	Award Name	PATH
Match Requirements	25% per SFY	
Point of Contact	Molly Oliver, Contract Specialist molly.s.oliver@dhhs.nh.gov 603-271-9583	
From the date of release of this solicitation until an award is made and announced regarding the selection of a Vendor, all communication with personnel employed by or under contract with the Department regarding this solicitation is prohibited unless first approved by the Point of Contact listed above. Department employees have been directed not to hold conferences and/or discussions concerning this solicitation with any potential contractor during the selection process, unless otherwise authorized by the Point of Contact. Vendors may be disqualified for violating this restriction on communications.		

1.3. Procurement Timetable

All times are according to Eastern Time. The Department reserves the right to modify these dates and times at its sole discretion.		
Item	Action	Date

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

1.	Solicitation Released	3/2/2023
2.	Questions Submission Deadline	3/9/2023 12:00PM
3.	Department Response to Questions Published	3/23/2023
4.	Vendor Solicitation Response Due Date	3/30/2023 12:00PM

1.4. Background

1.4.1. New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Behavioral Health (DBH), Bureau of Homeless Services (BHS)

The Department is responsible for promoting the health, safety, and well-being of the citizens of New Hampshire. To achieve that goal, the Department provides services for children, families, individuals, and seniors in areas such as mental health, developmental disabilities, substance abuse, and public health. The Department does this work through partnerships with families, community groups, providers, other state and local entities, and New Hampshire citizens.

The Bureau of Homeless Services assists with connecting individuals and families who are currently experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless with emergency sheltering and ongoing housing support and services.

1.4.2. Objective

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) is a Federal formula grant administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) originally authorized by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990 (P.L. 101.645) and has been reauthorized under Section 521 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, (42 U.S.C. § 290cc-21) as amended, and Section 9004 of the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255).

The PATH Program serves individuals with serious mental illness or co-occurring substance use disorders, who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. The ultimate goal is to connect individuals to mainstream mental health and supportive services as a method of working towards the elimination of homelessness for this population. PATH seeks to engage people who are disconnected from mainstream resources. PATH services include community-based outreach, case management, and linkages to other supportive services including mental health, primary care services, substance use treatment, income supports and housing services.

Through its services, PATH links a vulnerable population who experience persistent and pervasive health disparities to mainstream and other supportive services. Collectively, these efforts help individuals experiencing homelessness with serious mental illness or co-occurring disorders exit homelessness, secure safe and stable housing, improve their health, and live a self-directed, purposeful life.

1.4.3. Covered Populations

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

Adults 18 years of age or older, who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of becoming homeless, and have a serious mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorder. SAMHSA places priority on individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

1.5. Terminology

At Risk: An individual or family who:

- Has an annual income below 30% of median family income for the area;
- Does not have sufficient resources or support networks immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place defined in Category 1 of the “homeless” definition; and
- Meets one of the following conditions:
 - Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for assistance;
 - Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship;
 - Has been notified that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance;
 - Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost is not paid for by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals;
 - Lives in an SRO or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than 2 persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than one and a half persons per room;
 - Is exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care.

“Chronically Homeless”:

- A homeless individual with a disability as defined in section 401(9) of the McKinney-Vento Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(9)), who:
 - Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter, and
 - Has been homeless and living as described for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of not living as described.
- An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility for less, including jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria of this definition before entering that facility

Co-occurring Disorders: Refers to individuals who have at least one serious mental illness and a substance use disorder, where the mental disorder and substance use disorder can be diagnosed independently of each other.

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

“Literally Homeless”- Individuals who meets the following criteria:

- Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; or
- Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or
- Is exiting an institution where they resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

Serious Mental Illness: Refers to adults, 18 years of age or older, with a diagnosable mental disorder of such severity and duration as to result in functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits major life activities.

Street Outreach: Outreach and engagement provided to those living in places not meant for human habitation. These PATH activities are designed to meet the immediate needs of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness by connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, and/or critical health and mental health services. Examples of persons who are living in places not meant for human habitation are those who sleep on the streets, under bridges, in camps, campgrounds, abandoned buildings, structure meant for animals, vehicles, and public places.

Supportive Services Only: Outreach and engagement provided to those living in places meant for human habitation. This includes both persons who are residing in shelter, and those doubled up in housing or at-risk of homelessness.

2. STATEMENT OF WORK

2.1. Scope of Services

- 2.1.1. The selected Vendor(s) must provide PATH-funded services in accordance with SAMHSA and PATH program guidance to clients with serious mental illness or who have both serious mental illness and substance use disorders and are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.
- 2.1.2. The selected Vendor(s) must provide or refer clients to services including, but not limited to:
 - 2.1.2.1. Outreach Services (Street Outreach and Supportive Services Only).
 - 2.1.2.2. Screening and diagnostic treatment services.
 - 2.1.2.3. Habilitation and rehabilitation services.
 - 2.1.2.4. Mental Health Services.
 - 2.1.2.5. Veteran Services as appropriate.
 - 2.1.2.6. Alcohol and drug treatment services.
 - 2.1.2.7. Childcare.

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

- 2.1.2.8. Case management services that include, but are not limited to:
 - 2.1.2.8.1. Assisting clients with obtaining services and coordinating services.
 - 2.1.2.8.2. Assisting clients with obtaining income support services, including but not limited to:
 - 2.1.2.8.2.1. Housing assistance.
 - 2.1.2.8.2.2. Food stamps.
 - 2.1.2.8.2.3. Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSI/SSDI) or other disability and financial benefits Referrals for additional services as may be appropriate, including referrals to Primary Care Services.
- 2.1.2.9. Supportive services in residential settings.
- 2.1.2.10. Housing stability services including but not limited to:
 - 2.1.2.10.1. Emergency homeless shelters services.
 - 2.1.2.10.2. Continuum of Care programs.
 - 2.1.2.10.3. Assistance with housing applications through state or local housing authorities.
 - 2.1.2.10.4. Assistance with Security Deposit or first month's rent.
- 2.1.3. The selected Vendor(s) must ensure their staff and supervisors are trained in and have an understanding of:
 - 2.1.3.1. SAMHSA and PATH requirements;
 - 2.1.3.2. Program expectations;
 - 2.1.3.3. PATH guidance as provided in person and in writing by SAMHSA and PATH staff;
 - 2.1.3.4. Requirements for confidentiality and security safeguards of information including obtaining appropriate individual consent and providing adequate notice of nondisclosure prior to any referral in compliance with state and federal laws and regulations;
 - 2.1.3.5. Social Security Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR); and,
 - 2.1.3.6. Technical assistance providers and the Bureau of Housing Supports.
- 2.1.4. The selected Vendor(s) must obtain PATH program manuals, reporting guidance, including definitions and data standards, training webinars and other

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

training materials for Homeless Programs including PATH on the PATH Data Exchange (PDX) and the SAMHSA website.

- 2.1.5. The selected Vendors(s) must enter client data into the Homeless Management Information System, as described in the [NH HMIS Policy and Procedure Manual](#).
- 2.1.6. The selected Vendor(s) must participate in meetings with the Department on a monthly basis, or as otherwise requested by the Department.
- 2.1.7. The selected Vendor(s) must participate in the planning and collaboration of local continuum of care committees affecting PATH Clients.
- 2.1.8. The selected Vendor(s) must maintain individual client service records for PATH-Enrolled Individuals, where each client service record will contain at a minimum:
 - 2.1.8.1. All contacts between a PATH-funded worker or workers and an individual who is potentially PATH eligible or enrolled in PATH must be entered into HMIS;
 - 2.1.8.2. A statement of the presenting problem(s) as described by the PATH-Enrolled Individual, as reported by the referral source and as assessed by the screener;
 - 2.1.8.3. Documentation of homelessness or chronic homelessness;
 - 2.1.8.4. The context of the referral;
 - 2.1.8.5. The condition and functioning of the PATH-Enrolled Individual at the time of initial assessment and subsequently;
 - 2.1.8.6. The history and symptoms of the PATH-Enrolled Individual's Mental Illness or co-occurring disorder reported and observed;
 - 2.1.8.7. An assessment of each PATH Client's basic needs, including legal and safety issues, cultural considerations, and Substance Use Disorder, as appropriate;
 - 2.1.8.8. An assessment of the PATH-Enrolled Individual's service needs;
 - 2.1.8.9. A service plan; and
 - 2.1.8.10. Regular notation of PATH client progress service plan accomplishment, including transfer to other mainstream services.
- 2.1.9. Intended Use Plan (IUP) Services**
 - 2.1.9.1. The selected Vendor(s) must provide an IUP to the Department annually which will be the basis of the PATH services and activities.
 - 2.1.9.2. The selected Vendor(s) must ensure services will be culturally competent, professional, and effective.

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

- 2.1.9.3. The selected Vendor(s) must ensure services will be provided in the least intrusive manner in locations where PATH Eligible individuals may be found and served.
- 2.1.9.4. The selected Vendor(s) must aim to achieve or exceed national PATH Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) performance measures in delivery and costs of services. (Please see Page 135, Outputs and Outcomes Table of [Fiscal Year 2023 Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees \(samhsa.gov\)](https://www.samhsa.gov/justification-of-estimates-for-appropriations-committees)).
- 2.1.9.5. The selected Vendor(s) must submit an IUP to BHS annually, to enable BHS to meet the federal submission requirements of the annual federal FOA for PATH funds. Each IUP must provide a projected summary of performance in the following outcome measures:
 - 2.1.9.5.1. Number of homeless adults to be contacted;
 - 2.1.9.5.2. Number of contacted persons experiencing homelessness with SMI or co-occurring disorders who became enrolled in PATH services;
 - 2.1.9.5.3. Number of adult persons contacted using PATH funds that are literally homeless;
 - 2.1.9.5.4. Number of enrolled PATH individuals referred to and who will community mental health services;
 - 2.1.9.5.5. Number of persons referred to and who will attain housing;
 - 2.1.9.5.6. Number of persons referred to and who will attain substance use disorder treatment services;
 - 2.1.9.5.7. Number of staff trained in SOAR; and,
 - 2.1.9.5.8. Budget and Budget detail/narrative.
- 2.1.10. Reporting
 - 2.1.10.1. The selected Vendor(s) must submit quarterly and annual reports that meet federal and state law and regulations for HMIS data to the Department including but not limited to:
 - 2.1.10.1.1. Demographic information on contacts and enrolled clients, reporting age, gender, race/ethnicity, veteran status, prior/current residence, substance use disorder, length of time outdoors.
 - 2.1.10.1.2. Detailed narrative budget yearly.

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

- 2.1.10.1.3. Number of persons experiencing homelessness contacted.
 - 2.1.10.1.4. Percentage of contacted persons experiencing homelessness with serious mental illness who become enrolled in services;
 - 2.1.10.1.5. The number of current enrolled clients receiving services, including community mental health services;
 - 2.1.10.1.6. Services and referrals provided to outreached and enrolled clients;
 - 2.1.10.1.7. Number of PATH providers trained on SOAR to ensure eligible homeless clients are receiving benefits; and,
 - 2.1.10.1.8. Number of persons enrolled who attained housing or other supportive services.
- 2.1.10.2. The selected Vendor(s) must provide key data in a format and at a frequency specified by the Department for the following performance measures:
- 2.1.10.2.1. Ninety percent (90%) of persons enrolled into Street Outreach or Supportive Services Only projects will be provided permanent housing referrals.
 - 2.1.10.2.2. Ninety-five percent (95%) of unsheltered persons enrolled into the Street Outreach or Supportive Services Only project will be provided referrals to ongoing community resources, including community mental health.
 - 2.1.10.2.3. Five percent (5%) of persons served will exit to permanent housing destinations as a result of street outreach or supportive service only services.
 - 2.1.10.2.4. 64% (or updated GPRA measure) of PATH enrolled households will receive community mental health services.
 - 2.1.10.2.5. 57% (or updated GPRA measure) of contacted persons experiencing homelessness will be enrolled in services.
- 2.1.10.3. The selected Vendor(s) may be required to provide other data and metrics to the Department in a format specified by the Department.

2.2. Mandatory Questions

In response to this solicitation, Vendor(s) must respond to the Mandatory Questions below in Appendix D, Technical Responses to Questions

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

3. SOLICITATION RESPONSE EVALUATION

3.1. The Department will evaluate responses from Vendors based upon the criteria and standards contained in this solicitation and by applying the points set forth below.

TECHNICAL RESPONSE	POSSIBLE SCORE
Experience (Q1)	25 Points
Service Provision (Q2)	30 Points
Evidenced Based Practices (Q3)	15 Points
Staffing (Q4)	15 Points
Lived Experience (Q5)	15 Points
Technical Response – Total Possible Score	100 Points

4. SOLICITATION RESPONSE PROCESS

4.1. Questions and Answers

4.1.1. Vendors' Questions

- 4.1.1.1. All questions about this Solicitation including, but not limited to, requests for clarification, additional information or any changes to the Solicitation must be made in writing, by email only, citing the Solicitation page number and part or subpart, and submitted to the Contract Specialist identified in Subsection 1.2.
- 4.1.1.2. The Department may consolidate or paraphrase questions for efficiency and clarity. Questions that are not understood will not be answered. Statements that are not questions will not receive a response.
- 4.1.1.3. The questions must be submitted by email; however, the Department assumes no liability for ensuring accurate and complete email transmissions.
- 4.1.1.4. Questions must be received by the Department by the deadline given in Subsection 1.3, Procurement Timetable.

4.1.2. Department Responses

- 2.1.1.1. The Department intends to issue responses to properly submitted questions by the deadline specified in Subsection 1.3, Procurement Timetable. All oral answers given are non-binding. Written answers to questions received will be posted on the Department's website at <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/doing-business-dhhs/contracts->

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

[procurement-opportunities](#)). This date may be subject to change at the Department's discretion.

4.1.3. Exceptions

- 4.1.3.1. The Department will require the successful Vendor to execute a contract using the Form P-37, General Provisions and Standard Exhibits, which are attached as Appendix A. To the extent that a Vendor believes that exceptions to Appendix A will be necessary for the Vendor to enter into a Contract, the Vendor must note those issues during the Question Period in Subsection 1.3. Vendors may not request exceptions to the Scope of Services or any other sections of this Solicitation.
- 4.1.3.2. The Department will review requested exceptions and accept, reject or note that it is open to negotiation of the proposed exception at its sole discretion in its response to Vendor questions.
- 4.1.3.3. Any exceptions to the standard form contract and exhibits that are not raised by a Vendor during the Question Period may not be considered. In no event is a Vendor to submit its own standard contract terms and conditions as a replacement for the Department's terms in response to this Solicitation.

4.2. Solicitation Amendment

- 4.2.1. The Department reserves the right to amend this Solicitation by publishing any addenda, as it deems appropriate, prior to the Submission Deadline on its own initiative or in response to issues raised through Vendor questions. In the event that an addendum is published, the Department, at its sole discretion, may extend the Submission Deadline.

5. SOLICITATION RESPONSE SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

5.1. Responses to this Solicitation must be submitted electronically via email to rfx@dhhs.nh.gov **AND** to the Contract Specialist at the email address specified in Subsection 1.2.

5.1.1. The subject line must include the following information:

RFA-2024-DBH-02-PATHH (email xx of xx).

- 5.2. The maximum size of file attachments per email is 10 MB. Submissions with file attachments exceeding 10 MB must be sent via multiple emails.
- 5.3. The Department must receive submissions by the time and date specified in the Procurement Timetable in Section 1.3 and in the manner specified or it may be rejected as non-compliant, unless waived by the Department as a non-material deviation.
- 5.4. The Department will conduct an initial screening step to verify Vendor compliance with the requirements of this Solicitation. The Department may waive or offer a limited opportunity for a Vendor to cure immaterial deviations from the Solicitation requirements if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Department.
- 5.5. Late submissions that are not accepted will remain unopened. Disqualified submissions will be discarded. Submission of solicitation responses shall be at the Vendor's expense.

6. SOLICITATION RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

6.1. Acceptable solicitation responses must offer all services identified in Section 2 - Statement of Work, unless an allowance for partial scope is specifically described in Section 2.

6.2. Technical Response Contents

Each Technical Response must contain the following, in the order described in this section:

6.2.1. Appendix B - Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Requirements

6.2.2. Appendix C – Transmittal Letter and Vendor Information, including:

6.2.2.1. Vendor Code Number - Prior to executing any resulting contract(s), the selected Vendor(s) will be required to provide a vendor code number issued by the State of New Hampshire Department of Administrative Services upon registering as an authorized vendor with the State. Vendors are strongly encourage to provide a vendor code number in the Appendix C if available. More information can be found at: <https://das.nh.gov/purchasing/vendorresources.aspx>

6.2.3. Appendix D – Vendor Technical Response to Mandatory Questions

6.2.4. Resumes – Vendors must provide resumes for those key personnel who would be primarily responsible for meeting the terms and conditions of any agreement resulting from this Solicitation. Vendors must redact all personal information from resumes.

7. ADDITIONAL TERMS AND REQUIREMENTS

7.1. Non-Collusion

The Vendor's required signature on the Appendix C – Transmittal Letter and Vendor Information submitted in response to this Solicitation guarantees that the prices, terms and conditions, and services quoted have been established without collusion with other Vendors and without effort to preclude the Department from obtaining the best possible competitive solicitation response.

7.2. Collaborative Solicitation Responses

Solicitation responses must be submitted by one organization. Any collaborating organization must be designated as a subcontractor subject to the terms of Appendix A, P-37 General Provisions and Standard Exhibits.

7.3. Validity of Solicitation Responses

Solicitation responses must be valid for one hundred and eighty (180) days following the deadline for submission in the Procurement Timetable above in Subsection 1.3, or until the Effective Date of any resulting contract, whichever is later.

7.4. Debarment

Vendors who are ineligible to bid on proposals, bids or quotes issued by the Department of Administrative Services, Division of Procurement and Support Services pursuant to the provisions of RSA 21-I:11-c shall not be considered eligible for an award under this solicitation.

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

7.5. Property of Department

Any material property submitted and received in response to this solicitation will become the property of the Department and will not be returned to the Vendor. The Department reserves the right to use any information presented in any solicitation response provided that its use does not violate any copyrights or other provisions of law.

7.6. Solicitation Response Withdrawal

Prior to the Response Submission Deadline specified in Subsection 1.3, Procurement Timetable, a submitted Letter of Intent or solicitation responses may be withdrawn by submitting a written request for its withdrawal to the Contract Specialist specified in Subsection 1.2.

7.7. Confidentiality

- 7.7.1. Pursuant to RSA 21-G:37, the content of responses to this solicitation must remain confidential until the Governor and Executive Council have awarded a contract. The Vendor's disclosure or distribution of the contents of its solicitation response, other than to the Department, will be grounds for disqualification at the Department's sole discretion.

7.8. Public Disclosure

- 7.8.1. The information submitted in response to this solicitation (including all materials submitted in connection with it, such as attachments, exhibits, addenda, and presentations), any resulting contract, and information provided during the contractual relationship may be subject to public disclosure under Right-to-Know laws, including RSA 91-A. In addition, in accordance with RSA 9-F:1, any contract entered into as a result of this solicitation will be made accessible to the public online via the New Hampshire Secretary of State website (<https://sos.nh.gov/>).
- 7.8.2. Confidential, commercial or financial information may be exempt from public disclosure under RSA 91-A:5, IV. If a Vendor believes any information submitted in response to this solicitation should be kept confidential, the Vendor must specifically identify that information where it appears in the submission in a manner that draws attention to the designation and must mark/stamp each page of the materials that the Vendor claims must be exempt from disclosure as "CONFIDENTIAL." Vendors must also provide a letter to the person listed as the point of contact for this solicitation, identifying the specific page number and section of the information considered to be confidential, commercial or financial and providing the rationale for each designation. Marking or designating an entire submission, attachment or section as confidential shall neither be accepted nor honored by the Department. Vendors must also provide a separate copy of the full and complete document, fully redacting those portions and shall note on the applicable page or pages that the redacted portion or portions are "confidential."
- 7.8.3. Submissions which do not conform to these instructions by failing to include a redacted copy (if necessary), by failing to include a letter specifying the rationale for each redaction, by failing to designate the redactions in the manner required by these instructions, or by including redactions which are contrary to these

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

instructions or operative law may be rejected by the Department as not conforming to the requirements of the solicitation.

- 7.8.4. Pricing, which includes but is not limited to, the administrative costs and other performance guarantees in responses or any subsequently awarded contract shall be subject to public disclosure regardless of whether it is marked as confidential.
- 7.8.5. Notwithstanding a Vendor's designations, the Department is obligated under the Right-to-Know law to conduct an independent analysis of the confidentiality of the information submitted in response to the solicitation. If a request is made to the Department to view or receive copies of any portion of the response that is marked confidential, the Department shall first assess what information it is obligated to release. The Department will then notify the Vendor that a request has been made, indicate what, if any, information the Department has assessed is confidential and will not be released, and specify the planned release date of the remaining portions of the response. To halt the release of information by the Department, a Vendor must initiate and provide to the Department, prior to the date specified in the notice, a court action in the Superior Court of the State of New Hampshire, at its sole expense, seeking to enjoin the release of the requested information.
- 7.8.6. By submitting a response to this solicitation, Vendors acknowledge and agree that:
- 7.8.7. The Department may disclose any and all portions of the response or related materials which are not marked as confidential and/or which have not been specifically explained in the letter to the person identified as the point of contact for this solicitation;
- 7.8.8. The Department is not obligated to comply with a Vendor's designations regarding confidentiality and must conduct an independent analysis to assess the confidentiality of the information submitted; and
- 7.8.9. The Department may, unless otherwise prohibited by court order, release the information on the date specified in the notice described above without any liability to a Vendor.

7.9. Electronic Posting of RFP Results and Resulting Contract

- 7.9.1. At the time of receipt of responses, the Department will post the number of responses received with no further information. No later than five (5) business days prior to submission of a contract to the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to this solicitation, the Department will post the name, rank or score of each responding Vendor. In the event that the resulting contract does not require Governor & Executive Council approval, the Agency will disclose the rank or score at least five (5) business days before final approval of the contract.
- 7.9.2. Pursuant to RSA 91-A and RSA 9-F:1, the Secretary of State will post to the public any document submitted to G&C for approval, including contracts resulting from this solicitation, and posts those documents on its website (<https://sos.nh.gov/administration/miscellaneous/governor-executive-council/>). By submitting a response to this solicitation, vendors acknowledge and agree

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

that, in accordance with the above mentioned statutes and policies, (and regardless of whether any specific request is made to view any document relating to this solicitation), any contract resulting from this solicitation that is submitted to G&C for approval will be made accessible to the public online.

7.10. Non-Commitment

Notwithstanding any other provision of this solicitation, this solicitation does not commit the Department to award a contract. The Department reserves the right to reject any and all responses to this solicitation or any portions thereof, at any time and to cancel this solicitation and to solicit new solicitation responses under a new procurement process.

7.11. Liability

By submitting a response to this solicitation, the Vendor agrees that in no event shall the Department be either responsible for or held liable for any costs incurred by a Vendor in the preparation or submittal of or otherwise in connection with a solicitation response, or for work performed prior to the Effective Date of a resulting contract.

7.12. Request for Additional Information or Materials

The Department may request any Vendor to provide additional information or materials needed to clarify information presented in the solicitation response. Such a request will be issued in writing and will not provide a Vendor with an opportunity to change, extend, or otherwise amend its solicitation response in intent or substance.

7.13. Oral Presentations and Discussions

The Department reserves the right to require some or all Vendors to make oral presentations of their solicitation response. The purpose of the oral presentation is to clarify and expound upon information provided in the written solicitation response. Vendors are prohibited from altering the original substance of their solicitation response during the oral presentations. The Department will use the information gained from oral presentations to refine the technical review scores. Any and all costs associated with an oral presentation shall be borne entirely by the Vendor.

7.14. Successful Vendor Notice and Contract Negotiations

If a Vendor is selected, the Department will send written notification of their selection and the Department's desire to enter into contract negotiations. Until the Department successfully completes negotiations with the selected Vendor(s), all submitted solicitation responses remain eligible for selection by the Department. In the event contract negotiations are unsuccessful with the selected Vendor(s), the evaluation team may recommend another Vendor. The Department will not contact Vendor(s) that are not initially selected to enter into contract negotiations.

7.15. Scope of Award and Contract Award Notice

- 7.15.1. The Department reserves the right to award a service, part of a service, group of services, or total solicitation response and to reject any and all solicitation responses in whole or in part. A contract award is contingent on approval by the Governor and Executive Council.
- 7.15.2. If a contract is awarded, the selected Vendor(s) must obtain written consent from the State before any public announcement or news release is issued pertaining to any contract award.

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

7.16. Site Visits

The Department may, at its sole discretion, at any time prior to contract award, conduct a site visit at the Vendor's location or at any other location deemed appropriate by the Department, to determine the Vendor's capacity to satisfy the terms of this solicitation. The Department may also require the Vendor to produce additional documents, records, or materials relevant to determining the Vendor's capacity to satisfy the terms of this solicitation. Any and all costs associated with any site visit or requests for documents shall be borne entirely by the Vendor.

7.17. Protest of Intended Award

Any challenge of an award made or otherwise related to this solicitation shall be governed by RSA 21-G:37, and the procedures and terms of this solicitation. The procedure set forth in RSA 21-G:37, IV, shall be the sole remedy available to challenge any award resulting from this solicitation. In the event that any legal action is brought challenging this solicitation and selection process, outside of the review process identified in RSA 21-G:37,IV, and in the event that the State of New Hampshire prevails, the challenger agrees to pay all expenses of such action, including attorney's fees and costs at all stages of litigation.

7.18. Contingency

Aspects of the award may be contingent upon changes to state or federal laws and regulations.

7.19. Ethical Requirements

From the time this solicitation is published until a contract is awarded, no Vendor shall offer or give, directly or indirectly, any gift, expense reimbursement, or honorarium, as defined by RSA 15-B, to any elected official, public official, public employee, constitutional official, or family member of any such official or employee who will or has selected, evaluated, or awarded a solicitation, or similar submission. Any Vendor that violates RSA 21-G:38 shall be subject to prosecution for an offense under RSA 640:2. Any Vendor who has been convicted of an offense based on conduct in violation of this section, which has not been annulled, or who is subject to a pending criminal charge for such an offense, shall be disqualified from submitting a response to this solicitation, or similar request for submission and every such Vendor shall be disqualified from submitting any solicitation response or similar request for submission issued by any state agency. A Vendor that was disqualified under this section because of a pending criminal charge which is subsequently dismissed, results in an acquittal, or is annulled, may notify the Department of Administrative Services, which shall note that information on the list maintained on the state's internal intranet system, except in the case of annulment, the information, shall be deleted from the list.

7.20. Liquidated Damages

The selected Vendor agrees that liquidated damages may be determined by the Department as part of the contract specifications, as failure to achieve required performance levels will more than likely substantially delay and disrupt the Department's operations.

8. COMPLIANCE

8.1. The selected Vendor(s) must be in compliance with applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations, and applicable policies and procedures adopted by the Department currently in effect, and as they may be adopted or amended during the contract period.

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

8.2. The selected Vendor(s) may be required to complete a contract monitoring questionnaire, to be provided by the Department, to determine risk of non-compliance and appropriate monitoring activities including, but not limited to:

- 8.2.1. Site visits.
- 8.2.2. File reviews.
- 8.2.3. Staff training.

8.3. Records

8.3.1. The selected Vendor(s) must maintain the following records during the resulting contract term where appropriate and as prescribed by the Department:

- 8.3.1.1. Books, records, documents and other electronic or physical data evidencing and reflecting all costs and other expenses incurred by the selected Vendor(s) in the performance of the resulting contract(s), and all income received or collected by the selected Vendor(s).
- 8.3.1.2. All records must be maintained in accordance with accounting procedures and practices, which sufficiently and properly reflect all such costs and expenses, and which are acceptable to the Department, and to include, without limitation, all ledgers, books, records, and original evidence of costs such as purchase requisitions and orders, vouchers, requisitions for materials, inventories, valuations of in-kind contributions, labor time cards, payrolls, and other records requested or required by the Department.
- 8.3.1.3. Statistical, enrollment, attendance or visit records for each recipient of services, which shall include all records of application and eligibility (including all forms required to determine eligibility for each such recipient), records regarding the provision of services and all invoices submitted to the Department to obtain payment for such services.

8.3.2. During the term of the resulting contract(s) and the period for retention hereunder, the Department, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and any of their designated representatives shall have access to all reports and records maintained pursuant to the resulting contract(s) for purposes of audit, examination, excerpts and transcripts. If, upon review of the Final Expenditure Report the Department shall disallow any expenses claimed by the selected Vendor(s) as costs hereunder the Department shall retain the right, at its discretion, to deduct the amount of such expenses as are disallowed or to recover such sums from the selected Vendor(s).

8.4. Credits and Copyright Ownership

8.4.1. All documents, notices, press releases, research reports and other materials prepared during or resulting from the performance of the services of the resulting Contract(s) must include the following statement, "The preparation of this (report, document etc.) was financed under a Contract with the State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services, with funds provided in part by the State of New Hampshire and/or such other funding sources as were available or required, e.g., the United States Department of Health and Human Services."

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

- 8.4.2. All written, video and audio materials produced or purchased under the contract must have prior approval from the Department before printing, production, distribution or use.
- 8.4.3. The Department will retain copyright ownership for any and all original materials produced, including, but not limited to:
 - 8.4.3.1. Brochures.
 - 8.4.3.2. Resource directories.
 - 8.4.3.3. Protocols.
 - 8.4.3.4. Guidelines.
 - 8.4.3.5. Posters.
 - 8.4.3.6. Reports.
- 8.4.4. The selected Vendor(s) must not reproduce any materials produced under the contract without prior written approval from the Department.

8.5. Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services

- 8.5.1. Vendors are required to consider the need for language services for individuals with Limited English Proficiency as well as other communication needs, served or likely to be encountered in the eligible service population, both in developing their budgets and in conducting their programs and activities.
- 8.5.2. Vendors are required to complete Appendix B, Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Requirements as part of their solicitation response. This is in accordance with Federal civil rights laws and intended to help inform Vendors' program design, which in turn, will allow Vendors to put forth the best possible solicitation response.
- 8.5.3. If awarded a contract, the selected Vendor(s) will be:
 - 8.5.3.1. Required to submit a detailed description of the language assistance services they will provide to LEP persons to ensure meaningful access to their programs and/or services, within ten (10) days of the date the contract is approved by Governor and Council; and
 - 8.5.3.2. Monitored on their Federal civil rights compliance using the Federal Civil Rights Compliance Checklist, as made available by the Department.

8.6. Eligibility Determinations

- 8.6.1. The selected Vendor(s) must make eligibility determinations in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, regulations, orders, guidelines, policies and procedures.
- 8.6.2. The selected Vendor(s) must notify any individual who has been found ineligible for services of their right to appeal the adverse decision by requesting a fair hearing in accordance with New Hampshire RSA 126-A:5.

8.7. Background Checks

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

- 8.7.1. Prior to permitting any individual to provide services under this Agreement, the selected Vendor must ensure that said individual has undergone:
 - 8.7.1.1. A criminal background check, at the selected Vendor's expense, and has no convictions for crimes that represent evidence of behavior that could endanger individuals served under this Agreement;
 - 8.7.1.2. A name search of the Department's Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services (BEAS) State Registry, pursuant to RSA 161-F:49, with results indicating no evidence of behavior that could endanger individuals served under this Agreement;

8.8. Confidential Data

- 8.8.1. The selected Vendor(s) must meet all information security and privacy requirements as set by the Department and in accordance with the Department's Exhibit K, DHHS Information Security Requirements.
- 8.8.2. The selected Vendor(s) must ensure any staff and/or volunteers involved in delivering services through the resulting contract(s) sign an attestation agreeing to access, view, store, and discuss Confidential Data in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations and the Department's Exhibit K, The selected Vendor(s) must ensure said individuals have a justifiable business need to access confidential data. The selected Vendor(s) must provide attestations upon Department request.
- 8.8.3. Upon request, the selected Vendor must allow and assist the Department in conducting a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) of its system(s)/application(s)/web portal(s)/website(s) or Department system(s)/application(s)/web portal(s)/website(s) hosted by the selected Vendor if Personally Identifiable Information (PII) is collected, used, accessed, shared, or stored. To conduct the PIA the selected Vendor must provide the Department access to applicable systems and documentation sufficient to allow the Department to assess, at minimum, the following:
 - 8.8.3.1. How PII is gathered and stored;
 - 8.8.3.2. Who will have access to PII;
 - 8.8.3.3. How PII will be used in the system;
 - 8.8.3.4. How individual consent will be achieved and revoked; and
 - 8.8.3.5. Privacy practices.
- 8.8.4. The Department may conduct follow-up PIAs in the event there are either significant process changes or new technologies impacting the collection, processing or storage of PII.

8.9. Department Owned Devices, Systems and Network Usage

- 8.9.1. If Contractor End Users are authorized by the Department's Information Security Office to use a Department issued device (e.g. computer, tablet, mobile telephone) or access the Department network in the fulfillment of this Agreement, the selected Vendor must:

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

- 8.9.1.1. Sign and abide by applicable Department and New Hampshire Department of Information Technology (NH DoIT) use agreements, policies, standards, procedures and guidelines, and complete applicable trainings as required;
- 8.9.1.2. Use the information that they have permission to access solely for conducting official Department business and agree that all other use or access is strictly forbidden including, but not limited, to personal or other private and non-Department use, and that at no time shall they access or attempt to access information without having the express authority of the Department to do so;
- 8.9.1.3. Not access or attempt to access information in a manner inconsistent with the approved policies, procedures, and/or agreement relating to system entry/access;
- 8.9.1.4. Not copy, share, distribute, sub-license, modify, reverse engineer, rent, or sell software licensed, developed, or being evaluated by the Department, and at all times must use utmost care to protect and keep such software strictly confidential in accordance with the license or any other agreement executed by the Department;
- 8.9.1.5. Only use equipment, software, or subscription(s) authorized by the Department's Information Security Office or designee;
- 8.9.1.6. Not install non-standard software on any Department equipment unless authorized by the Department's Information Security Office or designee;
- 8.9.1.7. Agree that email and other electronic communication messages created, sent, and received on a Department-issued email system are the property of the Department of New Hampshire and to be used for business purposes only. Email is defined as "internal email systems" or "Department-funded email systems."
- 8.9.1.8. Agree that use of email must follow Department and NH DoIT policies, standards, and/or guidelines; and
- 8.9.1.9. Agree when utilizing the Department's email system:
 - 8.9.1.9.1. To only use a Department email address assigned to them with a "@affiliate.DHHS.NH.Gov".
 - 8.9.1.9.2. Include in the signature lines information identifying the End User as a non-Department workforce member; and
 - 8.9.1.9.3. Ensure the following confidentiality notice is embedded underneath the signature line:

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: "This message may contain information that is privileged and confidential and is intended only for the use of the individual(s) to whom it is addressed. If you receive this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete this electronic

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

message and any attachments from your system. Thank you for your cooperation.”

- 8.9.1.10. Contractor End Users with a Department issued email, access or potential access to Confidential Data, and/or a workspace in a Department building/facility, must:
- 8.9.1.11. Complete the Department’s Annual Information Security & Compliance Awareness Training prior to accessing, viewing, handling, hearing, or transmitting Department Data or Confidential Data.
- 8.9.1.12. Sign the Department’s Business Use and Confidentiality Agreement and Asset Use Agreement, and the NH DoIT Department wide Computer Use Agreement upon execution of the Contract and annually throughout the Contract term.
- 8.9.1.13. Agree End User’s will only access the Department’ intranet to view the Department’s Policies and Procedures and Information Security webpages.
- 8.9.1.14. Agree, if any End User is found to be in violation of any of the above-Department terms and conditions of the Contract, said End User may face removal from the Contract, and/or criminal and/or civil prosecution, if the act constitutes a violation of law.
- 8.9.1.15. Agrees to notify the Department a minimum of three business days prior to any upcoming transfers or terminations of End Users who possess Department credentials and/or badges or who have system privileges. If End Users who possess Department credentials and/or badges or who have system privileges resign or are dismissed without advance notice, the selected Vendor agrees to notify the Department’s Information Security Office or designee immediately.

8.9.2. Workspace Requirement

- 8.9.2.1. If applicable, the Department will work with selected Vendor to determine requirements for providing necessary workspace and Department equipment for its End Users.

8.10. Contract End-of-Life Transition Services

8.10.1. General Requirements

- 8.10.1.1. If applicable, upon termination or expiration of the Contract the Parties agree to cooperate in good faith to effectuate a smooth secure transition of the Services from the selected Vendor to the Department and, if applicable, the selected Vendor engaged by the Department to assume the Services previously performed by the selected Vendor for this section the new selected Vendor shall be known as “Recipient”). Ninety (90) days prior to the end-of the contract or unless otherwise specified by the Department, the selected Vendor must begin working with the Department and if applicable, the new Recipient to develop a

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

Data Transition Plan (DTP). The Department shall provide the DTP template to the Contractor.

- 8.10.1.2. The Contractor must use reasonable efforts to assist the Recipient, in connection with the transition from the performance of Services by the Contractor and its End Users to the performance of such Services. This may include assistance with the secure transfer of records (electronic and hard copy), transition of historical data (electronic and hard copy), the transition of any such Service from the hardware, software, network and telecommunications equipment and internet-related information technology infrastructure ("Internal IT Systems") of Contractor to the Internal IT Systems of the Recipient and cooperation with and assistance to any third-party consultants engaged by Recipient in connection with the Transition Services.
- 8.10.1.3. If a system, database, hardware, software, and/or software licenses (Tools) was purchased or created to manage, track, and/or store Department Data in relationship to this contract said Tools will be inventoried and returned to the Department, along with the inventory document, once transition of Department Data is complete.
- 8.10.1.4. The internal planning of the Transition Services by the Contractor and its End Users shall be provided to the Department and if applicable the Recipient in a timely manner. Any such Transition Services shall be deemed to be Services for purposes of this Contract.
- 8.10.1.5. Should the data Transition extend beyond the end of the Contract, the Contractor agrees that the Contract Information Security Requirements, and if applicable, the Department's Business Associate Agreement terms and conditions remain in effect until the Data Transition is accepted as complete by the Department.
- 8.10.1.6. In the event where the Contractor has comingled Department Data and the destruction or Transition of said data is not feasible, the Department and Contractor will jointly evaluate regulatory and professional standards for retention requirements prior to destruction, refer to the terms and conditions of Exhibit K: *DHHS Information Security Requirements*.

8.10.2. Completion of Transition Services

- 8.10.2.1. Each service or Transition phase shall be deemed completed (and the Transition process finalized) at the end of 15 business days after the product, resulting from the Service, is delivered to the Department and/or the Recipient in accordance with the mutually agreed upon Transition plan, unless within said 15 business day term the Contractor

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

notifies the Department of an issue requiring additional time to complete said product.

8.10.2.2. Once all parties agree the data has been migrated the Contractor will have 30 days to destroy the data per the terms and conditions of Exhibit K: DHHS Information Security Requirements.

8.10.3. Disagreement over Transition Services Results

8.10.3.1. In the event the Department is not satisfied with the results of the Transition Service, the Department shall notify the Contractor, by email, stating the reason for the lack of satisfaction within 15 business days of the final product or at any time during the data Transition process. The Parties shall discuss the actions to be taken to resolve the disagreement or issue. If an agreement is not reached, at any time the Department shall be entitled to initiate actions in accordance with the Contract.

8.11. Audit Requirements

8.11.1. The selected Vendor(s) must email an annual audit to dhhs.act@dhhs.nh.gov if any of the following conditions exist:

8.11.1.1. Condition A - The selected Vendor expended \$750,000 or more in federal funds received as a subrecipient pursuant to 2 CFR Part 200, during the most recently completed fiscal year.

8.11.1.2. Condition B - The selected Vendor is subject to audit pursuant to the requirements of NH RSA 7:28, III-b, pertaining to charitable organizations receiving support of \$1,000,000 or more.

8.11.1.3. Condition C - The selected Vendor is a public company and required by Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) regulations to submit an annual financial audit.

8.11.2. If Condition A exists, the selected Vendor(s) shall submit an annual single audit performed by an independent Certified Public Accountant (CPA) to the Department within 120 days after the close of the Vendor's fiscal year, conducted in accordance with the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal awards.

8.11.3. If Condition B or Condition C exists, the selected Vendor(s) shall submit an annual financial audit performed by an independent CPA within 120 days after the close of the selected Vendor's fiscal year.

8.11.4. Any selected Vendor that receives an amount equal to or greater than \$250,000 from the Department during a single fiscal year, regardless of the funding source, may be required, at a minimum, to submit annual financial audits performed by an independent CPA if the Department's risk assessment determination indicates the Vendor is high-risk.

8.11.5. In addition to, and not in any way in limitation of obligations of the resulting Contract(s), it is understood and agreed by the selected Vendor(s) that the

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Projects for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

selected Vendor(s) shall be held liable for any state or federal audit exceptions and shall return to the Department all payments made under the resulting Contract(s) to which exception has been taken, or which have been disallowed because of such an exception.

9. APPENDICES TO THIS SOLICITATION

- 9.1. Appendix A – Form P-37 General Provisions and Standard Exhibits**
- 9.2. Appendix B – Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Requirements**
- 9.3. Appendix C – Transmittal Letter and Vendor Information**
- 9.4. Appendix D – Technical Response to Questions**