

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**GROUP HOME IN REGION II FOR PERSONS
WITH SEVERE AND PERSISTENT
MENTAL ILLNESS**

EASTERN LA MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM
OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

**RFP # 305PUR-DHHRFP-ELMHSREGII-OBH
Proposal Due Date/Time: December 1, 2011
4:00 P.M. CST**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Content	Page
	Glossary	3
I	General Information	
A	Background	4
B	Purpose of RFP	4
C	Invitation to Propose	5
D	RFP Coordinator	5
E	Proposer Inquiries	5
F	Pre-Proposal Conference	5
G	Schedule of Events	6
H	RFP Addenda	6
II	Scope of Work	
A	Project Overview	6
B	Deliverables	7
C	Liquidated Damages	14
D	Fraud and Abuse	14
E	Technical Requirements	15
F	Subcontracting	15
G	Insurance Requirements	15
H	Resources Available to Contractor	16
I	Contact Personnel	17
J	Term of Contract	17
K	Payment Terms	17
III	Proposals	
A	General Information	17
B	Contact After Solicitation Deadlines	17
C	Rejection and Cancellation	17
D	Award Without Discussion	18
E	Assignments	18
F	Proposal Cost	18
G	Ownership of Proposal	18
H	Procurement Library/Resources for Proposer	18
I	Proposal Submission	18
J	Proprietary and/or Confidential Information	19
K	Proposal Format	20
L	Requested Proposal Outline	20
M	Proposal Content	20
N	Evaluation Criteria	24
O	On Site Presentation/Demonstration	25
P	Announcement of Award	25
IV	Contractual Information	25
	Attachments	
	I. Veteran and Hudson Initiatives	
	II. Certification Statement	
	III. DHH Standard Contract Form (CF-1)	
	IV. HIPAA	
	V. Sample Cost Breakdown Template	

Glossary

ACT/ FACT: Assertive Community Treatment/ Forensic Assertive Community Treatment: Regionally contracted wrap around services provided by an outpatient treatment team consisting of a psychiatrist, nurse, social worker, job specialist and other service providers, utilized in providing face to face contact to a persistently mentally ill person in their home/ PSH. The visits occur three or more times per week with the purpose of increased monitoring to increase treatment compliance for persons requiring more supervision and services than a monthly MHC appointment, but less supervision than a residential group home setting, while preventing recidivism to a hospital.

Array of services: to include 24 hour supervision with a 10 patient to 1 staff ratio from 5:00 PM – 8:00 AM and 20:1 from 8:00 AM- 5:00PM. Other services are community groups, independent living skills (meal preparation, shopping, household chores), crisis services, medication monitoring, and transportation to appointments, recreational outings and other social activities

DHH: Department of Health and Hospitals

ELMHS: Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System

Must: Denotes a mandatory requirement

OBH: Office of Behavioral Health

PSH: Permanent Supportive Housing

Redacted Proposal: The removal of confidential and/or proprietary information from one copy of the proposal for public records purposes.

Shall: Denotes a mandatory requirement

Should, May, Can: Denotes a preference, but not a mandatory requirement

Will: Denotes a mandatory requirement

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background

1. The mission of the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) is to protect and promote health and to ensure access to medical, preventive, and rehabilitative services for all citizens of the State of Louisiana. The Department of Health and Hospitals is dedicated to fulfilling its mission through direct provision of quality services, the development and stimulation of services of others, and the utilization of available resources in the most effective manner.
2. DHH is comprised of Medical Vendor Administration (Medicaid), Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Office of Behavioral Health, Office of Aging and Adult Services, and the Office of Public Health. Under the general supervision of the Secretary, these principal offices perform the primary functions and duties assigned to DHH.
3. DHH, in addition to encompassing the program offices, has an administrative office known as the Office of the Secretary, a financial office known as the Office of Management and Finance, and various bureaus and boards. The Office of the Secretary is responsible for establishing policy and administering operations, programs, and affairs.
4. Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System (ELMHS) is a 24 hour health care facility with multi-treatment and administrative areas, 600 licensed beds, and located in 3 geographic areas, in addition to several outreach programs located throughout the State of Louisiana. ELMHS is under the DHH/ OBH umbrella and shares a common mission: "The Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) ensures care and support to improve quality of life for people with mental illness and addictive disorders." DHH/ OBH/ ELMHS treats those persons with severe and persistent mental illness who require more supervision than community services can provide, and/or are forensically involved, until they can be served in the least restrictive setting within the community.

B. Purpose of RFP

1. The purpose of this RFP is to solicit proposals from qualified proposers that provide a DHH Licensed, (# AC10503, expires 11/30/2011), Shelter care **Group Home In Region II** with an array of services to include: 24 hour supervision with a 10 patient to 1 staff ratio from 5:00 PM – 8:00 AM and 20:1 from 8:00 AM- 5:00PM. Other services are community groups, independent living skills (meal preparation, shopping, household chores), crisis services, medication monitoring, and transportation to appointments, recreational outings and other social activities for male adults with severe and persistent mental illness.
2. A contract is necessary to provide services for a less restrictive housing option for the patients of Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System with severe and persistent mental illness who are ready for discharge and will require more supervision than regular housing or PSH. The primary objectives for the group home are safe housing with supervision and promote the development of skills necessary to live, socialize, be productive in the community; ultimately transition the person to more independent housing when appropriate.

C. Invitation to Propose

DHH/OBH/ELMHS is inviting qualified proposers to submit proposals for services to provide a **Group Home in Region II**, to provide adults with severe and persistent mental illness an array of services in accordance with the specifications set forth herein. Region II consists of the following parishes: East and West Feliciana, East and West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, Ascension. in accordance with the specifications and conditions set forth herein.

D. RFP Coordinator

1. Requests for copies of the RFP and written questions or inquiries must be directed to the RFP coordinator listed below:

Renee Lane (Mascarella)
Contract Administrator
Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System
Department of Health and Hospitals
4502 Highway 951
Jackson, LA 70748
225-634-0227 (office)
225-634-0187 (fax)
Renee.Mascarella@la.gov

2. This RFP is available in pdf at the following weblinks:
<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/category/47> and
<http://wwwprd.doa.louisiana.gov/OSP/LaPAC/bidlist.asp?department=4>
3. All communications relating to this RFP must be directed to the DHH RFP contact person named above. All communications between Proposers and other DHH staff members concerning this RFP shall be strictly prohibited. Failure to comply with these requirements shall result in proposal disqualification.

E. Proposer Inquiries

1. The Department will consider written inquiries regarding the requirements of the RFP or Scope of Services to be provided before the date specified in the Schedule of Events. To be considered, written inquiries and requests for clarification of the content of this RFP must be received at the above address or via the above fax number or email address by the date specified in the Schedule of Events. Any and all questions directed to the RFP coordinator will be deemed to require an official response and a copy of all questions and answers will be posted by the date specified in the Schedule of Events to both of the following web links:
<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/category/47> and
<http://wwwprd.doa.louisiana.gov/OSP/LaPAC/bidlist.asp?department=4>
2. Action taken as a result of verbal discussion shall not be binding on the Department. Only written communication and clarification from the RFP Coordinator shall be considered binding.

F. Pre-Proposal Conference

1. A pre-proposal conference will be held at Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System, Center Building, in Jackson, LA on the date and time listed on the Schedule of Events. Prospective proposers are encouraged to participate in the conference to

obtain clarification of the requirements of the RFP and to receive answers to relevant questions.

2. Although impromptu questions will be permitted and spontaneous answers will be provided during the conference, the only official answer or position of the state will be stated in writing in response to written questions. Therefore, proposers should submit all questions in writing (even if an answer has already been given to an oral question). After the conference, questions will be researched and the official response will be posted on the Internet at the following links:
<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/category/47> and
<http://www.prd.doa.louisiana.gov/OSP/LaPAC/bidlist.asp?department=4>.

G. Schedule of Events

DHH reserves the right to deviate from this Schedule of Events

Schedule of Events	
Public Notice of RFP	October 25, 2011
Pre-proposal conference	November 1, 2011 10:00 AM CST
Deadline for Receipt of Written Questions	November 8, 2011
Response to Written Questions	November 15, 2011
Deadline for Receipt of Written Proposals	December 1, 2011 4:00 PM CST
Proposal Evaluation Begins	December 2, 2011
Contract Award Announced	December 12, 2011
Contract Negotiations Begin	December 13, 2011
Contract Begins	January 10, 2011

H. RFP Addenda

In the event it becomes necessary to revise any portion of the RFP for any reason, the Department shall post addenda, supplements, and/or amendments to all potential proposers known to have received the RFP. Additionally, all such supplements shall be posted at the following web address:

<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/category/47> and
<http://www.prd.doa.louisiana.gov/OSP/LaPAC/bidlist.asp?department=4>

It is the responsibility of the proposer to check the websites for addenda to the RFP, if any.

II. SCOPE OF WORK

A. Project Overview

Adults with severe and persistent mental illness, who are undergoing treatment at ELMHS, may stay at ELMHS for a protracted length of time due in part to a lack of suitable housing options. Most of these clients will become disabled if they do not continue treatment after discharge. Many have a history of violence or unpredictable behavior and/or a forensic involvement which will require more supervision than a Permanent Supportive Housing option with wrap-around (Assertive Community

Treatment/ Forensic Assertive Community Treatment) services can provide. Having a continuum of housing services, including group home services, increases discharge options and allows patients to transition into the community with a gradual step down approach in structure for persons requiring 24 hour supervision upon discharge from the hospital setting. For these reasons, supervised, stable, safe housing provided in a group home setting is a priority for some clients who are going to live outside of a restrictive hospital setting. Although many of these clients will never live independently, they can function in communities with appropriate supervision, support and a housing option fit for their needs until they are ready for a PSH option.

The purpose of this contract is to help provide appropriate housing options with 24 hour supervision for eligible clients of ELMHS with severe and persistent mental illness that have been deemed by ELMHS to be ready for discharge but who will need more structure than a PSH or ACT/ FACT can provide. The primary objectives are that the housing be safe and supervised. The clients, most of whom are unable to care for themselves independently, will need an entire spectrum of services to include mental health treatment and related services, medication administration, basic food and clothing provision, structure in their daily routine, advocacy so they receive entitled benefits, transportation, and crisis support to prevent re-hospitalization.

Planning must be designed to tolerate the episodic nature of mental illness with its uncertainties, capacity for growth, and its propensity for setbacks, false starts, disagreements, and periods of rapid or minimal change which are significant stressors for the affected individual.

B. Deliverables

The contractor will provide a 20 bed **group home in Region II** with an array of services to adults with severe and persistent mental illness. The contractor must insure appropriate fiscal accountability.

1. Housing

The primary objective of this RFP is to provide 20 adequate, safe, stable, supervised group home beds for adult patients of ELMHS with severe and persistent mental illness ready for discharge from the hospital and group home placement. The physical plant of the building must be located in Region II and provide privacy for 20 adult clients and meet State DCFS licensure requirements for a shelter care home.

2. Administrative

- a. The contractor must be a Mental Health Rehabilitation services provider at the effective date of the contract and must meet all licensing requirements.
- b. The contractor must implement a 24 hour crisis service.
- c. The contractor must have cooperative agreements with medical and mental health facilities to provide for emergency and ongoing medical/mental services.
- d. The contractor must negotiate linkages with community resources for needed services and evaluations, and as required, develop formal affiliation agreements with other community agencies to provide essential services.
- e. The contractor shall submit a Transition Plan that describes how clients already receiving Mental Health Contract Services will be smoothly transitioned into new programs with minimal disruption.
- f. The contractor shall meet on a quarterly basis with ELMHS clinical staff to provide information regarding clients served. At these meetings, review of services provided will help evaluate the progress of services and lead to the

- modification of service plans as needed.
- g. The Administrative/Management office of contractor should be located within Region II.
 - h. The contractor shall coordinate all efforts closely with all ELMHS Mental Health programs.
 - i. The contractor shall ensure that programs meet all applicable licensing and certification requirements of the State of Louisiana.

3. **Population To Be Served**

In order to be eligible for services, a person must be a client of ELMHS and an adult who is severely and persistently mentally ill who meets the following criteria:

- a. **Age:** 18 years or older; **AND**
- b. **DIAGNOSIS:** Severe non-organic mental illnesses including, but not limited to, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorders, mood disorders, and severe personality disorders that substantially interfere with a person's ability to carry out such primary aspects of daily living as self-care, household management, interpersonal relationships and work or school; **AND**
- c. **DISABILITY:** Impaired role functioning, caused by mental illness, as indicated by at least **two** of the following functional areas:
 - i) Unemployed or has markedly limited skills and a poor work history, or if retired is unable to engage in normal activities to manage income; **OR**
 - ii) Employed in a sheltered setting; **OR**
 - iii) Requires public financial assistance for out-of-hospital maintenance (e.g., SSI) and/or is unable to procure such without help (does not apply to regular retirement benefits); **OR**
 - iv) Severely lacks social support systems in the natural environment (e.g., no close friends or group affiliations, lives alone, or is highly transient); **OR**
 - v) Requires assistance in basic life skills (e.g., must be reminded to take medicine, and or engage in activities of daily living, must have transportation arranged for them, needs assistance or structural support with household management tasks); **OR**
 - vi) Exhibits social behavior which results in demand for intervention by the mental and/or judicial or legal system.
- d. **DURATION:** Must meet at least **one** of the following indicators of duration:
 - i) Psychiatric hospitalizations of at least six (6) months in the last five (5) years (cumulative total); **OR**
 - ii) Two (2) or more hospitalizations for mental disorders in the last twelve (12) month period; **OR**
 - iii) A single episode of continuous structural supportive residential care other than hospitalization for a duration of at least six (6) months; **OR**
 - iv) A previous psychiatric evaluation indicating a history of treatment for severe psychiatric disability of at least six (6) months duration.

4. **Mental Health Services**

All mental health services shall be provided by the contractor to the client in accordance with an individualized service agreement, based on a comprehensive assessment that addresses all major life areas and focuses on the strengths and needs of the client with primary direction from the client in shaping the planning process.

The contractor will:

- a. Develop and maintain on an annual basis, specific, measurable, and time-limited programmatic goals/outcomes with planned action steps toward their completion.
- b. Service provision shall involve a collaborative process utilizing the team approach including program manager, mental health specialist, dual diagnosis treatment program manager, psychosocial rehabilitation program manager, mental health staff as appropriate, and, most importantly, the client and his/her family.
- c. Based on the individualized needs of the client and his/her family, services should reflect an appropriate mix of professional services (e.g., clinical management, medication management, supportive counseling, parent/family intervention, group counseling, behavior intervention development) and paraprofessional services (e.g., individual group psychosocial skills development, service integration, clinical management team, clinical management coordination).
- d. Mental health services shall be designed to bridge the gap between already existing services and those necessary to provide for the needs of the client while assisting in the client's progress towards becoming a productive and contributing individual. The focus is on helping client's identify, access, and utilize those resources needed while receiving the support and training needed to assist in their recovery.
- e. Develop program evaluation methods which will incorporate objectives and reflect programmatic growth, achievement of outcomes, or an explanation for failure to progress.
- f. Provide ongoing clinical direction, oversight, and coordination of services for all clients including assurance of the clients' active involvement, coordination and management of services and access and coordination of all services not provided by the contractor including clinic based mental health services.
- g. Contractor will complete a comprehensive evaluation and identification of client's strengths and deficits in relation to the skill demands and supports required in the particular environment in which the client wants or needs to function.
- h. Provide or assure the provision of support services necessary to enable the client to maintain and succeed in community living, including but not limited to:
 - i) Supportive counseling and companionship
 - ii) Provide transportation to community services.
 - iii) Learning and performing basic daily living skills
 - iv) Building a personal social network
 - v) Support services needed for the client to attain vocational goals
 - vi) Assist client in obtaining benefits for which he/she may be eligible
 - vii) Linkage with other community services
 - viii) Prevocational training and accompanying vocational assessments
 - ix) Parenting skills, collaboration with families, communities, and inpatient facilities
 - x) Social, leisure time access to parks, movies, restaurants, etc.
 - xi) Utilize/Develop social support system
 - xii) Assist the client in the integration of therapeutic principles and psychosocial skills into his/her natural environment and daily routine.

5. Crisis Services

- a. Crisis intervention and support services shall be provided 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Crisis services are necessary to assist clients in controlling and

resolving critical or dangerous problems that threaten personal safety or well being. The focus of crisis intervention is on problems or barriers to recovery that threaten the person's life or functioning.

- b. A crisis assistance plan shall be developed within first 30 days of awarded contract describing 24-hour accessibility of staff; in addition, each client shall have an individualized crisis contingency plan that focuses on natural supports to provide assistance and stabilization.

6. **Rehabilitation**

Contractor will provide social rehabilitation services that are available in the community and will be offered to clients based on their assessment needs.

Social rehabilitation is directed at helping individuals gain or regain the practical skills needed to live and socialize in the community. Services shall include activities that teach daily and community living skills and addresses diet, personal hygiene, cooking, shopping, budgeting, housekeeping, use of transportation, and use of other community resources in the natural settings where clients live, learn, and socialize. Educational approaches will teach clients how to cope with and compensate for their disabilities, how to manage medications, recognize danger signs, and utilize professional resources when necessary. Social rehabilitation also involves assistance in developing interpersonal skills and leisure time activities and interests, which provide a sense of participation and personal satisfaction. Opportunities will be provided for age-appropriate, culturally sensitive and appropriate daytime and evening activities, which offer the chance for companionship, socialization, and enjoyment. One of the pervasive problems that persons with severe and persistent mental illness face is that of isolation. The use of social and recreational opportunities available in the community should be maximized. The contractor shall assist clients in and educate them towards the goal of preparing their own meals, cleaning, and caring for their own clothes, managing their own medications, and other activities of daily living moving them toward a goal of independence.

7. **Outcome Measures: (Programmatic)**

All services provided must be individualized, appropriate, and aimed at improving the functioning of the client. The following outcome measures will be employed to determine the efficacy of programs and their success in achieving established goals:

- 50% decrease in hospital recidivism within the first year for persons placed in the group home;
- Evidence of compliance with requirements of the program;
- Results indicating a more socialized, integrated person (social relations);
- Increase of natural supports and social integration and activities with family, friends, co-workers and neighbors;
- Increased sense of individualism and increased sense of self-respect/dignity, as indicated by a client satisfaction report;
- Increased capacity for independent functioning; a greater capacity for independent community living;
- Increased movement toward financial stability; **OR**
- Decrease in legal problems that may threaten or jeopardize the recovery process

The services should provide for greater participation in self-help activities, minimize recurrence of problems, bring noted improvement in client's quality of life, and gain

client satisfaction. Another monitoring method will be the completion of contract/evaluation reviewers' reports to be done at least annually by the ELMHS Contract Monitor. Other unscheduled visits by the Adult Coordinator to evaluate and oversee the contract may occur.

In addition to the measures outlined above, a client satisfaction survey may be utilized to determine the satisfaction with services provided.

8. Rights Protection

Client Rights Protection

The contractor will identify barriers and disadvantages that threaten the exercise of equal rights and equal opportunities of persons with severe and persistent mental illness in the areas of housing, education and employment and will identify and when possible implement the means of eliminating those barriers for the clients served through this contract. Contractor will use a systematic approach to ensure the protection of rights, and equal opportunity of this population. Contractor shall provide education in personal advocacy to clients served through the contract and their families to aid them in understanding their rights, and make them aware of the availability of external resources to assist in upholding these rights.

The contractor shall assist clients in efforts to ensure that clients receive appropriate housing and educational services and employment consideration, supporting the goal of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as well as the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and subsequent amendments. Contractor shall assist clients to eliminate unfair treatment and discrimination against qualified workers with disabilities, to improve access to mainstream resources and to obtain consideration of disabled applicants' qualifications taking into account reasonable accommodations and support services.

Under no circumstances shall contractor provide legal counsel or representation to clients through this contract

9. Staffing Requirements

- a. Recruit and hire qualified staff, resulting in efficient and effective delivery of service.
- b. Maintain job descriptions for each job position, containing minimal criteria for the position, as well as specific job functions and responsibilities.
- c. Support staff, including clerks and secretarial personnel, must have work experience and be sufficiently trained in data processing.
- d. Each job position shall have a defined pay range.
- e. Training:
 - i) The contractor shall implement and maintain, on an on-going basis, an in-service training program for the staff, with training sessions in keeping with licensing requirements.
 - ii) Provide for intensive initial training of staff relevant to their program component.
 - iii) Additionally, staff will be required to participate in all training and intervention programs as deemed appropriate by Eastern La. Mental Health System.
- f. Written job evaluations are to be completed annually on each staff member.
- g. The contractor shall identify, hire and train at a minimum, the following staff:

Program Director: Minimum Qualifications
Licensed Mental Health Professional (LMHP) **or** six (6) years experience working with mentally ill adults along with supervisory/administrative experience.

Program Manager: Minimum Qualifications
A Board certified or Board eligible psychiatrist **or**
A psychologist who is licensed as a practicing psychologist under the provisions of Louisiana R.S. 28: **or**
A Board Certified Social Worker **or**
A Licensed Professional counselor **or**
A RN who meets the qualifications for LMHP

Psychosocial Rehab Program Manager: Minimum Qualifications
Paraprofessional under the Supervision of a LMHP **and** has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in a mental health related field **or** has a Bachelor of Science degree in a mental health related field **or** has a Bachelors degree in a mental health related field **and** has four years experience providing direct services in a mental health/physical health/social service educational/correctional setting **or** has two years experience as a Mental Health Assistant in a mental health rehabilitation setting.

Psychosocial Rehab Mental Health Specialist: Minimum Qualifications
An individual who is supervised by a LMHP **and** meets the following three criteria:

Has a high school degree or GED **and** has two years experience working with Adult, Severely and Persistently Mentally Ill **and** has completed Certified Medication Administration Training.

10. Programmatic Recordkeeping

- a. Each client will have a case record which includes, at a minimum, the following information:
 - i) Identifying information - Sex/race/address of the client; birth date and birthplace of the client; name and address of the client's current place of employment or school; court and/or legal status and name of person authorized to give consent, if applicable; the names, addresses and phone numbers of other persons or providers involved with the client case/plan; the client's physician's address and phone number.
 - ii) Health record - Must include any serious or life-threatening medical condition of the client, including a description of any current treatment or medication necessary for the treatment of serious or life-threatening condition(s) and/or any known allergies.
 - iii) Complete history of the client including, where applicable: Family data; employment record; prior medical history; medications; known allergies; as well as any other such pertinent information.
 - iv) The client assessments, evaluation and individualized plan(s).
 - v) Any incident reports involving the client.
 - vi) Any other record keeping requested or mandated by State Licensing.
- b. Client records shall be stored (secured) in such a manner as to be accessible to all staff involved with the client and still protect the client's

confidentiality. Closed client records will be retained for the period prescribed by law.

- c. Written comprehensive evaluations, service agreements, and quarterly summaries are to be maintained on each client. New service agreements are to be accomplished every six months reflecting changes/updates as outcomes are achieved. Quarterly summaries are to provide documentation of services provided, including outcomes achieved and/or barriers with plans to address them. Copies of quarterly summaries are to be provided to referring ELMHS clinician and contract monitor.

11. Required Documentation

- a. The contractor will employ record-keeping procedures which will provide an audit trail for expenditures and income received. Appropriate financial documentation for reimbursement must be submitted monthly to ELMHS. Failure to establish and retain adequate documentation of all expenditures represents a contractual breach and will result in disallowance of such expenditures.
- b. All work under the contract shall be monitored by ELMHS. Program review of contract conditions of the Statement of Work will be conducted by ELMHS on a semi-annual basis, and more frequently as necessary. Contractor shall respond to issues of concern raised by ELMHS clinicians within 15 days of receipt. ELMHS will be responsible for conducting site visits as a means for conducting any program reviews of the contract.
- c. Results of program evaluations will be made available for annual evaluation by State Office of Behavioral Health staff as well as ongoing evaluation by ELMHS.
- d. ELMHS is responsible for the technical direction of the contract, which includes reviewing and accepting all reports relative to client services, financial documentation and verification, and other reports as requested. Notwithstanding any other terms of the contract, failure of the contractor to submit required reports when due or failure to perform or deliver required work or services will result in the withholding of payments under the contract.

12. Admissions And Discharge

- a. Admissions / Referrals for Admission:
All referrals for admission will come from ELMHS. A Referral Packet on a client referred for discharge by the ELMHS Treatment Team will be sent for contractor's review to determine eligibility. All appropriate clients shall be accepted, or discussion of denial shall be held, with the ELMHS clinical director.
- b. Discharges:
Discharge Planning is a dynamic process which shall be developed with active participation of the client and is initiated when discharge criteria (i.e., the conditions under which services are considered no longer medically necessary) is identified during the development of the Service Agreement. Discharge Plans shall include a written summary of the client's program, progress, date and reason for discharge and recommendations and referrals for further treatment and services. Discharge Plans must be completed within 30 days of discharge,

be signed by the Clinical Manager and client, and a copy forwarded to the referring ELMHS clinician.

- i) **PLANNED** - The client is discharged from the program according to time frames established in the service agreement with consensus of the client, contractor and treatment personnel.
- ii) **UNPLANNED** – If a client elopes or voluntarily leaves, contractor must make every effort to find the client and assist in finding appropriate alternative housing if recommended. Efforts could include (but are not limited to) contacting law enforcement and family.
- iii) **EMERGENCY** – **The Contractor shall have an emergency management plan in place which covers events to include: elopement, criminal behavior, medical and psychiatric emergencies and natural and manmade disasters. The plan shall include the mitigation, preparedness, staff orientation of the plan, response and recovery.** A client may be removed from the program by the contractor when the client's continued presence poses danger to self, other clients, staff or members of the community. Formal notice of the emergency discharge must be provided to treatment personnel and OBH within 24 hours after discharge.

C. Liquidated Damages

1. In the event the Contractor fails to meet the performance standards specified within the contract, the liquidated damages defined below may be assessed. If assessed, the liquidated damages will be used to reduce the Department's payments to the Contractor or if the liquidated damages exceed amounts due from the Department, the Contractor will be required to make cash payments for the amount in excess.
 - a. Late submission of any required report - \$50 per working day, per report.
 - b. Failure to fill vacant contractually required key staff positions within 90 days - \$500 per working day from 91st day of vacancy until filled with an employee approved by the Department.
 - c. Failure to maintain all client files and perform all file updates according to the requirements in the contract, as evidenced in client files when reviewed during monitoring site visit - \$100 per client.
 - d. Late submission of invoices beginning 10 business days after the stated due date - \$50 per working day per invoice.
2. The decision to impose liquidated damages may include consideration of some or all of the following factors:
 - a. The duration of the violation;
 - b. Whether the violation (or one that is substantially similar) has previously occurred;
 - c. The Contractor's history of compliance;
 - d. The severity of the violation and whether it imposes an immediate threat to the health or safety of the consumers;
 - e. The "good faith" exercised by the Contractor in attempting to stay in compliance.

D. Fraud and Abuse

1. The Contractor shall have internal controls and policies and procedures in place that are designed to prevent, detect, and report known or suspected fraud and abuse activities.

2. Such policies and procedures must be in accordance with state and federal regulations. Contractor shall have adequate staffing and resources to investigate unusual incidents and develop and implement corrective action plans to assist the Contractor in preventing and detecting potential fraud and abuse activities.

E. Technical Requirements

The Contractor must maintain hardware and software compatible with current DHH requirements which are as follows:

- IBM compatible PC,
- Pentium 4, Celeron or equivalent processor (or compatible successors),
- 2 Gig of RAM memory,
- Enough spare USB ports to accommodate thumb drives, etc.
- 10 Gig free hard drive space (suggest 80 Gig hard drive for the system);
- Ethernet LAN interface for laptop and desktop PCs
- Color monitor;
- Printer compatible with hardware and software required;
- High speed internet with email;
- CD ROM;
- Windows XP, SP3 or later version of operating system (minimum);
- Windows Internet Explorer 7.0 (or later)
- Microsoft Office 2003 or later;
- Appropriate firewalls for internet security.
- Compliant with industry-standard physical and procedural safeguards for confidential information (NIST 800-53A, ISO 17788, etc.).

F. Subcontracting

The contractor shall not contract with any other party for furnishing any of the work and professional services required by the contract without the express prior written approval of the Department. The contractor shall not substitute any subcontractor without the prior written approval of the Department. For subcontractor(s), before commencing work, the contractor will provide letters of agreement, contracts or other forms of commitment which demonstrates that all requirements pertaining to the contractor will be satisfied by all subcontractors through the following:

1. The subcontractor(s) will provide a written commitment to accept all contract provisions.
2. The subcontractor(s) will provide a written commitment to adhere to an established system of accounting and financial controls adequate to permit the effective administration of the contract.

G. Insurance Requirements

Insurance shall be placed with insurers with an A.M. Best's rating of no less than A-: VI. This rating requirement shall be waived for Worker's Compensation coverage only.

1. Contractor's Insurance

The Contractor shall not commence work under this contract until it has obtained all insurance required herein. Certificates of Insurance, fully executed by officers of the Insurance Company shall be filed with the Department for approval. The Contractor shall not allow any subcontractor to commence work on subcontract until all similar

insurance required for the subcontractor has been obtained and approved. If so requested, the Contractor shall also submit copies of insurance policies for inspection and approval of the Department before work is commenced. Said policies shall not be canceled, permitted to expire, or be changed without thirty (30) days notice in advance to the Department and consented to by the Department in writing and the policies shall so provide.

2. Compensation Insurance

Before any work is commenced, the Contractor shall obtain and maintain during the life of the contract, Workers' Compensation Insurance for all of the Contractor's employees employed to provide services under the contract. In case any work is sublet, the Contractor shall require the subcontractor similarly to provide Workers' Compensation Insurance for all the latter's employees, unless such employees are covered by the protection afforded by the Contractor. In case any class of employees engaged in work under the contract at the site of the project is not protected under the Workers' Compensation Statute, the Contractor shall provide for any such employees, and shall further provide or cause any and all subcontractors to provide Employer's Liability Insurance for the protection of such employees not protected by the Workers' Compensation Statute.

3. Commercial General Liability Insurance

The Contractor shall maintain during the life of the contract such Commercial General Liability Insurance which shall protect Contractor, the Department, and any subcontractor during the performance of work covered by the contract from claims or damages for personal injury, including accidental death, as well as for claims for property damages, which may arise from operations under the contract, whether such operations be by the Contractor or by a subcontractor, or by anyone directly or indirectly employed by either of them, or in such a manner as to impose liability to the Department. Such insurance shall name the Department as additional insured for claims arising from or as the result of the operations of the Contractor or its subcontractors. In the absence of specific regulations, the amount of coverage shall be as follows: Commercial General Liability Insurance, including bodily injury, property damage and contractual liability, with combined single limits of \$1,000,000.

4. Insurance Covering Special Hazards

Special hazards as determined by the Department shall be covered by rider or riders in the Commercial General Liability Insurance Policy or policies herein elsewhere required to be furnished by the Contractor, or by separate policies of insurance in the amounts as defined in any Special Conditions of the contract included therewith.

5. Licensed and Non-Licensed Motor Vehicles

The Contractor shall maintain during the life of the contract, Automobile Liability Insurance in an amount not less than combined single limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury/property damage. Such insurance shall cover the use of any non-licensed motor vehicles engaged in operations within the terms of the contract on the site of the work to be performed thereunder, unless such coverage is included in insurance elsewhere specified.

6. Subcontractor's Insurance

The Contractor shall require that any and all subcontractors, which are not protected under the Contractor's own insurance policies, take and maintain insurance of the same nature and in the same amounts as required of the Contractor.

H. Resources Available to Contractor

DHH/ OBH/ ELMHS will have an assigned staff member who will be responsible for primary oversight of the contract. This individual will schedule meetings to discuss progress of activities and problems identified.

I. Contact Personnel

All work performed by the contract will be monitored by the contract monitor:

Dee Mondrick, Stakeholder Affairs
Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Behavioral Health
Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System
P.O. Box 498
Jackson, LA 70748
Phone: 225-634-0150
Email: Dee.Mondrick@la.gov

J. Term of Contract

The contract shall commence on or near the date approximated in the Schedule of Events. The term of this contract is for a period of 36 months. The continuation of this contract is contingent upon the appropriation of funds by the legislature to fulfill the requirements of the contract.

K. Payment

The contractor shall submit deliverables in accordance with established timelines and shall submit itemized invoices monthly or as defined in the contract terms. Payment of invoices is subject to approval of Janet O'Dell, CFO/ ELMHS.

III. PROPOSALS

A. General Information

This section outlines the provisions which govern determination of compliance of each proposer's response to the RFP. The Department shall determine, at its sole discretion, whether or not the requirements have been reasonably met. Omissions of required information shall be grounds for rejection of the proposal by the Department.

B. Contact After Solicitation Deadline

After the date for receipt of proposals, no proposer-initiated contact relative to the solicitation will be allowed between the proposers and DHH until an award is made.

C. Code of Ethics

Proposers are responsible for determining that there will be no conflict or violation of the Ethics Code if their company is awarded the contract. The Louisiana Board of Ethics is the only entity which can officially rule on ethics issues.

D. Rejection and Cancellation

Issuance of this solicitation does not constitute a commitment by DHH to award a contract or contracts. The Department reserves the right to reject all proposals received in response to this solicitation.

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 39:2192, in awarding contracts after August 15, 2010, any public entity is authorized to reject a proposal or bid from, or not award the contract to, a business in which any individual with an ownership interest of five percent or more, has been convicted of, or has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any state felony or equivalent federal felony crime committed in the solicitation or execution of a contract or bid awarded under the laws governing public contracts under the provisions of Chapter 10 of Title 38 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, professional, personal, consulting, and social services procurement under the provisions of Chapter 16 of this Title, or the Louisiana Procurement Code under the provisions of Chapter 17 of this Title.

E. Award Without Discussion

The Secretary of DHH reserves the right to make an award without presentations by proposers or further discussion of proposals received.

F. Assignments

Any assignment, pledge, joint venture, hypothecation of right or responsibility to any person, firm or corporation should be fully explained and detailed in the proposal. Information as to the experience and qualifications of proposed subcontractors or joint ventures should be included in the proposal. In addition, written commitments from any subcontractors or joint ventures should be included as part of the proposal.

G. Errors and Omissions

The state reserves the right to make corrections due to minor errors of proposer identified in proposals by State or the proposer. The State, at its option, has the right to request clarification or additional information from proposer.

H. Proposal Cost

The proposer assumes sole responsibility for any and all costs associated with the preparation and reproduction of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP, and shall not include this cost or any portion thereof in the proposed contract price.

I. Ownership of Proposal

All proposals become the property of the Department and will not be returned to the proposer. The Department retains the right to use any and all ideas or adaptations of ideas contained in any proposal received in response to this solicitation. Selection or rejection of the offer will not affect this right. Once a contract is awarded, all proposals will become subject to the Louisiana Public Records Act.

J. Procurement Library/Resources Available To Proposer

Agency documents relating to the pertinent areas of proposals are available for review during business hours (8:00 am CT – 4:30 pm CT) at Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System, Center Building, 4502 Highway 951, Jackson, LA 70748. Requests for an appointment to view documents must be made through Renee Mascarella by calling (225) 634-0227. Work space is available. Items may not be removed. Charges for copying at twenty-five cents (.25) per copy are payable at the time copies are made.

Cash is not acceptable; checks and money orders are to be made payable to Department of Health and Hospitals.

K. Proposal Submission

1. All proposals must be received by the due date and time indicated on the Schedule of Events. Proposals received after the due date and time will not be considered. It is the sole responsibility of each proposer to assure that its proposal is delivered at the specified location prior to the deadline. Proposals which, for any reason, are not so delivered will not be considered.
2. Proposer shall submit one (1) original hard copy (the Certification Statement must have original signature signed in ink) and should submit one (1) electronic copy (flash drive or cd) and ten (10) hard copies of each proposal. No facsimile or emailed proposals will be accepted. The cost proposal and financial statements should be submitted separately from the technical proposal; however, for mailing purposes, all packages may be shipped in one container.
3. Proposals must be submitted via U.S. mail, courier or hand delivered to:

If courier or hand delivered:

Mary Fuentes
Department of Health and Hospitals
Division of Contracts and Procurement Support
628 N. 4th Street, 5th Floor
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

If delivered via US Mail:

Mary Fuentes
Department of Health and Hospitals
Division of Contracts and Procurement Support
P.O. Box 1526
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-1526

L. Proprietary and/or Confidential Information

1. The designation of certain information as trade secrets and/or privileged or confidential proprietary information shall only apply to the technical portion of the proposal. The cost proposal will not be considered confidential under any circumstances. Any proposal copyrighted or marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse.
2. For the purposes of this RFP, the provisions of the Louisiana Public Records Act (La. R.S. 44.1 et. seq.) will be in effect. Pursuant to this Act, all proceedings, records, contracts, and other public documents relating to this RFP shall be open to public inspection. Proposers are reminded that while trade secrets and other proprietary information submitted in conjunction with this RFP may not be subject to public disclosure, protections must be claimed by the proposer at the time of submission of its Technical Proposal. Proposers should refer to the Louisiana Public Records Act for further clarification.
3. The proposer must clearly designate the part of the proposal that contains a trade secret and/or privileged or confidential proprietary information as “confidential” in

order to claim protection, if any, from disclosure. The proposer shall mark the cover sheet of the proposal with the following legend, specifying the specific section(s) of the proposal sought to be restricted in accordance with the conditions of the legend:

“The data contained in pages _____ of the proposal have been submitted in confidence and contain trade secrets and/or privileged or confidential information and such data shall only be disclosed for evaluation purposes, provided that if a contract is awarded to this proposer as a result of or in connection with the submission of this proposal, the State of Louisiana shall have the right to use or disclose the data therein to the extent provided in the contract. This restriction does not limit the State of Louisiana’s right to use or disclose data obtained from any source, including the proposer, without restrictions.”

4. Further, to protect such data, each page containing such data shall be specifically identified and marked “CONFIDENTIAL”.
5. Proposers must be prepared to defend the reasons why the material should be held confidential. If a competing proposer or other person seeks review or copies of another proposer's confidential data, DHH will notify the owner of the asserted data of the request. If the owner of the asserted data does not want the information disclosed, it must take legal action as necessary to restrain DHH from releasing information DHH believes to be public record.
6. **If the proposal contains confidential information, a redacted copy of the proposal must be submitted.** If a redacted copy is not submitted, DHH may consider the entire proposal to be public record. When submitting the redacted copy, it should be clearly marked on the cover as - “REDACTED COPY”. The redacted copy should also state which sections or information has been removed.”
7. Any proposal marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse.

M. Proposal Format

1. An item-by-item response to the Request for Proposals is requested.
2. There is no intent to limit the content of the proposals, and proposers may include any additional information deemed pertinent. Emphasis should be on simple, straightforward and concise statements of the proposer's ability to satisfy the requirements of the RFP.

N. Requested Proposal Outline:

- Introduction/Administrative Data
- Work Plan/Project Execution
- Relevant Corporate Experience
- Personnel Qualifications
- Additional Information
- Corporate Financial Condition
- Cost and Pricing Analysis

O. Proposal Content

1. Proposals should include information that will assist the Department in determining the level of quality and timeliness that may be expected. The agency shall determine, at its sole discretion, whether or not the RFP provisions have been reasonably met. The proposal should describe the background and capabilities of the proposer, give details on how the services will be provided, and shall include a breakdown of proposed costs. It should also include information that will assist the Department in determining the level of quality and timeliness that may be expected. Work samples may be included as part of the proposal.
2. Proposals should address how the proposer intends to assume complete responsibility for timely performance of all contractual responsibilities in accordance with federal and state laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.
3. Proposals should define proposer's functional approach in providing services and identify the tasks necessary to meet the RFP requirements of the provision of services, as outlined in Section II.
4. Introduction/Administrative Data
 - a. The introductory section should contain summary information about the proposer's organization. This section should state proposer's knowledge and understanding of the needs and objectives of DHH/OBH/ELMHS as related to the scope of this RFP. It should further cite its ability to satisfy provisions of the Request for Proposals.
 - b. This introductory section should include a description of how the proposer's organizational components communicate and work together in both an administrative and functional capacity from the top down. This section should contain a brief summary setting out the proposer's management philosophy including, but not limited to, the role of Quality Control, Professional Practices, Supervision, Distribution of Work and Communication Systems. This section should include an organizational chart displaying the proposer's overall structure.
 - c. This section should also include the following information:
 - i. Location of Active Office with Full Time Personnel, include all office locations (address) with full time personnel.
 - ii. Name and address of principal officer;
 - iii. Name and address for purpose of issuing checks and/or drafts;
 - iv. For corporations, a statement listing name(s) and address(es) of principal owners who hold five percent interest or more in the corporation.
 - v. If out-of-state proposer, give name and address of local representative; if none, so state;
 - vi. If any of the proposer's personnel named is a current or former Louisiana state employee, indicate the Agency where employed, position, title, termination date, and social security number;
 - vii. If the proposer was engaged by DHH within the past twenty-four (24) months, indicate the contract number and/or any other information available to identify the engagement; if not, so state; and
 - viii. Proposer's state and federal tax identification numbers.

- ix. Veteran/Hudson Initiative: Proposer should demonstrate participation in Vegeran Initiative and Hudson Initiative Small Entrepreneurships or explanation if not applicable (See Attachment I).
 - d. The following information **must** be included in the proposal:
 - i. Certification Statement: The proposer must sign and submit an original Certification Statement (See Attachment II).
5. Work Plan/Project Execution
- The proposer should articulate an understanding of, and ability to effectively implement services as outlined within Section II of the RFP. In this section the proposer should state the approach it intends to use in achieving each objective of the project as outlined, including a project work plan and schedule for implementation. In particular, the proposer should:
- a. Provide a written explanation of the organizational structures of both operations and program administration, and how those structures will support service implementation. Individual components should include plans for supervision, training, technical assistance, as well as collaboration as appropriate.
 - b. Provide a strategic overview including all elements to be provided.
 - c. Demonstrate an ability to hire staff with the necessary experience and skill set that will enable them to effectively meet the needs of consumers served.
 - d. Demonstrate an understanding of, and ability to implement, the various types of organizational strategies to be integrated within the day to day operations, which are critical in organizing their functioning and maximizing productivity.
 - e. Demonstrate knowledge of services to be provided and effective strategies to achieve objectives and effective service delivery.
 - f. Describe approach and strategy for project oversight and management.
 - g. Articulate the need for, and the ability to implement, a plan for continuous quality improvement; this includes (but is not limited to) reviewing the quality of services provided and staff productivity.
 - h. Demonstrate an understanding of and ability to implement data collection as needed.
 - i. Explain processes that will be implemented in order to complete all tasks and phases of the project in a timely manner, as outlined within Section II.
 - j. Articulate the ability to develop and implement an All Hazards Response plan in the event of an emergency event.
 - k. Refer to specific documents and reports that can be produced as a result of completing tasks, to achieve the requested deliverables.
 - l. Identify all assumptions or constraints on tasks.

- m. Discuss what flexibility exists within the work plan to address unanticipated problems which might develop during the contract period.
 - n. If the proposer intends to subcontract for portions of the work, the proposer should include specific designations of the tasks to be performed by the subcontractor.
 - o. Document procedures to protect the confidentiality of records in DHH databases, including records in databases that may be transmitted electronically via e-mail or the Internet.
6. Relevant Corporate Experience
- a. The proposal should indicate the firm has a record of prior successful experience in the design and implementation of the services sought through this RFP. Proposers should include statements specifying the extent of responsibility on prior projects and a description of the projects scope and similarity to the projects outlined in this RFP. All experience under this section should be in sufficient detail to allow an adequate evaluation by the Department. The proposer should have, within the last 24 months completed a similar type project. Proposers should give at least two customer references for projects completed in at least the last 24 months. References should include the name, email address and telephone number of each contact person.
 - b. In this section, a statement of the proposer's involvement in litigation that could affect this work should be included. If no such litigation exists, proposer should so state.
7. Personnel Qualifications
- a. The purpose of this section is to evaluate the relevant experience, resources, and qualifications of the proposed staff to be assigned to this project. The experience of proposer's personnel in implementing similar services to those to be provided under this RFP will be evaluated. The adequacy of personnel for the proposed project team will be evaluated on the basis of project tasks assigned, allocation of staff, professional skill mix, and level of involvement of personnel.
 - b. Proposers should state job responsibilities, workload and lines of supervision. An organizational chart identifying individuals and their job titles and major job duties should be included. The organizational chart should show lines of responsibility and authority.
 - c. Job descriptions, including the percentage of time allocated to the project and the number of personnel should be included and should indicate minimum education, training, experience, special skills and other qualifications for each staff position as well as specific job duties identified in the proposal. Job descriptions should indicate if the position will be filled by a sub-contractor.
 - d. Key personnel and the percentage of time directly assigned to the project should be identified.
 - e. Résumés of all known personnel should be included. Resumes of proposed personnel should include, but not be limited to:

- Experience with proposer,
 - Previous experience in projects of similar scope and size.
 - Educational background, certifications, licenses, special skills, etc.
- f. If subcontractor personnel will be used, the proposer should clearly identify these persons, if known, and provide the same information requested for the proposer's personnel.
8. **Additional Information**
As an appendix to its proposal, if available, proposers should provide copies of any policies and procedures manuals applicable to this contract, inclusive of organizational standards or ethical standards. This appendix should also include a copy of proposer's All Hazards Response Plan, if available.
9. **Corporate Financial Condition**
- a. The organization's financial solvency will be evaluated. The proposer's ability to demonstrate adequate financial resources for performance of the contract or the ability to obtain such resources as required during performance under this contract will be considered.
 - b. Proposal should include for each of the last three (3) years, copies of financial statements, preferably audited, including at least a balance sheet and profit and loss statement, or other appropriate documentation which would demonstrate to the Department the proposer's financial resources sufficient to conduct the project.
10. **Cost and Pricing Analysis**
- a. Proposer shall specify costs for performance of tasks. Proposal shall include all anticipated costs of successful implementation of all deliverables outlined. An item by item breakdown of costs, to include travel and all other reimbursable expenses, shall be included in the proposal at a total cost per patient per day, and that cost per patient per day will be billed monthly for occupied beds.
 - b. Proposers shall submit the breakdown in a similar format to the attached sample cost template form (See Attachment V) for each year of the contract to demonstrate how cost was determined.

P. Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate proposals:

1. Evaluations will be conducted by a Proposal Review Committee.
2. Evaluations of the financial statements will be conducted by a member of the DHH Fiscal Division.
3. Scoring will be based on a possible total of 100 points and the proposal with the highest total score will be recommended for award.
4. Cost Evaluation:

- a. The proposer with the lowest total cost for all three years shall receive 25 points. Other proposers shall receive points for cost based upon the following formula:

$$\text{CPS} = (\text{LPC}/\text{PC}) * 25$$

CPS = Cost Proposal Score

LPC = Lowest Proposal Cost of all proposers

PC = Individual Proposal Cost

- b. The assignment of the 25 points based on the above formula will be calculated by a member of the DHH Contracts Office staff.
- c. The DHH Deputy Undersecretary may provide information to the Proposal Review Committee in its evaluation of the additional 5 points.

5. Evaluation Criteria and Assigned Weights:

Evaluation Criteria	Assigned Weight
Introduction/Understanding of RFP	5
Work Plan/Project Execution	20
Corporate Experience	15
Qualification of Personnel	20
Financial Statements	5
Cost	25
Hudson/Veterans Initiatives	10
Total Points	100

Q. On-Site Presentations/Demonstrations
Not Required for this RFP.

R. Announcement of Award

The Department will award the contract to the proposer with the highest graded proposal and deemed to be in the best interest of the Department. All proposers will be notified of the contract award. The Department will notify the successful proposer and proceed to negotiate contract terms.

IV. CONTRACTUAL INFORMATION

- A. The contract between DHH and the Contractor shall include the standard DHH contract form (CF-1/attached) including a negotiated scope of work, the RFP and its amendments and addenda, and the Contractor’s proposal. The attached CF-1 contains basic information and general terms and conditions of the contract to be awarded.
- B. Mutual Obligations and Responsibilities: The state requires that the mutual obligations and responsibilities of DHH and the successful proposer be recorded in a written contract. While final wording will be resolved at contract time, the intent of the provisions will not be altered and will include all provisions as specified in the attached CF-1.
- C. Retainage-The Department shall secure a retainage of 10% from all billings under the contract as surety for performance. On successful completion of contract deliverables, the retainage amount may be released on an annual basis.

D. In addition, to terms of the CF-1 and supplements, the following will be incorporated into the contract awarded through this RFP:

1. Personnel Assignments: The Contractor's key personnel assigned to this contract may not be replaced without the written consent of the Department. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed provided an equally qualified replacement is offered. Key personnel for these purposes will be determined during contract negotiation.
2. Force Majeure: The contractor and the Department are excused from performance under contract for any period they may be prevented from performance by an Act of God, strike, war, civil disturbance, epidemic or court order.
3. Order of Precedence: The contract shall, to the extent possible, be construed to give effect to all provisions contained therein; however, where provisions conflict, the intent of the parties shall be determined by giving a first priority to provisions of the contract excluding the RFP and the proposal; second priority to the provisions of the RFP; and third priority to the provisions of the proposal.
4. Entire Agreement: This contract, together with the RFP and addenda issued thereto by the Department, the proposal submitted by the contractor in response to the Department's RFP, and any exhibits specifically incorporated herein by reference constitute the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter.
5. Board Resolution/Signature Authority: The contractor, if a corporation, shall secure and attach to the contract a formal Board Resolution indicating the signatory to the contract is a corporate representative and authorized to sign said contract.
6. Warranty to Comply with State and Federal Regulations: The contractor shall warrant that it shall comply with all state and federal regulations as they exist at the time of the contract or as subsequently amended.
7. Warranty of Removal of Conflict of Interest: The contractor shall warrant that it, its officers, and employees have no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which conflicts in any manner or degree with the performance of services hereunder. The contractor shall periodically inquire of its officers and employees concerning such conflicts, and shall inform the Department promptly of any potential conflict. The contractor shall warrant that it shall remove any conflict of interest prior to signing the contract.
8. If the contractor is a corporation, the following requirement must be met prior to execution of the contract:
 - a. If a for-profit corporation whose stock is not publicly traded-the contractor must file a Disclosure of Ownership form with the Louisiana Secretary of State.
 - b. If the contractor is a corporation not incorporated under the laws of the State of Louisiana-the contractor must obtain a Certificate of Authority pursuant to R.S. 12:301-302 from the Louisiana Secretary of State.

- c. The contractor must provide written assurance to the agency from contractor's legal counsel that the contractor is not prohibited by its articles of incorporation, bylaws or the laws under which it is incorporated from performing the services required under the contract.

Attachments:

- I. Veteran and Hudson Initiatives
- II. Certification Statement
- III. DHH Standard Contract Form (CF-1)
- IV. HIPAA
- V. Sample Cost Breakdown Template

Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Small Entrepreneurships (Veteran Initiative) and Louisiana Initiative for Small Entrepreneurships (Hudson Initiative) Programs
Participation of Veteran Initiative and Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurships will be scored as part of the technical evaluation.

The State of Louisiana Veteran and Hudson Initiatives are designed to provide additional opportunities for Louisiana-based small entrepreneurships (sometimes referred to as LaVet's and SE's respectively) to participate in contracting and procurement with the state. A certified Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned small entrepreneurship (LaVet) and a Louisiana Initiative for Small Entrepreneurships (Hudson Initiative) small entrepreneurship are businesses that have been certified by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development. All eligible vendors are encouraged to become certified. Qualification requirements and online certification are available at <https://smallbiz.louisianaforward.com/index 2.asp>. Ten percent (10%) of the total evaluation points on this RFP are reserved for proposers who are themselves a certified Veteran or Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship or who will engage the participation of one or more certified Veteran or Hudson Initiatives small entrepreneurships as subcontractors. A current list of certified Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned and Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurships may be obtained from the Louisiana Economic Development Certification System at <https://smallbiz.louisianaforward.com/index 2.asp>. Additionally, a list of Hudson and Veteran Initiative small entrepreneurships, which have been certified by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development and who have opted to register in the State of Louisiana LaGov Supplier Portal https://lagoverpvendor.doa.louisiana.gov/irj/portal/anonymous?guest_user=self_reg may be accessed from the State of Louisiana Procurement and Contract (LaPAC) Network <http://wwwprd.doa.louisiana.gov/osp/lapac/vendor/srchven.asp>. When using this site, determine the search criteria (i.e. alphabetized list of all certified vendors, by commodities, etc.) and select SmallE, VSE, or DVSE. Reserved points shall be added to the applicable proposers' evaluation score as follows:

Proposer Status and Reserved Points

- Proposer is a certified small entrepreneurship: Full amount of the reserved points

□ Proposer is not a certified small entrepreneurship but has engaged one or more certified small entrepreneurships to participate as subcontractors:

- 1 participating small entrepreneurship: 1/5th of the reserved points
- 2 participating small entrepreneurships: 2/5^{ths} of the reserved points
- 3 participating small entrepreneurships: 3/5^{ths} of the reserved points
- 4 participating small entrepreneurships: 4/5^{ths} of the reserved points
- 5 or more participating small entrepreneurships: Full amount of the reserved points

If a proposer is not a certified small entrepreneurship as described herein, but plans to use certified small

entrepreneurship(s), proposer shall include in their proposal the names of their certified Veteran Initiative

or Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship subcontractor(s), a description of the work each will perform,

and the dollar value of each subcontract.

During the term of the contract and at expiration, the Contractor will also be required to report VeteranOwned

and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned and Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship subcontractor or distributor participation and the dollar amount of each.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges she/he has read and understands all requirements and specifications of the Request for Proposals (RFP), including attachments.

OFFICIAL CONTACT. The State requests that the Proposer designate one person to receive all documents and the method in which the documents are best delivered. Identify the Contact name and fill in the information below: (Print Clearly)

Date	
Official Contact Name	
Email Address	
Fax Number with Area Code	
Telephone Number	
Street Address	
City, State, and Zip	

Proposer certifies that the above information is true and grants permission to the Department to contact the above named person or otherwise verify the information I have provided.

By its submission of this proposal and authorized signature below, proposer certifies that:

1. The information contained in its response to this RFP is accurate;
2. Proposer accepts the procedures, evaluation criteria, contract terms and conditions, and all other administrative requirements set forth in this RFP.
3. Proposer accepts the procedures, evaluation criteria, mandatory contract terms and conditions, and all other administrative requirements set forth in this RFP.
4. Proposer's technical and cost proposals are valid for at least 120 days from the date of proposer's signature below;
5. Proposer understands that if selected as the successful Proposer, it will have (3) three business days from the date of delivery of initial contract in which to complete contract negotiations, if any, and execute the final contract document. The Department has the option to waive this deadline if actions or inactions by the Department cause the delay.
6. Proposer certifies, by signing and submitting a proposal for \$25,000 or more, that their company, any subcontractors, or principals are not suspended or debarred by the General Services Administration (GSA) in accordance with the requirements in OMB Circular A-133. (A list of parties who have been suspended or debarred can be viewed via the internet at www.epls.gov).

Authorized Signature: _____
(Original signature only. No electronic or photocopy accepted.)

Typed or Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Company Name: _____

**CFMS:
DHH:
AGENCY #**

Attachment III
DHH - CF - 1

**CONTRACT BETWEEN STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS**

AND

FOR

Personal Services Professional Services Consulting Services Social Services

1) Contractor (Legal Name if Corporation)	5) Federal Employer Tax ID# or Social Security # (11 digits)
2) Street Address	6) Parish(es) Served
City and State	Zip Code
3) Telephone Number	7) License or Certification #
4) Mailing Address (if different)	8) Contractor Status Subrecipient: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Corporation: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No For Profit: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Publicly Traded: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
City and State	Zip Code
	8a) CFDA#(Federal Grant #)

9) **Brief Description Of Services To Be Provided:**

Include description of work to be performed and objectives to be met; description of reports or other deliverables and dates to be received (when applicable). In a consulting service, a resume of key contract personnel performing duties under the terms of the contract and amount of effort each will provide under terms of contract should be attached.

10) Effective Date	11) Termination Date
---------------------------	-----------------------------

12) This contract may be terminated by either party upon giving thirty (30) days advance written notice to the other party with or without cause but in no case shall continue beyond the specified termination date.

13) **Maximum Contract Amount**

14) **Terms of Payment**

If progress and/or completion of services are provided to the satisfaction of the initiating Office/Facility, payments are to be made as follows: (stipulate rate or standard of payment, billing intervals, invoicing provisions, etc.). Contractor obligated to submit final invoices to Agency within fifteen (15) days after termination of contract.

PAYMENT WILL BE MADE ONLY UPON APPROVAL OF:	Name	
	Title	Phone Number

15) **Special or Additional Provisions which are incorporated herein, if any (IF NECESSARY, ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET AND REFERENCE):**

During the performance of this agreement, the Contractor hereby agrees to the following terms and conditions:

1. Contractor hereby agrees to adhere as applicable to the mandates dictated by Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended; the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended; Sec. 202 of Executive Order 11246 as amended, and all applicable requirements imposed by or pursuant to the regulations of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. Contractor agrees not to discriminate in the rendering of services to and/or employment of individuals because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, handicap, political beliefs, disabled veteran, veteran status, or any other non-merit factor.
2. Contractor shall abide by the laws and regulations concerning confidentiality which safeguard information and the patient/client confidentiality. Information obtained shall not be used in any manner except as necessary for the proper discharge of Contractor's obligations. (The Contractor shall establish, subject to review and approval of the Department, confidentiality rules and facility access procedures.)
3. The State Legislative Auditor, Office of the Governor, Division of Administration, and Department Auditors or those designated by the Department shall have the option of auditing all accounts pertaining to this contract during the contract and for a three year period following final payment. Contractor grants to the State of Louisiana, through the Office of the Legislative Auditor, Department of Health and Hospitals, and Inspector General's Office, Federal Government and/or other such officially designated body the right to inspect and review all books and records pertaining to services rendered under this contract, and further agrees to guidelines for fiscal administration as may be promulgated by the Department. Records will be made available during normal working hours.

Contractor shall comply with federal and state laws and/or DHH Policy requiring an audit of the Contractor's operation as a whole or of specific program activities. Audit reports shall be sent within thirty (30) days after the completion of the audit, but no later than six (6) months after the end of the audit period. If an audit is performed within the contract period, for any period, four (4) copies of the audit report shall be sent to the Department of Health and Hospitals, Attention: **Division of Fiscal Management, P.O. Box 91117, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3797** and one (1) copy of the audit shall be sent to the **originating DHH Office.**

4. Contractor agrees to retain all books, records and other documents relevant to the contract and funds expended thereunder for at least four (4) years after final payment or as prescribed in 45 CFR 74:53 (b) whichever is longer. Contractor shall make available to the Department such records within thirty (30) days of the Department's written request and shall deliver such records to the Department's central office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, all without expense to the Department. Contractor shall allow the Department to inspect, audit or copy records at the contractor's site, without expense to the Department.
5. Contractor shall not assign any interest in this contract and shall not transfer any interest in the same (whether by assignment or novation), without written consent of the Department thereto, provided, however, that claims for money due or to become due to Contractor from the Department under this contract may be assigned to a bank, trust company or other financial institution without advanced approval. Notice of any such assignment or transfer shall be promptly furnished to the Department and the Division of Administration, Office of Contractual Review.
6. Contractor hereby agrees that the responsibility for payment of taxes from the funds received under this contract shall be Contractor's. The contractor assumes responsibility for its personnel providing services hereunder and shall make all deductions for withholding taxes, and contributions for unemployment compensation funds, and shall maintain, at Contractor's expense, all necessary insurance for its employees, including but not limited to automobile insurance, workers' compensation and general liability insurance.

7. Contractor shall obtain and maintain during the contract term all necessary insurance including automobile insurance, workers' compensation insurance, and general liability insurance. The required insurances shall protect the Contractor, the Department of Health and Hospitals, and the State of Louisiana from all claims related to Contractor's performance of this contract. Certificates of Insurance shall be filed with the Department for approval. Said policies shall not be canceled, permitted to expire, or be changed without thirty (30) days advance written notice to the Department. Commercial General Liability Insurance shall provide protection during the performance of work covered by the contract from claims or damages for personal injury, including accidental death, as well as claims for property damages, with combined single limits prescribed by the Department.
8. In cases where travel and related expenses are required to be identified separate from the fee for services, such costs shall be in accordance with State Travel Regulations. The contract contains a maximum compensation which shall be inclusive of all charges including fees and travel expenses.
9. No funds provided herein shall be used to urge any elector to vote for or against any candidate or proposition on an election ballot nor shall such funds be used to lobby for or against any proposition or matter having the effect of law being considered by the legislature or any local governing authority. This provision shall not prevent the normal dissemination of factual information relative to a proposition or any election ballot or a proposition or matter having the effect of law being considered by the legislature or any local governing authority. Contracts with individuals shall be exempt from this provision.
10. Should contractor become an employee of the classified or unclassified service of the State of Louisiana during the effective period of the contract, Contractor must notify his/her appointing authority of any existing contract with State of Louisiana and notify the contracting office of any additional state employment. This is applicable only to contracts with individuals.
11. All non-third party software and source code, records, reports, documents and other material delivered or transmitted to Contractor by State shall remain the property of State, and shall be returned by Contractor to State, at Contractor's expense, at termination or expiration of this contract. All non-third party software and source code, records, reports, documents, or other material related to this contract and/or obtained or prepared by Contractor in connection with the performance of the services contracted for herein shall become the property of State, and shall be returned by Contractor to State, at Contractor's expense, at termination or expiration of this contract.
12. Contractor shall not enter into any subcontract for work or services contemplated under this contract without obtaining prior written approval of the Department. Any subcontracts approved by the Department shall be subject to conditions and provisions as the Department may deem necessary; provided, however, that notwithstanding the foregoing, unless otherwise provided in this contract, such prior written approval shall not be required for the purchase by the contractor of supplies and services which are incidental but necessary for the performance of the work required under this contract. No subcontract shall relieve the Contractor of the responsibility for the performance of contractual obligations described herein.
13. No person and no entity providing services pursuant to this contract on behalf of contractor or any subcontractor is prohibited from providing such services by the provisions of R.S. 1113 as amended in the 2008 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.
14. No claim for services furnished or requested for reimbursement by Contractor, not provided for in this contract, shall be allowed by the Department. In the event the Department determines that certain costs which have been reimbursed to Contractor pursuant to this or previous contracts are not allowable, the Department shall have the right to set off and withhold said amounts from any amount due the Contractor under this contract for costs that are allowable.
15. This contract is subject to and conditioned upon the availability and appropriation of Federal and/or State funds; and no liability or obligation for payment will develop between the parties until the

contract has been approved by required authorities of the Department; and, if contract exceeds \$20,000, the Director of the Office of Contractual Review, Division of Administration in accordance with La. R.S. 39:1502.

16. The continuation of this contract is contingent upon the appropriation of funds from the legislature to fulfill the requirements of the contract. If the Legislature fails to appropriate sufficient monies to provide for the continuation of the contract, or if such appropriation is reduced by the veto of the Governor or by any means provided in the appropriations act to prevent the total appropriation for the year from exceeding revenues for that year, or for any other lawful purpose, and the effect of such reduction is to provide insufficient monies for the continuation of the contract, the contract shall terminate on the date of the beginning of the first fiscal year for which funds are not appropriated.
17. Any alteration, variation, modification, or waiver of provisions of this contract shall be valid only when reduced to writing, as an amendment duly signed, and approved by required authorities of the Department; and, if contract exceeds \$20,000, approved by the Director of the Office of Contractual Review, Division of Administration. Budget revisions approved by both parties in cost reimbursement contracts do not require an amendment if the revision only involves the realignment of monies between originally approved cost categories.
18. Any contract disputes will be interpreted under applicable Louisiana laws and regulations in Louisiana administrative tribunals or district courts as appropriate.
19. Contractor will warrant all materials, products and/or services produced hereunder will not infringe upon or violate any patent, copyright, trade secret, or other proprietary right of any third party. In the event of any such claim by any third party against DHH, the Department shall promptly notify Contractor in writing and Contractor shall defend such claim in DHH's name, but at Contractor's expense and shall indemnify and hold harmless DHH against any loss, expense or liability arising out of such claim, whether or not such claim is successful. This provision is not applicable to contracts with physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists or other allied health providers solely for medical services.
20. Any equipment purchased under this contract remains the property of the Contractor for the period of this contract and future continuing contracts for the provision of the same services. Contractor must submit vendor invoice with reimbursement request. For the purpose of this contract, equipment is defined as any tangible, durable property having a useful life of at least (1) year and acquisition cost of \$1000.00 or more. The contractor has the responsibility to submit to the Contract Monitor an inventory list of DHH equipment items when acquired under the contract and any additions to the listing as they occur. Contractor will submit an updated, complete inventory list on a quarterly basis to the Contract Monitor. Contractor agrees that upon termination of contracted services, the equipment purchased under this contract reverts to the Department. Contractor agrees to deliver any such equipment to the Department within 30 days of termination of services.
21. Contractor agrees to protect, indemnify and hold harmless the State of Louisiana, DHH, from all claims for damages, costs, expenses and attorney fees arising in contract or tort from this contract or from any acts or omissions of Contractor's agents, employees, officers or clients, including premises liability and including any claim based on any theory of strict liability. This provision does not apply to actions or omissions for which LA R.S. 40:1299.39 provides malpractice coverage to the contractor, nor claims related to treatment and performance of evaluations of persons when such persons cause harm to third parties (R.S. 13:5108.1(E)). Further it does not apply to premises liability when the services are being performed on premises owned and operated by DHH.
22. Any provision of this contract is severable if that provision is in violation of the laws of the State of Louisiana or the United States, or becomes inoperative due to changes in State and Federal law, or applicable State or Federal regulations.

23. Contractor agrees that the current contract supersedes all previous contracts, negotiations, and all other communications between the parties with respect to the subject matter of the current contract.

THIS CONTRACT CONTAINS OR HAS ATTACHED HERETO ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS AGREED UPON BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES. IN WITNESS THEREOF, THIS CONTRACT IS SIGNED ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.

	STATE OF LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS
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SIGNATURE

DATE

SIGNATURE

DATE

NAME

NAME

TITLE

TITLE

Secretary, Department of Health and Hospitals or Designee

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SIGNATURE

DATE

SIGNATURE

DATE

NAME

NAME

TITLE

TITLE

(Rev. 1/04)

HIPAA Business Associate Addendum:

This Business Associate Addendum is hereby made a part of this contract in its entirety as Attachment ___ to the contract.

1. The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services has issued final regulations, pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"), governing the privacy of individually identifiable health information. See 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164 (the "HIPAA Privacy Rule"). The Department of Health and Hospitals, ("DHH"), as a "Covered Entity" as defined by HIPAA, is a provider of health care, a health plan, or otherwise has possession, custody or control of health care information or records.
2. "*Protected health information*" ("PHI") means individually identifiable health information including all information, data, documentation and records, including but not limited to demographic, medical and financial information that relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual; the provision of health care to an individual or payment for health care provided to an individual; and that identifies the individual or which DHH believes could be used to identify the individual.
 - "*Electronic protected health information*" means PHI that is transmitted by electronic media or maintained in electronic media.
 - "*Security incident*" means the attempted or successful unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification, or destruction of information or interference with system operations in an information system.
3. Contractor is considered a Business Associate of DHH, as contractor either: (A) performs certain functions on behalf of or for DHH involving the use or disclosure of protected individually identifiable health information by DHH to contractor, or the creation or receipt of PHI by contractor on behalf of DHH; or (B) provides legal, actuarial, accounting, consulting, data aggregation, management, administrative, accreditation, financial or social services for DHH involving the disclosure of PHI.
4. Contractor agrees that all PHI obtained as a result of this contractual agreement shall be kept confidential by contractor, its agents, employees, successors and assigns as required by HIPAA law and regulations and by this contract and addendum.
5. Contractor agrees to use or disclose PHI solely (A) for meeting its obligations under this contract, or (B) as required by law, rule or regulation or as otherwise permitted under this contract or the HIPAA Privacy Rule.
6. Contractor agrees that at termination of the contract, or upon request of DHH, whichever occurs first, contractor will return or destroy (at the option of DHH) all PHI received or created by contractor that contractor still maintains in any form and retain no copies of such information; or if such return or destruction is not feasible, contractor will extend the confidentiality protections of the contract to the information and limit further uses and disclosure to those purposes that make the return or destruction of the information infeasible.
7. Contractor will ensure that its agents, employees, subcontractors or others to whom it provides PHI received by or created by contractor on behalf of DHH agree to the same restrictions and conditions that apply to contractor with respect to such information. Contractor also agrees to take all reasonable steps to ensure that its employees', agents' or subcontractors' actions or omissions do not cause contractor to breach the terms of this Addendum. Contractor will use all appropriate safeguards to prevent the use or disclosure of PHI other than pursuant to the terms and conditions of this contract and Addendum.
8. Contractor shall, within 3 days of becoming aware of any use or disclosure of PHI, other than as permitted by this contract and Addendum, report such disclosure in writing to the person(s) named in section 14 (Terms of Payment), page 1 of the CF-1.

9. Contractor shall make available such information in its possession which is required for DHH to provide an accounting of disclosures in accordance with 45 CFR 164.528. In the event that a request for accounting is made directly to contractor, contractor shall forward such request to DHH within two (2) days of such receipt. Contractor shall implement an appropriate record keeping process to enable it to comply with the requirements of this provision. Contractor shall maintain data on all disclosures of PHI for which accounting is required by 45 CFR 164.528 for at least six (6) years after the date of the last such disclosure.
10. Contractor shall make PHI available to DHH upon request in accordance with 45 CFR 164.524.
11. Contractor shall make PHI available to DHH upon request for amendment and shall incorporate any amendments to PHI in accordance with 45 CFR 164.526.
12. Contractor shall make its internal practices, books, and records relating to the use and disclosure of PHI received from or created or received by contractor on behalf of DHH available to the Secretary of the U. S. DHHS for purposes of determining DHH's compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule.
13. Compliance with Security Regulations:

In addition to the other provisions of this Addendum, if Contractor creates, receives, maintains, or transmits electronic PHI on DHH's behalf, Contractor shall, no later than April 20, 2005:

 - (A) Implement administrative, physical, and technical safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the electronic protected health information that it creates, receives, maintains, or transmits on behalf of DHH;
 - (B) Ensure that any agent, including a subcontractor, to whom it provides such information agrees to implement reasonable and appropriate safeguards to protect it; and
 - (C) Report to DHH any security incident of which it becomes aware.
14. Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold DHH harmless from and against all liability and costs, including attorneys' fees, created by a breach of this Addendum by contractor, its agents, employees or subcontractors, without regard to any limitation or exclusion of damages provision otherwise set forth in the contract.
15. Notwithstanding any other provision of the contract, DHH shall have the right to terminate the contract immediately if DHH determines that contractor has violated any material term of this Addendum.

Attachment V
Sample Cost Template

Note: Use this sample template to prepare a cost breakdown **for each year** of the contract

Year 1	Hourly Rate	Total
Administrative Staff (list by position)		
Direct Labor Staff (list by position)		
Contracted Staff (list by position)		
Benefits		
Operating Costs:		
Rent		
Utilities		
Telephone		
Insurance		
Other (List):		
Office Supplies (List)		
Professional Services (list)		
Other Direct Costs (list)		
Per Diem Rate		

Attachment V
Sample Cost Template

Note: Use this sample template to prepare a cost breakdown **for each year** of the contract

Year 2	Hourly Rate	Total
Administrative Staff (list by position)		
Direct Labor Staff (list by position)		
Contracted Staff (list by position)		
Benefits		
Operating Costs:		
Rent		
Utilities		
Telephone		
Insurance		
Other (List):		
Office Supplies (List)		
Professional Services (list)		
Other Direct Costs (list)		
Per Diem Rate		

Attachment V
Sample Cost Template

Note: Use this sample template to prepare a cost breakdown **for each year** of the contract

Year 3	Hourly Rate	Total
Administrative Staff (list by position)		
Direct Labor Staff (list by position)		
Contracted Staff (list by position)		
Benefits		
Operating Costs:		
Rent		
Utilities		
Telephone		
Insurance		
Other (List):		
Office Supplies (List)		
Professional Services (list)		
Other Direct Costs (list)		
Per Diem Rate		