



State of New Hampshire
Department of Health and Human Services

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

FOR

Disability Determinations

RFA-2024-DES-05-DISAB

RELEASE DATE: September 1, 2023

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1. PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

1.1. Introduction

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Economic Stability (“Department”) is seeking responses to this Request for Applications (solicitation) from qualified Vendors to provide disability determination services that include medical, psychological, and psychiatric services in order to evaluate claims of disability and support eligibility determinations for the following programs:

- 1.1.1. Aid to the Needy Blind (ANB) - a category of assistance for individuals who are blind at any age who meet the definition of blind and who are within income and resources guidelines.
- 1.1.2. Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD) - a category of assistance for individuals who are between the ages of eighteen (18) and sixty four (64) and who are permanently and totally disabled, as defined by state and federal regulations.
- 1.1.3. Continuing Disability Review (CDR) – A review that is completed to determine if an individual is still medically eligible for State disability programs.
- 1.1.4. Home Care for Children with Severe Disabilities (HC-CSD) – A category of assistance for children from birth to age nineteen (19) who are disabled and require the same level of care as provided in a hospital, psychiatric hospital, nursing facility, or intermediate care facility for the intellectually disabled.
- 1.1.5. Medicaid for Employed Adults with Disabilities (MEAD) – a category of assistance for individuals who are employed and have earned income above the Substantial Gainful Employment threshold.
- 1.1.6. Medicaid for Employed Older Adults with Disabilities (MOAD) - a category of assistance for individuals age sixty five (65) and older who are employed and disabled.

The Department anticipates approximately three thousand (3000) disability determinations per year. This is an estimate based on anticipated volume and may be subject to change.

The Department anticipates awarding one (1) contract 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	January 1, 2024
Contract End Date	June 30, 2025
Renewal Options	The Department may extend contracted services for up to four (4) additional years.

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Funding for the resulting contract is anticipated to be approximately:	\$1,060,218	
Funding Source	The Department anticipates using Federal and General funds for resulting contract.	
	Assistance Listing #	93.778
	Award Name	Medical Assistance Program
Match Requirements	N/A	
Point of Contact	Kathleen Vattes, Senior Contract Specialist kathleen.b.vattes@dhhs.nh.gov 603-271-0198	
<p>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.</p>		

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
1.	Solicitation Released	9/1/2023
2.	Letter of Intent Submission Deadline (optional)	9/8/2023
3.	Questions Submission Deadline	9/13/2023 12:00PM
4.	Department Response to Questions Published	9/27/2023
5.	Vendor Solicitation Response Due Date	10/9/2023 12:00PM

1.4. Background

1.4.1. New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Economic Stability (DES)

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 public assistance,

housing supports, 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.

DES provides assistance to families in a holistic, multi-generational and integrated approach for individuals, children and families who may be in need of an array of supports that may include but are not limited to: child care, housing, food, economic assistance, and employment assistance.

1.4.2. Objective

Disability determinations are conducted in order to determine the medical eligibility component for applicants seeking Medicaid disability benefits. Pursuant to 42CFR435.912(a)(1)-(2), requires Medicaid eligibility determinations be completed within 90 days of receiving applications for benefits.

At this time, the Department does not have sufficient clinical staff to meet the federal timeframes that are mandated for disability determinations.

The contract resulting from this RFA will require a Medical Review Team consisting of physicians, nurses, and psychiatrists or psychologists to review cases referred by the Department and provide the Department with a clinical determination within fifteen (15) business days from receipt of referral.

The team of professionals on the Medical Review Team will determine the medical eligibility of each individual applying for assistance through Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled, Medicaid for Employed Adults with Disabilities, Medicaid for Employed Older Adults with Disabilities, Home Care for Children with Severe Disabilities and, Aid to the Needy Blind on the basis of medical, diagnostic, and mental health, utilizing the “*NH DDU Disability MERS*” (see Appendix E – New Hampshire Disability Determination Unit Medical Eligibility Review Summary).

1.5. Terminology

ANB – Aid to the Needy Blind – a category of assistance for individuals who are blind at any age who meet the definition of blind and who are within income and resources guidelines.

APTD – Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled – a category of assistance for individuals who are between the ages of eighteen (18) and sixty four (64) and who are permanently and totally disabled, as defined by state and federal regulations.

Business Days – For the purposes of this Agreement, all references to business hours mean Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM, Eastern Standard Time, excluding state and federal holidays.

CDR – Continuing Disability Review – a review that is completed to determine if an individual is still medically eligible for State disability programs.

HC-CSD – Home Care for Children with Severe Disabilities – a category of assistance for children from birth to age nineteen (19) who are disabled and require the same level of care as provided in a hospital, psychiatric hospital, nursing facility, or intermediate care facility for the intellectually disabled.

MEAD – Medicaid for Employed Adults with Disabilities – a category of assistance for individuals who are employed and have earned income above the Substantial Gainful Employment threshold.

MOAD – Medicaid for Employed Older Adults with Disabilities – a category of assistance for individuals age sixty five (65) and older who are employed and disabled.

Blue Book – The Disability Blue Book is a guide used by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to evaluate disabilities of applicants for social security disability benefits. See <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/>.

2. STATEMENT OF WORK

2.1. Scope of Services

2.1.1. The selected Vendor must provide Disability Determination Services to the Department for individuals who are residents of New Hampshire and meet one (1) or more of the following criteria:

2.1.1.1. Applying for APTD, MEAD, MOAD and ANB;

2.1.1.2. Individuals disabled as defined in the federal Social Security Act, Titles II and XVI and regulations adopted under such act, except that the minimum required duration of the impairment is forty eight (48) months.

2.1.1.3. Applying for HC-CSD with the duration of impairment of a minimum of twelve (12) months.

2.1.1.4. Children with disabilities as described in New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) 167, Public Assistance to Blind, Aged, or Disabled Persons and to Dependent Children and New Hampshire Administrative Rule He-W 508, Medical Assistance for Home Care of Certain Children with Severe Disabilities.

2.1.2. The selected Vendor must have a thorough understanding of the disability determination process, legislation and rules that are associated with the disability determination services being provided, which may include, but are not limited to:

2.1.2.1. NH RSA 167: Public Assistance to Blind, Aged, or Disabled Persons and to Dependent Children.

2.1.2.2. NH Administrative Rule He-W 508: Medical Assistance for Home Care of Certain Children with Severe Disabilities.

2.1.2.3. NH Administrative Rule He-W 504: Medicaid for Employed Adults with Disabilities.

2.1.2.4. Social Security Act Title II: Federal Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Benefits, 42 USC 401-433.

2.1.2.5. Social Security Act Title XVI: Supplemental Security Income for the Aged, Blind and Disabled, 42 USC 1381-1383f.

- 2.1.2.6. 20 CFR 416 subparts I and J.
- 2.1.2.7. NH RSA 541-A: 31-36: Administrative Procedure Act.
- 2.1.2.8. NH Administrative Rule He-C 200.
- 2.1.2.9. CFR Appendix 2 to Subpart P of Part 404-Medical-Vocational Guidelines.
- 2.1.2.10. Up-to-date knowledge of, and experience with, industrial and occupational trends and local labor market conditions.
- 2.1.2.11. Involvement in or knowledge of vocational counseling and the job placement of adult workers with disabilities into jobs.
- 2.1.2.12. Knowledge of, and experience using, vocational reference sources of which the Department has taken administrative notice under 20 CFR 404.1566(d) and 416.966(d), including:
 - 2.1.2.12.1. The Dictionary of Occupational Titles and the Selected Characteristics of Occupations Defined in the Revised Dictionary of Occupational Titles.
 - 2.1.2.12.2. County Business Patterns and Census reports published by the Bureau of Census.
 - 2.1.2.12.3. The Occupational Outlook Handbook published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- 2.1.3. The selected Vendor must establish a Medical Review Team (MRT) to complete New Hampshire Medical Eligibility Review Summaries (MERS) and, as applicable, the Sequential Evaluation Process (see § 404.1520 Evaluation of disability in general). The selected Vendor must ensure the MRT includes, but is not limited to:
 - 2.1.3.1. For APTD, MEAD, MOAD and ANB eligibility determinations, a medical and psychological consultant and another individual who is qualified to interpret and evaluate medical reports and other evidence relating to the individual's physical or mental impairments and, as necessary, to determine the capacities of the individual to perform substantial gainful activity, as specified in 20 CFR Part 416, subparts I and J. ANB must be in accordance with RSA 167:6, IV.
 - 2.1.3.2. For HC-CSD eligibility determinations, physicians and registered nurses with expertise in the care of children with special health care needs; developmental disabilities; and behavioral issues responsible for determining whether home care services are medically appropriate in accordance with NH RSA 167:3-f, VI, and the most appropriate level of care under which to evaluate the child in accordance with RSA 167:3-g, III–VI.
- 2.1.4. The selected Vendor must ensure the medical consultant:

- 2.1.4.1. Is a licensed physician, either medical or osteopathic doctor licensed by the state in which they practice;
- 2.1.4.2. Completes the Residual Functional Capacity (RFC) (see 20 CFR § 220.120 The claimant's residual functional capacity) assessment for all APTD, MEAD and MOAD cases with physical impairments requiring steps 4 and 5 of the evaluation process (see 20 CFR § 404.1520 Evaluation of disability in general); and
- 2.1.4.3. Signs off on each case reviewed for confirmation of physical impairment.
- 2.1.5. The selected Vendor must ensure the psychological consultant:
 - 2.1.5.1. Is licensed or certified as a psychologist at the independent practice level of psychology by the state in which they practice; and
 - 2.1.5.1.1. Has a doctorate degree in psychology from a program in clinical psychology from an educational institution accredited by an organization recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation; or
 - 2.1.5.1.2. Is listed in a national register of health service providers in psychology, which the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration deems appropriate; and
 - 2.1.5.1.3. Has two (2) years of supervised clinical experience as a psychologist in health service, of which one (1) year is post-master's degree.
 - 2.1.5.2. Signs off on each case reviewed for confirmation of psychological impairments.
 - 2.1.5.3. Completes the Residual Functional Capacity (RFC) assessment for all APTD, MEAD and MOAD cases with mental impairments requiring steps four (4) and five (5) of the evaluation process.
- 2.1.6. The selected Vendor's MRT must view cases made available to them through the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) and New HEIGHTS, the Department's computer system used to determine eligibility, for assistance programs in order to have the MRT complete the New Hampshire Medical Eligibility Review Summary (MERS)/Sequential Evaluation Process, as included as Appendix E, NH DDU Disability MERS, which complies with 20 CFR Part 416.
- 2.1.7. The selected Vendor must make determinations on forms provided by the Department for that purpose and shall be made and remade at such times as are prescribed by the Department.
- 2.1.8. The selected Vendor must complete the MERS and determine individual eligibility within the federally mandated time. The selected Vendor must ensure:

- 2.1.8.1. Documentation clearly and adequately supports the determination;
- 2.1.8.2. All records and decisions include sign off by each member of the MRT; and
- 2.1.8.3. Approval or denial of the individual is completed and, the appropriate approval or denial letter is submitted by the selected Vendor utilizing the MMIS and/or New HEIGHTS system.
 - 2.1.8.3.1. All applicants declared ineligible are notified in writing of their right to a fair hearing regarding the determination in accordance with Department regulations.
- 2.1.9. The selected Vendor must ensure all MERS are signed off by:
 - 2.1.9.1. The Disability Reviewer;
 - 2.1.9.2. The Medical Consultant, for cases with physical impairments;
 - 2.1.9.3. The Psychological Consultant, for all cases with Psychological impairments; and
 - 2.1.9.4. A qualified individual who determines the capacities of the applicant to perform substantial gainful activity for all APTD, MEAD and MOAD cases requiring Steps IV and V of the Sequential Evaluation Process.
- 2.1.10. The selected Vendor must establish and maintain a working relationship with the Department to complete disability determination reviews to ensure all disability determination reviews are completed within fifteen (15) business days after receiving the fully developed file from the Department.
- 2.1.11. **Administrative Hearings**
 - 2.1.11.1. The selected Vendor must ensure a vocational expert and/or a medical witness is available for cases that are denied eligibility and the claimant files for a timely appeal, ensuring availability as follows:
 - 2.1.11.1.1. Approximately two (2) hours for HC-CSD Administrative Appeals Hearings.
 - 2.1.11.1.2. Approximately one (1) hour for APTD, MEAD, MOAD and ANB Administrative Appeals Hearings.
 - 2.1.11.2. The selected Vendor must ensure the vocational expert:
 - 2.1.11.2.1. Is a certified rehabilitation counselor.
 - 2.1.11.2.2. Has the expertise and availability to provide testimony over the phone, via video conferencing or in person, as appropriate, at Administrative Appeals Hearings.
 - 2.1.11.2.3. Has the expertise and ability to provide both factual and expert opinion on:

- 2.1.11.2.3.1. The skill level as well as the physical and mental demands of various occupations.
- 2.1.11.2.3.2. The characteristics of work settings, including the ability to classify occupations as unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled through the use of materials published by the Department of Labor.
- 2.1.11.2.3.3. The ability to match skills used in the past to skills necessary for other jobs based on the similarity of occupationally significant work activities among different jobs.
- 2.1.11.2.3.4. The existence of jobs within various occupations in the national economy, which means is a significant number of jobs in a particular occupation exist in the region where the claimant lives or in several other regions of the country.
- 2.1.11.2.3.5. Transferable skills analysis and Social Security Administration (SSA) regulatory requirements for transferability of work skills.
- 2.1.11.2.4. Reviews medical records and collaborates with Department staff to resolve cases prior to hearing dates, as necessary.
- 2.1.11.2.5. Is available, as needed, for APTD, MEAD and MOAD cases where the denial was determined at Steps IV or V of the Sequential Evaluation Process.
- 2.1.11.3. The selected Vendor must ensure a medical witness:
 - 2.1.11.3.1. Is an individual with the credentials of a Registered Nurse, or higher, who is available, as needed, to attend Administrative Appeals.
 - 2.1.11.3.2. Is available, as needed, over the phone, via video conferencing, or in-person to attend Administrative Appeals Hearings with the Department's legal team.
 - 2.1.11.3.3. Has the expertise and ability to attend pre-hearing conferences, compile evidence and interpret federal regulations and state policies to support eligibility decisions.

- 2.1.11.3.4. Reviews medical records and collaborates with Department staff to resolve cases prior to the hearing date.
- 2.1.12. The selected Vendor must participate in meetings with the Department on a monthly basis, or as otherwise requested by the Department.
- 2.1.13. The selected Vendor may be required to travel to meet with Department in-person.
- 2.1.14. The selected Vendor must establish and maintain a working relationship with the Department to complete disability determination reviews to ensure all disability determination reviews are completed within fifteen (15) business days after receiving the fully developed file from the Department.
- 2.1.15. The selected Vendor shall actively and regularly collaborate with the Department to enhance contract management, improve results, and adjust program delivery and policy based on successful outcomes.
- 2.1.16. The Department may identify expectations for active and regular collaboration, including key performance objectives, in the resulting contract. Where applicable, Contractor(s) must collect and share data with the Department in a format specified by the Department.
- 2.1.17. The Department will monitor Contractor performance by random case sampling to ensure timeliness and quality standards are met in accordance with the scope of work, program policy, state law, and federal regulations.
- 2.1.18. **Reporting**
 - 2.1.18.1. The selected Vendor must submit monthly Reports, which include, but are not limited to:
 - 2.1.18.1.1. Report of all overdue cases at the request of the Department.
 - 2.1.18.1.2. Other reports as requested by the Department in a format specified by the Department.

2.2. Mandatory Questions

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

Q1 – Describe in narrative form your knowledge of the Social Security Administration requirements and procedures relative to:

- a) The 5-step sequential evaluation process (see § 404.1520 Evaluation of disability in general (used by the Social Security Administration to determine if an individual age 18 and older is medically eligible to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) based on disability and, how Drug Addiction and Alcoholism (DAA) may or may not be material to the determination.
- b) The evaluation process used by the Social Security Administration to determine Supplemental Security Income (SSI) medical eligibility for disabled children.

- Q2** – Demonstrate your expertise, in narrative form, to perform the entire scope of work in this RFA. Your response to this question should include how many years of experience, any specialized classes, trainings and/or seminars attended. Provide resumes/credentials/curriculum vitae of staff who will be performing services described in this RFA.
- Q3** – Describe in narrative form your capacity to complete the work at identified in this RFA, including incorporating this RFA workload into your current caseload.
- a) Describe your capacity to complete reviews within fifteen (15) business days and return determination to the Department within five (5) business days, after receiving referral from the Department.
 - b) Include a process flow chart that supports and describes your ability to make determinations within the specified time frame.
 - c) Provide a modified process flow chart that absorbs the projected caseload in this RFA, which supports the narrative that describes your capacity to absorb an increase in your current workload.
- Q4** – Describe in narrative form your experience in providing the services requested in this RFA.

2.3. Finance

2.3.1. Funding is anticipated to be available for the resulting contract as follows:

State Fiscal Year	Approximate Funding Amount
2024	\$353,306
2025	\$706,912
TOTAL	\$1,060,218

- 2.3.2. Funds are anticipated to be available in the State Fiscal Years identified above with the ability to adjust encumbrances between state fiscal years, if needed and justified.
- 2.3.3. Payment for services shall be on a cost reimbursement basis for actual services provided, payable as indicated in the following Rate Table.
- 2.3.4. Rate Paid Per Case are identified below in the Rate Table and are all inclusive rates which include but not are limited to personnel, administrative, travel, mileage, equipment and other related expenses, items and costs associated with the Rate Paid Per Case in a resulting contract.
- 2.3.4.1. There are no other allowed costs to Rate Paid Per Case in a resulting contract and no additional expenses can be added to any determination.
 - 2.3.4.2. For each determination made as the result of a contract, the Contractor will be paid for determinations in accordance with the Rate Table.

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2.3.4.3. Payment may be withheld or reduced if the selected Vendor does not complete the reviews within the required fifteen (15) business days.

2.3.4.4. Rate Table:

RATE TABLE	
Type of Review	Rate Paid Per Case
APTD, MEAD, MOAD, and ANB cases requiring all Steps one (1) through five (5) of the evaluation process.	\$349.00
APTD, MEAD, MOAD and ANB cases requiring a Continuing Disability Review Steps one (1) through eight (8) of the evaluation process.	\$400.00
APTD, MEAD, MOAD and ANB cases requiring a Continuing Disability Review Steps three (3) through eight (8) (Steps one (1) and two (2) are completed by the Department).	\$349.00
HC-CSD cases requiring Steps one (1) through three (3) of the evaluation process and Level of Care.	\$349.00
HC-CSD cases requiring Continuing Disability Review requiring Steps one (1) through three (3) of the evaluation process and Level of Care.	\$349.00
APTD, MEAD and MOAD cases requiring Residual Functional Capacity (RFC), Steps four (4) and five (5), and final sign-off by a Doctor (Steps one (1) through three (3) are completed by the Department).	\$292.00
APTD, MEAD and MOAD cases requiring Residual Functional Capacity (RFC) and sign off by a Doctor (Steps one (1) through five (5) are completed by the Department).	\$252.00
HC-CSD, APTD, MEAD, MOAD, and ANB cases requiring only final sign off by a Doctor including Continuing Disability Reviews. All other steps have been completed by the Department.	\$120.00
Vocational Expert (All Inclusive Per Case for Administrative Appeal)	\$175.00
Medical Witness (All Inclusive Per Case for Administrative Appeal)	\$197.00

2.3.5. The selected Vendor must submit monthly invoices using a form satisfactory to the Department, which identify and request reimbursement for authorized expenses incurred. The selected Vendor must ensure invoices are completed, dated and submitted to the Department to initiate payment.

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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
Knowledge (Q1)	200 Points
Capacity (Q2)	200 Points
Ability (Q3)	200 Points
Experience (Q4)	200 Points
Technical Response – Total Possible Score	800 Points

3.2. Vendors that fail to receive a minimum score of **400** points will not be considered for an award.

4. SOLICITATION RESPONSE PROCESS

4.1. Letter of Intent

4.1.1. A Letter of Intent to submit a Response to this solicitation is optional.

4.1.2. Receipt of the Letter of Intent by Department will be required to receive electronic notification of any solicitation amendments, in the event such are produced; any further materials on this project, including electronic files containing tables required for response to this solicitation; any addenda, corrections, or schedule modifications; notifications regarding any informational meetings for Vendors; or responses to comments or questions.

4.1.3. The Letter of Intent must be transmitted by email to the Contract Specialist identified in Subsection 1.2 and include the name, telephone number, mailing address and email address of the Vendor's designated contact. **Notwithstanding the Letter of Intent, Vendors remain responsible for reviewing the most updated information related to this solicitation before submitting a response.**

4.2. Questions and Answers

4.2.1. Vendors' Questions

4.2.1.1. 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.

4.2.1.2. 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.

4.2.1.3. The questions must be submitted by email; however, the Department assumes no liability for ensuring accurate and complete email transmissions.

4.2.1.4. Questions must be received by the Department by the deadline given in Subsection 1.3., Procurement Timetable.

4.2.2. Department Responses

4.2.2.1. 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-procurement-opportunities>). This date may be subject to change at the Department's discretion.

4.2.3. Exceptions

4.2.3.1. 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.

4.2.3.2. 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.

4.2.3.3. 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.

4.3. Solicitation Amendment

4.3.1. 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-DES-05-DISAB (email **xx** of **xx**).

- 5.2. The maximum size of file attachments per email is 25 MB. Submissions with file attachments exceeding 25 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, the selected Vendor 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.

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 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 Solicitation 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 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.

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 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.

8.2. The selected Vendor may be required to complete a contract monitoring questionnaire, to be provided by the Department, to determine risk of noncompliance 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 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, and all income received or collected by the selected Vendor.

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.

8.3.1.4. Medical records on each patient/recipient of services.

8.3.2. During the term of the resulting contract 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 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 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.

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."
- 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 must not reproduce any materials produced under the contract without prior written approval from the Department.

8.5. Eligibility Determinations

- 8.5.1. The selected Vendor(s) must make eligibility determinations in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, regulations, orders, guidelines, policies and procedures.
- 8.5.2. 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.

8.6. Background Checks

- 8.6.1. Prior to permitting any individual to provide services under the resulting Agreement, the selected Vendor must ensure that said individual has undergone:
 - 8.6.1.1. 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 the Agreement;

8.6.1.2. 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 the Agreement;

8.6.1.3. A name search of the Department's Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Central Registry pursuant to RSA 169-C:35, with results indicating no evidence of behavior that could endanger individuals served under the Agreement;

8.7. Confidential Data

8.7.1. The selected Vendor) 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.

8.7.2. The selected Vendor 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 must ensure said individuals have a justifiable business need to access confidential data. The selected Vendor must provide attestations upon Department request.

8.7.3. 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:

8.7.3.1. How PII is gathered and stored;

8.7.3.2. Who will have access to PII;

8.7.3.3. How PII will be used in the system;

8.7.3.4. How individual consent will be achieved and revoked; and

8.7.3.5. Privacy practices.

8.7.4. 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.

8.8. Department Owned Systems and Network Usage

8.8.1. The selected Vendor's End Users authorized by the Department's Information Security Office to access the Department network in the fulfillment of this Agreement, must:

8.8.1.1. 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;
- 8.8.1.2. 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;
 - 8.8.1.3. Not access or attempt to access information in a manner inconsistent with the approved policies, procedures, and/or agreement relating to system entry/access;
 - 8.8.1.4. 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;
 - 8.8.1.5. Only use equipment, software, or subscription(s) authorized by the Department's Information Security Office or designee;
 - 8.8.1.6. Not install non-standard software on any Department equipment unless authorized by the Department's Information Security Office or designee;
 - 8.8.1.7. 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."
 - 8.8.1.8. Agree that use of email must follow Department and NH DoIT policies, standards, and/or guidelines; and
 - 8.8.1.9. Agree when utilizing the Department's email system:
 - 8.8.1.9.1. To only use a Department email address assigned to them with a "@ affiliate.DHHS.NH.Gov."
 - 8.8.1.9.2. Include in the signature lines information identifying the End User as a non-Department workforce member; and
 - 8.8.1.9.3. 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 message and any attachments from your system. Thank you for your cooperation."

- 8.8.1.10. 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:
- 8.8.1.11. Complete the Department's Annual Information Security & Compliance Awareness Training prior to accessing, viewing, handling, hearing, or transmitting Department Data or Confidential Data.
- 8.8.1.12. 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.
- 8.8.1.13. Agree End User's will only access the Department' intranet to view the Department's Policies and Procedures and Information Security webpages.
- 8.8.1.14. 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.
- 8.8.1.15. The selected Vendor must agree 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.

8.8.2. Workspace Requirement

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

8.9. Contract End-of-Life Transition Services

8.9.1. General Requirements

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

- 8.9.1.2. 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.
- 8.9.1.3. 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.
- 8.9.1.4. 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.
- 8.9.1.5. 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.
- 8.9.1.6. 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*.
- 8.9.2. Completion of Transition Services
 - 8.9.2.1. 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 notifies the Department of an issue requiring additional time to complete said product.

8.9.2.2. 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.

8.9.3. Disagreement over Transition Services Results

8.9.3.1. 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.

8.10. Audit Requirements

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

8.10.1.1. 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.

8.10.1.2. 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.

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

8.10.2. If Condition A exists, the selected Vendor 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.

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

8.10.4. 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.

8.10.5. In addition to, and not in any way in limitation of obligations of the resulting Contract, it is understood and agreed by the selected Vendor that the 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 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**
- 9.5. Appendix E – NH DDU Disability MERS**