



MARYLAND STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE (STO)

**LOUIS L. GOLDSTEIN TREASURY BUILDING
80 CALVERT STREET, ROOM 109
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

**ELECTRONIC TRANSACTION PROCESSING AND PAYMENT
SYSTEM FOR THE FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION
PROGRAM**

IFB #MDA-02132024

ISSUE DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2024

NOTICE

A Prospective Bidder that has received this document from a source other than eMarylandMarketplace (eMMA) <https://procurement.maryland.gov> should register on eMMA. See **Section 4.1**.

STO strongly encourages MBE participation in all its solicitations, especially when there is/are no stated goal(s). To the extent that MBEs employed in this industry are interested but are not fully qualified to respond, please contact the Procurement Officer listed on the Key Information Summary Sheet for further information.

NO BID NOTICE/VENDOR FEEDBACK FORM

To help us improve the quality of State solicitations, and to make our procurement process more responsive and business friendly, please provide comments and suggestions regarding this solicitation. Please return your comments with your response. If you have chosen not to respond to this solicitation, please email or fax this completed form to the attention of the Procurement Officer (see Key Information Summary Sheet below for contact information).

Title: Electronic Transaction Processing and Payment System for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program No: IFB #MDA-02132024. If you have chosen not to respond to this solicitation, please indicate the reason(s) below:

- Other commitments preclude our participation at this time
- The subject of the solicitation is not something we ordinarily provide
- We are inexperienced in the work/commodities required
- Specifications are unclear, too restrictive, etc. (Explain in REMARKS section)
- The scope of work is beyond our present capacity
- Doing business with the State is simply too complicated. (Explain in REMARKS section)
- We cannot be competitive. (Explain in REMARKS section)
- Time allotted for completion of the Bid is insufficient
- Start-up time is insufficient
- Bonding/Insurance requirements are restrictive (Explain in REMARKS section)
- Bid requirements (other than specifications) are unreasonable or too risky (Explain in REMARKS section)
- MBE or VSBE requirements (Explain in REMARKS section)
- Prior State of Maryland contract experience was unprofitable or otherwise unsatisfactory. (Explain in REMARKS section)
- Payment schedule too slow
- Other: _____

2. If you have submitted a response to this solicitation, but wish to offer suggestions or express concerns, please use the REMARKS section below. (Attach additional pages as needed.)

REMARKS:

Vendor Name: _____ Date: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone (____) ____ - _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

STATE OF MARYLAND
STATE TREASURER’S OFFICE (STO)
KEY INFORMATION SUMMARY SHEET

| | |
|---|--|
| Invitation for Bids | Services - Electronic Transaction Processing and Payment System for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program |
| Solicitation Number: | IFB #MDA-02132024 |
| IFB Issue Date: | February 13, 2024 |
| IFB Issuing Office: | State Treasurer’s Office/Maryland Department of Agriculture (STO or the "Office") |
| Procurement Officer: e-mail: Office Phone: | Caitlin Koehler State Treasurer’s Office 80 Calvert Street, Room 109 Annapolis, MD 21401 ckoehler@treasurer.state.md.us 410-260-7120 |
| Bids are to be sent to: | eMMA Portal or via Trackable Mail or Hand Delivery |
| Pre-Bid Conference: | Not Applicable to this procurement. |
| Questions Due Date and Time | February 23, 2024 2:00pm EST Send questions to: ckoehler@treasurer.state.md.us Subject line must be: Questions – IFB #MDA-02132024 |
| Bid Due (Closing) Date and Time: | March 5, 2024 1:00pm EST Bidders are reminded that a completed Feedback Form is requested if a no-bid decision is made (see page ii). |
| Public Bid Opening Date, Time and Location | March 5, 2024 2:00pm EST 80 Calvert Street, Room 106 Annapolis, Maryland, 21401 |
| MBE Subcontracting Goal: | Not Applicable |
| VSBE Subcontracting Goal: | Not Applicable |
| Contract Type: | Firm Fixed Price for base period |
| Contract Duration: | Two (2) Years; with two (2), one (1) year renewal options. |

**Electronic Transaction Processing and Payment System for
the Farmers Market Nutrition Program
Solicitation #: IFB #MDA-02132024**

IFB Document

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| SBR Designation: | No |
| Federal Funding: | Yes |

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1. Minimum Qualifications

1.1 Bidder Minimum Qualifications

In its bid, each bidder shall specifically and clearly state that it meets the requirements described in this Section. Failure to do so may result in the rejection of the bid.

- 1) The Offeror (and/or) “Partnered Financial Institution” must have a Kroll Bond Rating Agency (“KBRA”) rating, or a similar financial strength rating from a nationally recognized statistical rating organization of at least a "B-" or alternatively an IDC Financial Publishing, Inc. numerical performance rating/grade of at least “158” if the financial institution does not receive credit ratings, for the duration of this contract (and/or) while providing services to the State under this Contract.
- 2) The Offeror (and/or) “Partnered Financial Institution” shall provide collateral for accounts in accordance with the requirements set forth in §§ 6-202, 6-209, and 6-222 of the State Finance and Procurement Article. Except as required or permitted under § 6-202 with respect to surety bonds or letters of credit provided as collateral, the collateral shall be on deposit in the name of the Treasurer, State of Maryland, either (a) with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, (b) with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, or (c) at the sole discretion of the Treasurer, on deposit with an independent financial institution acceptable to the Treasurer.
- 3) The Offeror (and/or) “Partnered Financial Institution” must agree to conform to all FDIC guidelines on collateral to ensure clear title to all collateral held will rest with the Treasurer in the event of default.
- 4) The Offeror (and/or) “Partnered Financial Institution” must agree to a State Representative as a signor on the Account(s) associated with the program.
- 5) The Offeror must provide a description of relevant corporate experience with State government. The experience of all proposed subcontractors must be included. The narrative must thoroughly describe the extent of their experience, expertise, and knowledge as a provider of developing and implementing technology projects in the public service arena.
- 6) If the Offeror is not a financial institution, the Offeror must agree to partner with a financial institution that is currently vetted through the State of Maryland.

2 Contractor Requirements: Scope of Work

2.1 Summary Statement

- 2.1.1 The State Treasurer's Office (STO or the "Office") is issuing this Invitation for Bids (IFB) in order to procure the services defined in this Section 2, as specified in this IFB, from a contract between the successful bidder(s) and the State Treasurer's Office: Electronic Transaction Processing and Payment System for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program.
- 2.1.2 It is the State's intention to obtain goods and services, as specified in this IFB, from a Contract between the selected Bidder and the State.
- 2.1.3 The Office intends to make a single award for the work under this IFB. See IFB Section 4.8 Award Basis for more Contract award information.
- 2.1.4 A Bidder, either directly or through its subcontractor(s), must be able to provide all goods and services and meet all of the requirements requested in this solicitation and the successful Bidder (the Contractor) shall remain responsible for Contract performance regardless of subcontractor participation in the work.

2.2 Background

The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) are USDA funded Nutrition Grant Programs that are administered by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Maryland Department of Aging (MDoAG). These FMNP and SFMNP grants are used to provide WIC participants and low-income seniors with funds they can use for eligible foods at farmers' markets and farm stands operated by farmers authorized by MDA.

The FMNP benefits are used to buy fresh fruits, vegetables, and cut herbs (and honey for seniors only) with authorized farmers at Maryland farmers' markets and farm stands. There are approximately 105 Farmers' Markets and 12 authorized farm stands in Maryland with about 200 local farmers that participate in this program, helping to expand access for low-income Marylanders to be able to purchase fresh local produce.

Under the current system, MDA serves as the grant administrator and certifies, trains and monitors farmers who participate in the Farmers Market Nutrition Program. MDH distributes paper checks through 18 Local WIC Agencies, provides nutrition education, and helps to coordinate pop-up events with farmers and farmers markets. MDA works closely with the Department of Aging, who distributes checks through 18 Local Area Agencies on Aging. Participants in the WIC and Senior FMNP programs spend their checks with authorized farmers at farmers markets and farm stands, and farmers deposit these checks into their local bank accounts.

MDA is required to monitor WIC Clinics and Senior programs of the distribution of benefits to ensure compliance with all federal and State regulations related to this program. This is done partly by examining bank records indicating distribution at county and Baltimore City sites and the redemption of those funds.

2.3 Purpose

The overall purpose of this IFB is to provide information to bidders interested in submitting bids to meet the MDA’s need for an electronic transaction processing and payment system (“eSolution”) for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program as described in this IFB.

Need for Electronic Solution

The State of Maryland is looking to transition the Farmers Market Nutrition Program to an electronic solution for a variety of reasons. First, the predominant printer of the checks is no longer performing this function, forcing States nationwide to transition to an alternative payment method. In addition, banks within the State have recently begun refusing to accept the paper checks. Finally, as the State begins to transition to more electronic, secure systems and away from paper, farmers, markets and program participants require a modernized approach to accessing their nutrition benefits.

MDA seeks to replace the current manual issuance and exchange of paper checks and payments with an electronic system to handle all payments and related processes. MDA envisions that all participants and associated benefits will be added to an electronic database maintained by the successful bidder. Maryland has approximately 20,154 participants in the WIC FMNP and approximately 6,302 participants in the Senior FMNP. Utilizing an electronic solution from their mobile device with a QR code and a card product, participants will perform purchases at authorized farms or farm stands. The transactions will be electronically transmitted to the successful bidder who will review the transaction for accuracy and approve (or deny) the transaction. The successful bidder will then make an electronic (ACH) payment to the farmer on an agreed upon schedule between the vendor and MDA. See **Table 2.4.1** for specific service requirements.

2.4 Required Services

To be considered for this Contract, the Bidder must meet the service requirements in **Table 2.4.1** listed below. For each item listed below, bidder should fill out the table, indicating that it meets the requirements and describe the services provided. In the event that the bidder does not meet a service, bidder should provide an explanation of why the absence of that requirement does not diminish the State’s requirement.

| Table 2.4.1 eSolution Service Requirements | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Requirements - Hybrid Solution | Check if bidder can meet Requirements | Description of Services |
| 1) The bidder must provide a hybrid solution offering both a mobile electronic system (for both iOS and Android) and a card product. The Senior FMNP benefit will be card-based. | | |

| | | |
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| 2) For the mobile-based system , the bidder must: make the system available in English and Spanish | | |
| 3) For the mobile-based system , the bidder must: include a map of farmers markets, hours, contact and exact locations for users to access | | |
| 4) For the mobile-based system , the bidder must: include communication methods between the participants and local WIC Agencies (text, email, in-app); | | |
| 5) For the mobile-based system , the bidder should have experience incorporating other similar federal or state nutrition programs into its platform within two years. | | |
| 6) For the card-based system , the bidder must: provide a shopper card, which shall be a standard PVC card, manufactured according to ISO-7810 specifications | | |
| 7) For the card-based system , the bidder must: work with MDA to design a pre-printed front and back card, with a unique card number and a QR code to effect mobile purchases. | | |
| 8) For the card-based system , the bidder shall arrange for the production and delivery of cards to MDA and local issuance offices, as directed by MDA. | | |
| 9) For the card-based system , the bidder shall provide an electronic method to track and account for card inventories at MDA and at all issuance locations. | | |
| 10) For the card-based system , the bidder must: enable a 4-digit pin that can be utilized for transactions up to the balance of the benefit of the card | | |
| 11) For the card-based system , the bidder must: develop procedures to resolve lost, stolen, or damaged cards. Replacement cards must be issued to cardholders by bidder within 72 hours of notice. | | |
| 12) For both systems , the bidder must: provide a way for participants to check their balance without making a purchase | | |
| 13) For both systems , the bidder must propose an alternative process for which mobile and card-based transactions between an | | |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| authorized farmer and participant can be made if internet access is not available | | |
| Requirements - Program | Can Meet Requirements? | Description of Services |
| 14) For WIC FMNP, the bidder must ensure the eSolution is available to process and authorize transactions for purchases only from June 1 through November 30 of each year. For Senior FMNP, the bidder must ensure that the card-based system is available to process and authorize transactions for purchases only from July 1 through November 30 of each year. | | |
| 15) The Offeror must ensure that both electronic and card transactions are processed for the farmer up to the available balance of the benefit each year. | | |
| 16) The bidder must develop an eSolution where benefits may only be utilized by qualified participants for the purchase of eligible farm products sold by authorized farmers. The selected bidder will be liable for 1) purchases at establishments other than authorized farmers; 2) purchases which result in a negative benefit balance; and 3) purchases approved outside the benefit availability dates. | | |
| 17) The bidder must develop an eSolution that is available at no cost to the participants, farmers, or farmers markets | | |
| Requirements - Farmer | Can Meet Requirements? | Description of Services |
| 18) Bidder must incorporate MDA's unique farmer identifier for the redeeming farmer based on MDA's authorized farmer list. | | |
| 19) Bidder must incorporate the option for a proxy or alternate user for farmer if farmer does not utilize technology | | |
| 20) The farmer eSolution/app must allow farmers to add additional sellers or cashiers to process mobile and card-based payments in the same location at no additional cost | | |
| 21) The farmer eSolution/app must be available in English and Spanish | | |
| 22) The farmer eSolution/app will offer options for farmer to be paid via Electronic Funds | | |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Transfer (EFT) | | |
| 23) Bidder will ensure data security of bank account information of farmers using ACH system to input their banking information | | |
| 24) The farmer eSolution/app must have the capability to read QR codes | | |
| 25) The farmer eSolution/app must include the capability to verify a participant's balance | | |
| 26) The farmer eSolution/app must include all functions to complete a transaction for purchase, including unit purchase price | | |
| 27) The farmer eSolution/app must include the capability to summarize the transaction details for approval by the participant before the transaction is processed | | |
| 28) Bidder must grant access from eSolution to farmers for information as necessary to complete purchases and record sales history, including the participant's account number, benefit balance, and general transaction details. | | |
| Requirements - Banking | Can Meet Requirements? | Description of Services |
| 29) Maintain 2 bank accounts with MDA which the WIC FMNP and Senior FMNP funds will clear. These accounts are subject to the Collateral Security Agreement (<i>see</i> Sections 6-202, 6-209, and 6-222 of the State Finance and Procurement Article). A representative of MDA must be named on the account. | | |
| 30) A Federal Reserve Bank or a third-party financial institution, acceptable to the Depositor, will hold the Securities Collateral in a custody account for the benefit of the Depositor. A representative of State must be named on the account. | | |
| 31) Bidder will complete clearing of all mobile and card-based transactions and bank processing every week, so that farmers are paid each week, at a minimum. All payments must be completed no later than December 10th of each year. | | |
| 32) Bidder will provide reconciliation and monthly bank statements to MDA within 10 days of the following month. The reconciliation will also be emailed for | | |

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| receipt by the fifth business day after the report month. | | |
| Requirements - Training & Support | Can Meet Requirements? | Description of Services |
| 33) Bidder must offer training for farmers, administrators, and local agencies and will attend the Maryland Farmers Market Conference on March 12 if applicable. | | |
| 34) Bidder must work with MDA to design accessibility compliant visual and audio training materials in English and Spanish for distribution to local agencies to be used by participants. Bidders must send hard copies directly to local agencies. MDA must review and approve all training materials. | | |
| 35) Bidder must provide administrative support to MDA and Local Agencies Mon-Fri 8am-5pmEST | | |
| 36) Bidder must provide customer and farmer support number available weekdays and weekends from 7am-7pmEST | | |
| 37) Bidder must provide technical support to agency staff members 12 months of the year | | |
| 38) Bidder will offer a pilot period before going live with the platform. Pilot period will be determined by MDA. | | |
| Requirements - Management Information System (MIS) | Can Meet Requirements? | Description of Services |
| 39) Mobile Information System – The bidder must provide a web-based Management Information System (MIS) for the MDA, MDH, MDoAg and Local Agencies, access to which is defined by roles. Such roles may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Administrative Support (MDA, WIC director, SFMNP Director) b. Issuance Partner Support (WIC Local Agencies, Senior Local Agencies) c. Participant Support d. Farmer Support e. Farmers Market Support | | |
| 40) The MIS must provide MDA, MDH and | | |

| | | |
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| <p>MDoAg administrators with the ability to track available funds and benefits usage, daily. Bidder must be able to create reports including all the information in section 41 and must be able to create ad-hoc reports to capture other information as necessary</p> | | |
| <p>41) The MIS must provide at a minimum a suite of activity reports, transaction and settlement reports, including the metrics below to administrators: <i>Reports – Transaction Details</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vendor Number ● Vendor Name ● Redemption Date ● Transaction Amount redeemed (participant ID and Total Amount) and Payment Status ● Returned (Individual User ID and Total Amount) <p><i>Cumulative and Range Reporting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Site (By Maryland County and City of Baltimore) ● Total Issued ● Net Paid Count ● Net Paid Amount ● Net Paid Count YTD/Site Percent ● Net Paid Amount YTD/State Percent ● Unclaimed/Lost Count | | |
| <p>42) Bidder must support data entry into MIS by State Agency staff or import of farmer information</p> | | |
| <p>43) Bidder must work with MDH and MDoAg to import participants and benefit issuance</p> | | |
| <p>44) The bidder must maintain participant and benefit information separately for the FMNP and SFMNP programs; users and administrators in one program shall not be able to access participant or benefit information in the other program, even if the same individual participates in both programs.</p> | | |
| <p>45) The bidder shall ensure that both programs share the same farmer information, except for farmers who are exclusive to the Senior FMNP.</p> | | |

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| 46) The MIS shall maintain contact information about farmers and a history of active, pending, and inactive farmers. | | |
| 47) The MIS must allow MDA staff to terminate or disqualify a farmer’s access to the eSolution system if a farmer is no longer authorized. | | |
| Requirements - Security | Can Meet Requirements? | Description of Services |
| 48) The eSolution shall not expose personal participant information to farmers or farmers’ market managers. Only issuance and administrative users authorized by roles and permissions by the State shall have access to participant information. | | |
| 49) Participant information shall be protected according to the terms of the bidder’s privacy statement (a copy of which shall be provided to the State) and shall not be shared or disclosed for purposes outside the routine management of the program. | | |
| 50) The Offeror (or, in the case of an Offeror that is not a financial institution, the depository financial institution) must be compliant with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI-DSS) for the processing of credit card. | | |

2.5 MDA Requirements

- 2.5.1 MDA will provide a file of authorized farmer identification numbers and names to selected bidder, which will be updated to a database maintained by bidder and used for tracking transaction history and other relevant information as described in section 2 in the table above.
- 2.5.2 MDA will provide a file of participating farmers markets, locations and hours to selected bidder to be updated to database and maintained by bidder.
- 2.5.3 MDA will be responsible for maintaining a zero or positive balance at all times in the two bank accounts (FMNP, Senior FMNP).
- 2.5.4 MDA will be responsible for providing Maryland Counties and Baltimore City site names, distribution quantities, and valid farmer files.

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3 Contractor Requirements: General

3.1 Contract Requirements

THIS SECTION IS INAPPLICABLE TO THIS IFB

3.2 Reserved

3.2.1 Return and Maintenance of State Data

3.2.1.1 Upon termination or the expiration of the Contract Term, the Contractor shall: (a) return to the State all State data in either the form it was provided to the Contractor or in a mutually agreed upon format along with the schema necessary to read such data; (b) preserve, maintain, and protect all State data until the earlier of a direction by the State to delete such data or the expiration of 90 days (“the retention period”) from the date of termination or expiration of the Contract term; (c) after the retention period, the Contractor shall securely dispose of and permanently delete all State data in all of its forms, such as check paper templates, disk, CD/DVD, backup tape and paper such that it is not recoverable, according to National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)-approved methods with certificates of destruction to be provided to the State; and (d) prepare an accurate accounting from which the State may reconcile all outstanding accounts. The final monthly invoice for the services provided hereunder shall include all charges for the 90-day data retention period.

3.2.1.2 During any period of service suspension, the Contractor shall maintain all State data in its then existing form, unless otherwise directed in writing by the Contract Monitor.

3.2.1.3 In addition to the foregoing, the State shall be entitled to any post-termination/expiration assistance generally made available by Contractor with respect to the services.

3.3 Invoicing

3.3.1 General

3.3.1.1 The Contractor shall e-mail the original of each invoice and signed authorization of invoice to the attention of the Contract Monitor.

All invoices for services shall be verified by the Contractor as accurate at the time of submission.

An invoice not satisfying the requirements of a Proper Invoice (as defined in COMAR 21.06.09) cannot be processed for payment. To be considered a Proper Invoice, invoices must include the following information, without error:

1. Contractor name and address;
2. Remittance address;
3. Federal taxpayer identification (FEIN) number, social security number, as appropriate;
4. Invoice period (i.e. time period during which services covered by invoice were performed);
5. Invoice date;
6. Invoice number;
7. State assigned Contract number;
8. State assigned (Blanket) Purchase Order number(s) if applicable;

9. Goods or services provided;
10. Amount due; and
11. Any additional documentation required by regulation or the Contract.

The Office reserves the right to reduce or withhold Contract payment in the event the Contractor does not provide the Office with all required deliverables within the time frame specified in the Contract or otherwise breaches the terms and conditions of the Contract until such time as the Contractor brings itself into full compliance with the Contract.

Any action on the part of the Office, or dispute of action by the Contractor, shall be in accordance with the provisions of Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article §§ 15-215 through 15-223 and with COMAR 21.10.04.

The State is generally exempt from federal excise taxes, Maryland sales and use taxes, District of Columbia sales taxes and transportation taxes. The Contractor, however, is not exempt from such sales and use taxes and may be liable for the same.

Invoices shall not be paid via purchasing card and the State shall not pay and fees incurred by the contractor.

- 3.3.2 Invoices for final payment shall be clearly marked as “FINAL” and submitted when all work requirements have been completed and no further charges are to be incurred under the Contract. In no event shall any invoice be submitted later than 60 calendar days from the Contract termination date. Travel Reimbursement

Travel will not be reimbursed under this IFB.

- a) There shall be no reimbursement for Routine Travel. Contractor shall not be reimbursed for Non-Routine Travel without prior Contract Monitor approval.
- b) Routine Travel is defined as travel within a 50-mile radius of the Office’s base location, as identified in the IFB, or the Contractor’s facility, whichever is closer to the consulting site. There will be no payment for labor hours for travel time or reimbursement for any travel expenses for work performed within these radiuses or at the Contractor’s facility.
- c) Non-routine Travel is defined as travel beyond the 50-mile radius of Office’s base location, as identified in the IFB, or the Contractor’s facility, whichever is closer to the consulting site. Non-routine travel will be reimbursed according to the State’s travel regulations and reimbursement rates, which can be found at: www.DBM.maryland.gov. The Contractor may bill for labor hours expended in non-routine traveling beyond the identified 50-mile radius, only if so specified in the IFB or Work Order.

3.4 Liquidated Damages

3.4.1 MBE Liquidated Damages

Inapplicable because there is no MBE goal for this IFB.

3.4.2 Liquidated Damages other than MBE

THIS SECTION IS INAPPLICABLE TO THIS IFB.

3.5 Insurance Requirements

The Contractor shall maintain, at a minimum, the insurance coverages outlined below, or any minimum requirements established by law if higher, for the duration of the Contract, including option periods, if exercised:

- 3.5.1 The following type(s) of insurance and minimum amount(s) of coverage are required:
- a) Commercial General Liability - of \$1,000,000 combined single limit per occurrence for bodily injury, property damage, and personal and advertising injury and \$3,000,000 annual aggregate. The minimum limits required herein may be satisfied through any combination of primary and umbrella/excess liability policies.
 - b) Errors and Omissions/Professional Liability - \$1,000,000 per combined single limit per claim and \$3,000,000 annual aggregate.
 - c) Crime Insurance/Employee Theft Insurance - to cover employee theft with a minimum single loss limit of \$1,000,000 per loss, and a minimum single loss retention not to exceed \$10,000. The State of Maryland and the Office should be added as a "loss payee."
 - d) Cyber Security / Data Breach Insurance – (For any service offering hosted by the Contractor) ten million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence. The coverage must be valid at all locations where work is performed or data or other information concerning the State's claimants or employers is processed or stored.
 - e) Worker's Compensation - The Contractor shall maintain such insurance as necessary or as required under Workers' Compensation Acts, the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, and the Federal Employers' Liability Act, to not be less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence (unless a state's law requires a greater amount of coverage). Coverage must be valid in all states where work is performed.
 - f) Automobile or Commercial Truck Insurance - The Contractor shall maintain Automobile or Commercial Truck Insurance (including owned, leased, hired, and non-owned vehicles) as appropriate with Liability, Collision, and PIP limits no less than those required by the State where the vehicle(s) is registered, but in no case less than those required by the State of Maryland.
- 3.5.2 The recommended awardee must provide current certificate(s) of insurance with the prescribed coverages, limits and requirements set forth in this section within five (5) Business Days from notice of recommended award. During the period of performance for multi-year contracts, the Contractor shall provide certificates of insurance annually, or as otherwise directed by the Contract Monitor.
- 3.5.3 The Contractor shall require any subcontractors to obtain and maintain comparable levels of coverage and shall provide the Contract Monitor with the same documentation as is required of the Contractor.

3.6 Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Reports

This solicitation does not include an MBE Goal

3.7 Veteran Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) Reports

This solicitation does not include a VSBE Goal

3.8 Work Orders

THIS SECTION IS INAPPLICABLE TO THIS IFB.

3.9 Information Technology

- 3.9.1 Contractors shall comply with and adhere to the State IT Security Policy and Standards. These policies may be revised from time to time and the Contractor shall comply with all such revisions. Updated and revised versions of the State IT Policy and Standards are available online at: www.doit.maryland.gov – keyword: Security Policy.
- 3.9.2 The Contractor shall not connect any of its own equipment to a State LAN/WAN without prior written approval by the State. The Contractor shall complete any necessary paperwork as directed and coordinated with the Contract Monitor to obtain approval by the State to connect Contractor-owned equipment to a State LAN/WAN.

The Contractor shall:

- 1) Implement administrative, physical, and technical safeguards to protect State data that are no less rigorous than accepted industry best practices for information security such as those listed below (see **Section 3.10**);
- 2) Ensure that all such safeguards, including the manner in which State data is collected, accessed, used, stored, processed, disposed of and disclosed, comply with applicable data protection and privacy laws as well as the terms and conditions of the Contract; and
- 3) The Contractor, and Contractor Personnel, shall (i) abide by all applicable federal, State and local laws, rules and regulations concerning security of Information Systems and Information Technology and (ii) comply with and adhere to the State IT Security Policy and Standards as each may be amended or revised from time to time. Updated and revised versions of the State IT Policy and Standards are available online at: www.doit.maryland.gov – keyword: Security Policy.

3.10 Data Protection and Controls

- 3.10.1 Contractor shall ensure a secure environment for all State data and any hardware and software (including but not limited to servers, network and data components) provided or used in connection with the performance of the Contract and shall apply or cause application of appropriate controls so as to maintain such a secure environment (“Security Best Practices”). Such Security Best Practices shall comply with an accepted industry standard, such as the NIST cybersecurity framework.
- 3.10.2 To ensure appropriate data protection safeguards are in place, the Contractor shall implement and maintain the following controls at all times throughout the Term of the Contract (the Contractor may augment this list with additional controls):
- 1) Establish separate production, test, and training environments for systems supporting the services provided under the Contract and ensure that production data is not replicated in test or training environment(s) unless it has been previously anonymized or otherwise modified to protect the confidentiality of Sensitive Data elements. The Contractor shall

ensure the appropriate separation of production and non-production environments by applying the data protection and control requirements listed in **Section 3.10**.

- 2) Apply hardware and software hardening procedures as recommended by Center for Internet Security (CIS) guides <https://www.cisecurity.org/> Security Technical Implementation Guides (STIG) <https://public.cyber.mil/stigs/>, or similar industry best practices to reduce the systems' surface of vulnerability, eliminating as many security risks as possible and documenting what is not feasible or not performed according to best practices. Any hardening practices not implemented shall be documented with a plan of action and milestones including any compensating control. These procedures may include but are not limited to removal of unnecessary software, disabling or removing unnecessary services, removal of unnecessary usernames or logins, and the deactivation of unneeded features in the Contractor's system configuration files.
- 3) Ensure that State data is not comingled with non-State data through the proper application of compartmentalization Security Measures.
- 4) Apply data encryption to protect Sensitive Data at all times, including in transit, at rest, and also when archived for backup purposes. Unless otherwise directed, the Contractor is responsible for the encryption of all Sensitive Data.
- 5) For all State data the Contractor manages or controls, data encryption shall be applied to such data in transit over untrusted networks. Should data need to be transmitted over untrusted networks, the State shall be immediately informed, and the Contractor shall take heightened security precautions.
- 6) Encryption algorithms which are utilized for encrypting data shall comply with current Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS), "Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules", FIPS PUB 140-2:

<http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips/fips140-2/fips1402.pdf>

<http://csrc.nist.gov/groups/STM/cmvp/documents/140-1/1401vend.htm>
- 7) Enable appropriate logging parameters to monitor user access activities, authorized and failed access attempts, system exceptions, and critical information security events as recommended by the operating system and application manufacturers and information security standards, including Maryland Department of Information Technology's Information Security Policy.
- 8) Retain the aforementioned logs and review them at least daily to identify suspicious or questionable activity for investigation and documentation as to their cause and remediation, if required. The MDA shall have the right to inspect these policies and procedures and the Contractor or subcontractor's performance to confirm the effectiveness of these measures for the services being provided under the Contract.
- 9) Ensure system and network environments are separated by properly configured and updated firewalls.

- 10) Restrict network connections between trusted and untrusted networks by physically or logically isolating systems from unsolicited and unauthenticated network traffic.
- 11) Review, at least annually, the aforementioned network connections, documenting and confirming the business justification for the use of all service, protocols, and ports allowed, including the rationale or compensating controls implemented for those protocols considered insecure but necessary.
- 12) Perform regular vulnerability testing of operating system, application, and network devices. Such testing is expected to identify outdated software versions; missing software patches; device or software misconfigurations; and to validate compliance with or deviations from the security policies applicable to the Contract. Contractor shall evaluate all identified vulnerabilities for potential adverse effect on security and integrity and remediate the vulnerability no later than 30 days following the earlier of vulnerability's identification or public disclosure, or document why remediation action is unnecessary or unsuitable. The MDA shall have the right to inspect the Contractor's policies and procedures and the results of vulnerability testing to confirm the effectiveness of these measures for the services being provided under the Contract.
- 13) Enforce strong user authentication and password control measures to minimize the opportunity for unauthorized access through compromise of the user access controls. At a minimum, the implemented measures should be consistent with the most current Maryland Department of Information Technology's Information Security Policy (<https://doit.maryland.gov/policies/Pages/default.aspx>), including specific requirements for password length, complexity, history, and account lockout.
- 14) Ensure State data is not processed, transferred, or stored outside of the United States ("U.S."). The Contractor shall provide its services to the State and the State's end users solely from data centers in the U.S. Unless granted an exception in writing by the State, the Contractor shall not allow Contractor Personnel to store State data on portable devices, including personal computers, except for devices that are used and kept only at its U.S. data centers. The Contractor shall permit its Contractor Personnel to access State data remotely only as required to provide technical support.
- 15) Ensure Contractor's Personnel shall not connect any of its own equipment to a State LAN/WAN without prior written approval by the State, which may be revoked at any time for any reason. The Contractor shall complete any necessary paperwork as directed and coordinated with the Contract Monitor to obtain approval by the State to connect Contractor -owned equipment to a State LAN/WAN.
- 16) Ensure that anti-virus and anti-malware software is installed and maintained on all systems supporting the services provided under the Contract; that the anti-virus and anti-malware software is automatically updated; and that the software is configured to actively scan and detect threats to the system for remediation. The Contractor shall perform routine vulnerability scans and take corrective actions for any findings.
- 17) Conduct regular external vulnerability testing designed to examine the service provider's security profile from the Internet without benefit of access to internal systems

and networks behind the external security perimeter. Evaluate all identified vulnerabilities on Internet-facing devices for potential adverse effect on the service's security and integrity and remediate the vulnerability promptly or document why remediation action is unnecessary or unsuitable. The MDA shall have the right to inspect these policies and procedures and the performance of vulnerability testing to confirm the effectiveness of these measures for the services being provided under the Contract.

3.11 Security Logs and Reports Access

- 3.11.1 For a SaaS or non-State hosted solution, the Contractor shall provide reports to the State in a mutually agreeable format.
- a) Reports shall include latency statistics, user access, user access IP address, user access history and security logs for all State files related to the Contract.

3.12 Security Plan

- 3.12.1 The Contractor shall protect State data according to a written security policy ("Security Plan") no less rigorous than that of the State, and shall supply a copy of such policy to the State for validation, with any appropriate updates, on an annual basis.
- 3.12.2 The Security Plan shall detail the steps and processes employed by the Contractor as well as the features and characteristics which will ensure compliance with the security requirements of the Contract.

3.13 PCI Compliance

- 3.13.1 Contractor shall at all times comply, and ensure compliance with, all applicable Payment Card Industry ("PCI") Data Security Standards ("DSS"), including any and all changes thereto. Contractor shall provide the MDA with documented evidence of current compliance to PCI DSS within 30 days of a MDA request.

3.14 Security Incident Response

- 3.14.1 The Contractor shall notify the MDA in accordance when any Contractor system that may access, process, or store State data or State systems experiences a Security Incident or a Data Breach as follows:
- 1) Notify the MDA within twenty-four (24) hours of the discovery of a Security Incident by providing notice via written or electronic correspondence
 - 2) Notify the MDA within two (2) hours if there is a threat to Contractor's solution as it pertains to the use, disclosure, and security of State data; and
 - 3) provide written notice to the MDA within one (1) Business Day after Contractor's discovery of unauthorized use or disclosure of State data and thereafter all information the State requests concerning such unauthorized use or disclosure.
- 3.14.2 Contractor's notice shall identify:

- 1) The nature of the unauthorized use or disclosure;
 - 2) the State data used or disclosed,
 - 3) who made the unauthorized use or received the unauthorized disclosure;
 - 4) what the Contractor has done or shall do to mitigate any deleterious effect of the unauthorized use or disclosure; and
 - 5) what corrective action the Contractor has taken or shall take to prevent future similar unauthorized use or disclosure.
- 6) The Contractor shall provide such other information, including a written report, as reasonably requested by the State.

3.14.3 The Contractor may need to communicate with outside parties regarding a Security Incident, which may include contacting law enforcement, fielding media inquiries and seeking external expertise as mutually agreed upon, defined by law or contained in the Contract. Discussing Security Incidents with the State should be handled on an urgent as-needed basis, as part of Contractor communication and mitigation processes as mutually agreed upon, defined by law or contained in the Contract.

3.14.4 The Contractor shall comply with all applicable laws that require the notification of individuals in the event of unauthorized release of State data or other event requiring notification, and, where notification is required, assume responsibility for informing all such individuals in accordance with applicable law and to indemnify and hold harmless the State (or the MDA) and its officials and employees from and against any claims, damages, and actions related to the event requiring notification.

3.15 Data Breach Responsibilities

3.15.1 If the Contractor reasonably believes or has actual knowledge of a Data Breach, the Contractor shall, unless otherwise directed:

- 1) Notify the appropriate State-identified contact immediately of an event;
- 2) Cooperate with the State to investigate and resolve the data breach;
- 3) Promptly implement commercially reasonable remedial measures to remedy/contain the Data Breach; and
- 4) Document responsive actions taken related to the Data Breach, including any post-incident review of events and actions taken to make changes in business practices in providing the services.

3.15.2 If a Data Breach is a direct result of the Contractor's breach of its Contract obligation to encrypt State data or otherwise prevent its release, the Contractor shall bear the costs associated with (1) the investigation and resolution of the data breach; (2) notifications to individuals, regulators or others required by State law; (3) a credit monitoring service required by State or federal law; (4) a website or a toll-free number and call center for affected individuals required by State law; and (5) complete all corrective actions as reasonably determined by Contractor based on root cause.

- 3.15.3 The State shall, at its discretion, have the right to review and assess the Contractor's compliance to the security requirements and standards defined in the Contract.

3.16 Problem Escalation Procedure

- 3.16.1 The Contractor must provide and maintain a Problem Escalation Procedure (PEP) for both routine and emergency situations. The PEP must state how the Contractor will address problem situations as they occur during the performance of the Contract, especially problems that are not resolved to the satisfaction of the State within appropriate timeframes.
- 3.16.2 The Contractor shall provide contact information to the Contract Monitor, as well as to other State personnel as directed should the Contract Monitor not be available.
- 3.16.3 The Contractor shall provide the PEP no later than ten (10) Business Days after notice of recommended award or after the date of the Notice to Proceed, whichever is earlier. The PEP, including any revisions thereto, must also be provided within ten (10) Business Days after the start of each Contract year and within ten (10) Business Days after any change in circumstance which changes the PEP. The PEP shall detail how problems with work under the Contract will be escalated in order to resolve any issues in a timely manner. The PEP shall include:
- A) The process for establishing the existence of a problem;
 - B) Names, titles, and contact information for progressively higher levels of personnel in the Contractor's organization who would become involved in resolving a problem;
 - C) For each individual listed in the Contractor's PEP, the maximum amount of time a problem will remain unresolved with that individual before the problem escalates to the next contact person listed in the Contractor's PEP;
 - D) Expedited escalation procedures and any circumstances that would trigger expediting them;
 - E) The method of providing feedback on resolution progress, including the frequency of feedback to be provided to the State;
 - F) Contact information for persons responsible for resolving issues after normal business hours (e.g., evenings, weekends, holidays) and on an emergency basis; and
 - G) A process for updating and notifying the Contract Monitor of any changes to the PEP.
- 3.16.4 Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any rights of the Contract Monitor or the State which may be allowed by the Contract or applicable law.

3.17 SOC 2 Type 2 Audit Report

A SOC 2 Type 2 Audit applies to the Contract. The applicable trust services criteria are: Security, Availability, Processing Integrity, Confidentiality, or Privacy

- 3.17.1 In the event the Contractor provides services for identified critical functions, handles Sensitive Data, or hosts any related implemented system for the State under the Contract, the Contractor shall have an annual audit performed by an independent audit firm of the Contractor's handling of Sensitive Data or the State's critical functions. Critical functions are identified as all aspects and functionality of the Solution including any add-on modules and shall address all areas relating to Information Technology security and operational processes. These services provided by the Contractor that shall be covered by the audit will collectively be referred to as the "Information Functions and Processes." Such audits shall be performed in accordance with audit guidance:

Reporting on an Examination of Controls at a Service Organization Relevant to Security, Availability, Processing Integrity, Confidentiality, or Privacy (SOC 2) as published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and as updated from time to time, or according to the most current audit guidance promulgated by the AICPA or similarly-recognized professional organization, as agreed to by the STO to assess the security of outsourced client functions or data (collectively, the “Guidance”) as follows:

- a. The type of audit to be performed in accordance with the Guidance is a SOC 2 Type 2 Audit (referred to as the “SOC 2 Audit” or “SOC 2 Report”). All SOC2 Audit Reports shall be submitted to the Contract Monitor. The Contractor shall ensure the audit includes all such subcontractors operating in performance of the Contract.
- b. All SOC 2 Audits, including those of the Contractor, shall be performed at no additional expense to the State.
- c. If the Contractor currently has an annual, independent information security assessment performed that includes the operations, systems, and repositories of the Information Functions and Processes being provided to the STO under the Contract, and if that assessment generally conforms to the content and objective of the Guidance, the STO will determine in consultation with appropriate State government technology and audit authorities whether the Contractor’s current information security assessments are acceptable in lieu of the SOC 2 Report(s).
- d. The Contractor shall provide annually at no cost to the Contract Officer, evidence of compliant and ongoing internal control of sensitive data and processes through a standard methodology, such as but without limitation the American Institute of Certified Public Accountant (AICPA) Service Organization Control (SOC) Reports. The scope of the audit shall cover a one (1) year period. The evidence of compliance shall be contained in a report describing the effectiveness of the Contractor’s internal controls.
- e. If deficiencies in the Contractor’s internal control processes and procedures are described in the most recent version of the report, the Contractor shall automatically submit the report to the Contract Officer within a timely manner and shall describe the corrective actions to be put into place by the Contractor to remedy the deficiencies. Failure to report and/or repair deficiencies in a timely manner shall be cause for the STO to make a determination of breach of contract.

3.18 Timeline of Requested Services

1. Within five (5) days of the official award date, the contractor shall appoint a project manager who will be responsible for all phases of the project through statewide implementation (at which time the project will enter the operations and maintenance phase).
2. Within ten (10) days of the official award date of the contract, the contractor shall be expected to attend an on-site project kickoff meeting led by MDA at a location in Maryland, yet to be determined. The contractor’s project manager and other key contractor staff will participate in this meeting. The objectives of this meeting are to:
 - a. Introduce MDA’s project manager and establish the working relationship between MDA and the contractor;
 - b. Provide MDA an opportunity to provide the contractor with all the information and materials relevant to the FMNP and SFMNP programs;
 - c. Establish the project communications structure and schedule regular project status meetings and reports. At a minimum, each meeting shall address the project schedule and deliverable status.

- d. Allow the contractor to provide a detailed description (and demonstration, if available) of the eSolution;
 - e. Agree on a project implementation schedule, conforming to the dates listed herein
 - f. Define and agree on specific project milestones (including schedule);
 - g. Discuss the required deliverables and schedule for submission and confirm acceptance criteria.
3. The contractor shall provide the deliverables defined below. All deliverables require the specific approval of MDA and/or the specific (FMNP or SFMNP) program.
- a. System Test Plan – The contractor shall provide a plan for end-to-end testing. All testing shall be completed by May 1st or as otherwise agreed upon
 - b. Training Plan – The contractor shall provide training and training materials, as described below, in accordance with a schedule agreed to with MDA
 - i. Training shall be provided for administrative (State), staff, issuance partners (clinic and senior center personnel), farmers and farmers markets. Training may be delivered on-site, remotely, or a combination of the two, as agreed-upon by the State and contractor.
 - ii. Training materials shall be provided for administrative, issuance, and farmers. The contractor shall also provide proto-type training materials for use by MDA in training participants.
 - iii. All training materials shall be approved by the State.;
 - iv. Training materials must be provided in English and Spanish..
 - c. Settlement Manual – The contractor shall provide materials regarding the periodic financial settlement and illustrate how MDA can validate all financial transactions and disbursements.

The approximate timeline with key dates gives the bidder guidance on expectations from MDA:

| Date | Event |
|----------------|---|
| March 12, 2024 | Annual Farmers Market Conference: Selected bidder is expected to attend if applicable. |
| March & April | Meetings with selected bidder, MDA, MDH and MDoAg to discuss specific needs and the electronic FMNP benefits solutions. |
| April 25, 2024 | Introducing overview of the eFMNP to Area Senior Agencies on Aging in quarterly MASNP meeting |
| May 1, 2024 | Introducing the eFMNP to local WIC agencies |
| May 6, 2024 | Local WIC Agencies are trained on using the eFMNP |
| May 6, 2024 | Pilot for up to two weeks to get feedback from farmers and participants |
| Throughout May | Virtual trainings for using the eFMNP benefits solutions with farmers, farmers market managers, Agricultural Marketing Professionals, and local agencies. |

| Date | Event |
|--------------------|---|
| May 20, 2024 | Pilot period ends and feedback begins to be incorporated |
| June 3, 2024 | WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program funds begin to be distributed |
| June 10, 2024 | Senior FMNP cards are distributed to Area Agencies on Aging |
| June, 2024 | Local Area Agencies on Aging are trained on using eFMNP using the card-based system |
| July 1, 2024 | Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program funds begin to be distributed by Local Agencies |
| September 30, 2024 | Last day that FMNP funds can be distributed by Local Agencies |
| November 30, 2024 | Last day for participants to spend benefit |

3.18.1 No-Cost Extensions

In accordance with BPW Advisory 1995-1 item 7.b, in the event there are unspent funds remaining on the Contract, prior to the Contract's expiration date the Procurement Officer may modify the Contract to extend the Contract beyond its expiration date for a period up to, but not exceeding, one-third of the base term of the Contract (e.g., eight-month extension on a two-year contract) for the performance of work within the Contract's scope of work. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, no funds may be added to the Contract in connection with any such extension.

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4 Procurement Instructions

4.1 eMaryland Marketplace Advantage (eMMA)

- 4.1.1 eMMA is the electronic commerce system for the State of Maryland. The IFB, Conference summary and attendance sheet, Bidders' questions and the Procurement Officer's responses, addenda, and other solicitation-related information will be made available via eMMA.
- 4.1.2 In order to receive a contract award, a vendor must be registered on eMMA. Registration is free. Go to emma.maryland.gov, click on "New Vendor? Register Now" to begin the process, and then follow the prompts.

4.2 Questions

- 4.2.1 All questions, including concerns shall be identified in the subject line "**Questions IFB #MDA-02132024**" and shall be submitted in writing via e-mail to the Procurement Officer @ ckoebler@treasurer.state.md.us by **February 23, 2024 at 2:00pm EST**.
- 4.2.2 Answers to all questions that are not clearly specific only to the requestor will be distributed via the same mechanism as for IFB amendments and posted on eMMA.
- 4.2.3 The statements and interpretations contained in responses to any questions, whether responded to verbally or in writing, are not binding on the Office unless it issues an amendment in writing.

4.3 Procurement Method

A Contract will be awarded in accordance with the Competitive Sealed Bidding method under COMAR 21.05.02.

4.4 Bid Due (Closing) Date and Time

- 4.4.1 Bids, in the number and form set forth in **Section 5 Bid Format**, must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than the Bid due date and time indicated on the Key Information Summary Sheet in order to be considered.
- 4.4.2 Requests for extension of this date or time shall not be granted.
- 4.4.3 Bidders submitting Bids should allow sufficient delivery time to ensure timely receipt by the Procurement Officer. Except as provided in COMAR 21.05.02.10, Bids received after the due date and time listed in the Key Information Summary Sheet will not be considered.
- 4.4.4 The date and time of a submission is determined by the date and time of arrival in the electronic stamp on eMMA or the date stamp receipt on any hard copies that may be submitted.
- 4.4.5 Bids may be modified or withdrawn by written notice received by the Procurement Officer before the time and date set forth in the Key Information Summary Sheet for receipt of Bids.
- 4.4.6 Bids may be submitted by eMMA or in hard-copy format only. No fax or email bids will be accepted. Bids will be opened publicly at the date and time indicated on the Key Information Summary Sheet.

- 4.4.7 Potential Bidders not responding to this solicitation are requested to submit the “No Bid Notice/Vendor Feedback” form, which includes company information and the reason for not responding (e.g., too busy, cannot meet mandatory requirements).

4.5 Multiple or Alternate Bids

Multiple or alternate Bids will not be accepted.

4.6 Receipt, Opening and Recording of Bids

- 4.6.1 Upon receipt, each Bid and any timely modification(s) to a Bid shall be stored in a secure place until the time and date set for bid opening. Before Bid opening, the State may not disclose the identity of any Bidder.
- 4.6.2 Bids shall be opened publicly, at the time, date and place designated in the IFB Key Information Summary Sheet (near the beginning of the solicitation, after the Title Page and Notice to Vendors). The name of each Bidder, the Total Bid Price, and such other information as is deemed appropriate shall be read aloud or otherwise made available and recorded at the time of bid opening.

4.7 Confidentiality of Bids / Public Information Act Notice

- 4.7.1 The Bidder should give specific attention to the clear identification of those portions of its Bid that it considers confidential and/or proprietary commercial information or trade secrets, and provide justification why such materials, upon request, should not be disclosed by the State under the Public Information Act, Md. Code Ann., General Provisions Article, Title 4. This information should be identified by page number and placed in the Transmittal Letter with the Bid.
- 4.7.2 The Bids shall be tabulated, or a Bid abstract made. The opened Bids shall be available for public inspection at a reasonable time after Bid opening, but in any case, before contract award, except to the extent the Bidder designates trade secrets or other proprietary data to be confidential as set forth in this solicitation. Material so designated as confidential shall accompany the Bid and shall be readily separable from the Bid in order to facilitate public inspection of the non-confidential portion of the Bid, including the Total Bid Price.
- 4.7.3 For requests for information made under the PIA, the Procurement Officer shall examine the Bids to determine the validity of any requests for nondisclosure of trade secrets and other proprietary data identified in writing. Nondisclosure is permissible only if approved by the Office of the Attorney General.

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4.8 Award Basis

- 4.8.1 A Contract shall be awarded to the responsible Bidder(s) submitting a responsive Bid with the most favorable bid price or most favorable evaluated bid price (as referenced in COMAR 21.05.02.13) for providing the goods and services as specified in this IFB. Bidders must bid all line items. Partial or incomplete bids will be rejected unless otherwise stated in the solicitation. See IFB Section 6 for Bid evaluation and award information.
- 4.8.2 Award of this contract will not be final and complete until after: (1) the Contractor submits complete and satisfactory documentation required under the Contract and/or documentation required by the Procurement Officer; and (2) the Contract is signed by the Office following any required approvals of the Contract, including approval by the Board of Public Works, if such approval is required.

4.9 Tie Bids

Tie Bids will be decided pursuant to COMAR 21.05.02.14.

4.10 Duration of Bids

Bids submitted in response to this IFB are irrevocable for the latest of the following: **120 days** following the Bid due date and time or the date any protest concerning this IFB is finally resolved. This period may be extended at the Procurement Officer's request only with the Bidder's written agreement.

4.11 Revisions to the IFB

- 4.11.1 If the IFB is revised before the due date for Bids, the Office shall post any addenda to the IFB on eMMA and shall endeavor to provide such addenda to all prospective Bidders that were sent this IFB or are otherwise known by the Procurement Officer to have obtained this IFB. It remains the responsibility of all prospective Bidders to check eMMA for any addenda issued prior to the submission of Bids.
- 4.11.2 Bidders shall acknowledge the receipt of all addenda to this IFB issued before the Bid due date.
- 4.11.3 Failure to acknowledge receipt of an addendum does not relieve the Bidder from complying with the terms, additions, deletions, or corrections set forth in the addendum, and may cause the Bid to be deemed not responsive.
- 4.11.4 The State reserves the right to cancel this IFB, accept or reject any and all Bids, in whole or in part, received in response to this IFB and to waive or permit the cure of minor irregularities.
- 4.11.5 In the event a government entity proposes and receives the recommendation for award, the procurement may be cancelled, and the award processed in accordance with COMAR 21.01.03.01.A(4).
- 4.11.6 If the services that are the subject of the IFB are currently being provided under an interagency agreement with a public institution of higher education and the State determines that the services can be provided more cost effectively by the public institution of higher education, then the IFB may be cancelled in accordance with Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Art., § 3-207(b)(2).

4.12 Incurred Expenses

The State will not be responsible for any costs incurred by any Bidder in preparing and submitting a Bid or performing any other activities related to submitting a Bid in response to this solicitation.

4.13 Protest/Disputes

Any protest or dispute related to this solicitation or the Contract award shall be subject to the provisions of COMAR 21.10 (Administrative and Civil Remedies).

4.14 Bidder Responsibilities

- 4.14.1 Bidders must be able to provide all goods and services and meet all of the requirements requested in this solicitation and the successful Bidder shall be responsible for Contract performance including any subcontractor participation.
- 4.14.2 If applicable, subcontractors utilized in meeting the established MBE or VSBE participation goal(s) for this solicitation shall be identified as provided in the appropriate Attachment(s) to this IFB (see **6** “MBE Participation Goal” and **Section 3.7** “VSBE Goal”).
- 4.14.3 If the Bidder is the subsidiary of another entity, all information submitted by the Bidder, including but not limited to references, financial reports, or experience and documentation (e.g. insurance policies, bonds, letters of credit) used to meet minimum qualifications, if any, shall pertain exclusively to the Bidder, unless the parent organization will guarantee the performance of the subsidiary. If applicable, the Bidder’s Bid shall contain an explicit statement, signed by an authorized representative of the parent organization, stating that the parent organization will guarantee the performance of the subsidiary.
- 4.14.4 A parental guarantee of the performance of the Bidder under this Section will not automatically result in crediting the Bidder with the experience or qualifications of the parent under any evaluation criteria pertaining to the actual Bidder’s experience and qualifications. Instead, the Bidder’s responsibility will be assessed to the extent to which the State determines that the experience and qualifications of the parent are applicable to and shared with the Bidder, any stated intent by the parent to be directly involved in the performance of the Contract, and the value of the parent’s participation as determined by the State.

4.15 Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

By submitting a Bid in response to this IFB, the Bidder, if selected for award, shall be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of this IFB and the Contract, attached hereto as **Attachment E**. Any exceptions to this IFB or the Contract must be raised prior to Bid submission. Changes to the solicitation, including the Bid Form or Contract, made by the Bidder may result in Bid rejection.

4.16 No Guarantee of Work

No Bidder is guaranteed any minimum amount of work or compensation.

4.17 Bid/Proposal Affidavit

A Bid submitted by the Bidder must be accompanied by a completed Bid/Proposal Affidavit. A copy of this Affidavit is included as **Attachment C** of this IFB.

4.18 Contract Affidavit

All Bidders are advised that if a Contract is awarded as a result of this solicitation, the successful Bidder will be required to complete a Contract Affidavit. A copy of this Affidavit is included for informational purposes as **Attachment F** of this IFB. This Affidavit must be provided within five (5) Business Days of notification of recommended award. For purposes of completing Section “B” of this Affidavit (Certification of Registration or Qualification with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation), a business entity that is organized outside of the State of Maryland is considered a “foreign” business.

4.19 Compliance with Laws/Arrearages

By submitting a Bid in response to this IFB, the Bidder, if selected for award, agrees that it will comply with all federal, State, and local laws applicable to its activities and obligations under the Contract.

By submitting a response to this solicitation, each Bidder represents that it is not in arrears in the payment of any obligations due and owing the State, including the payment of taxes and employee benefits, and shall not become so in arrears during the term of the Contract if selected for Contract award.

4.20 Verification of Registration and Tax Payment

Before a business entity can do business in the State, it must be registered with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT). SDAT is located at State Office Building, Room 803, 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. For registration information, visit <https://www.gov.maryland.gov/businessexpress>.

It is strongly recommended that any potential Bidder complete registration prior to the Bid due date and time. The Bidder’s failure to complete registration with SDAT may disqualify an otherwise successful Bidder from final consideration and recommendation for Contract award.

4.21 False Statements

Bidders are advised that Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, § 11-205.1 provides as follows:

4.21.1 In connection with a procurement contract a person may not willfully:

- a) Falsify, conceal, or suppress a material fact by any scheme or device.
- b) Make a false or fraudulent statement or representation of a material fact.
- c) Use a false writing or document that contains a false or fraudulent statement or entry of a material fact.

4.21.2 A person may not aid or conspire with another person to commit an act under **Section 4.21.1**.

4.21.3 A person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or imprisonment not exceeding five (5) years or both.

4.22 Payments by Electronic Funds Transfer

By submitting a Bid in response to this solicitation, the Bidder, if selected for award:

- 4.22.1 Agrees to accept payments by electronic funds transfer (EFT) unless the State Comptroller's Office grants an exemption. Payment by EFT is mandatory for contracts exceeding \$200,000. The successful Bidder shall register using the COT/GAD X-10 Vendor Electronic Funds (EFT) Registration Request Form.
- 4.22.2 Any request for exemption must be submitted to the State Comptroller's Office for approval at the address specified on the COT/GAD X-10 form, must include the business identification information as stated on the form, and must include the reason for the exemption. The COT/GAD X-10 form may be downloaded from the Comptroller's website at: **http://comptroller.marylandtaxes.com/Vendor_Services/Accounting_Information/Static_Files/GADX10Form20150615.pdf**.
- 4.22.3 Fees will not be adjusted during the initial term of the Contract. Price adjustments will, however, be permitted to reflect the Consumer Price Index (CPI) based on the end of the second year of the initial Contract period and upon subsequent renewal option periods. The CPI adjustment is not cumulative. Exercise of the renewal options will be solely at the discretion of the Treasurer or the Treasurer's designee..

4.23 Prompt Payment Policy

This procurement and the Contract(s) to be awarded pursuant to this solicitation are subject to the Prompt Payment Policy Directive issued by the Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs (GOSBA) and dated August 1, 2008. Promulgated pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, §§ 11-201, 13-205(a), and Title 14, Subtitle 3, and COMAR 21.01.01.03 and 21.11.03.01, the Directive seeks to ensure the prompt payment of all subcontractors on non-construction procurement contracts. The Contractor shall comply with the prompt payment requirements outlined in the Contract, Section 31 "Prompt Pay Requirements".

Additional information is available on GOSBA's website at: **<http://www.gomdsmallbiz.maryland.gov/documents/legislation/promptpaymentfaqs.pdf>**.

4.24 Electronic Procurements Authorized

- 4.24.1 Under COMAR 21.03.05, unless otherwise prohibited by law, the Office may conduct procurement transactions by electronic means, including the solicitation, proposing, award, execution, and administration of a contract, as provided in Md. Code Ann., Maryland Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, Commercial Law Article, Title 21.
- 4.24.2 Participation in the solicitation process on a procurement contract for which electronic means has been authorized shall constitute consent by the Bidder to conduct by electronic means all elements of the procurement of that Contract which are specifically authorized under the solicitation or Contract. In the case of electronic transactions authorized by this IFB, electronic records and signatures by an authorized representative satisfy a requirement for written submission and signatures.
- 4.24.3 "Electronic means" refers to exchanges or communications using electronic, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or other means of electronically conducting transactions. Electronic means includes e-mail, internet-based communications, electronic funds transfer, specific electronic bidding platforms (e.g., **<https://procurement.maryland.gov>**), and electronic data interchange.

4.24.4 In addition to specific electronic transactions specifically authorized in other sections of this solicitation (e.g., IFB § 4.24 describing payments by Electronic Funds Transfer), the following transactions are authorized to be conducted by electronic means on the terms as authorized in COMAR 21.03.05:

The Procurement Officer may conduct the procurement using eMMA to issue:

- 1) The IFB;
- 2) Any amendments;
- 3) Pre-Bid conference documents;
- 4) Questions and responses;
- 5) Communications regarding the solicitation or Bid to any Bidder or potential Bidder;
- 6) Notices of award selection or non-selection; and
- 7) The Procurement Officer's decision on any Bid protest or Contract claim.

The Bidder or potential Bidder may use eMMA to:

- 8) Submit Bids;
- 9) Ask questions regarding the solicitation;
- 10) Reply to any material received from the Procurement Officer by electronic means that includes a Procurement Officer's request or direction to reply through eMMA, but only on the terms specifically approved and directed by the Procurement Officer; and
- 11) Submit a "No Bid Notice/Vendor Feedback Form" to the IFB.

The Procurement Officer, the Contract Monitor, and the Contractor may conduct day-to-day Contract administration, utilizing e-mail, or other electronic means if authorized by the Procurement Officer or Contract Monitor.

4.24.5 The following transactions related to this procurement and any Contract awarded pursuant to it are **not authorized** to be conducted by electronic means:

- A. Submission of initial Bids, except through eMMA;
- B. Filing of bid protests;
- C. Filing of Contract claims;
- D. Submission of documents determined by the Office to require original signatures (e.g., Contract execution, Contract modifications); or
- E. Any transaction, submission, or communication where the Procurement Officer has specifically directed that a response from the Contractor or Bidder be provided in writing or hard copy.

4.24.6 Any e-mail transmission is only authorized to the e-mail addresses for the identified person as provided in the solicitation, the Contract, or in the direction from the Procurement Officer or Contract Monitor.

4.25 MBE Participation Goal

There is no MBE subcontractor participation goal for this procurement.

4.26 VSBE Participation Goal

There is no VSBE subcontractor participation goal for this procurement.

4.27 Living Wage Requirements

- a) Maryland law requires that contractors meeting certain conditions pay a living wage to covered employees on State service contracts over \$100,000. Maryland Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, § 18-101 et al. The Commissioner of Labor and Industry at the Department of Labor requires that a contractor subject to the Living Wage law submit payroll records for covered employees and a signed statement indicating that it paid a living wage to covered employees; or receive a waiver from Living Wage reporting requirements. See COMAR 21.11.10.05.
- b) If subject to the Living Wage law, Contractor agrees that it will abide by all Living Wage law requirements, including but not limited to reporting requirements in COMAR 21.11.10.05. Contractor understands that failure of Contractor to provide such documents is a material breach of the terms and conditions and may result in Contract termination, disqualification by the State from participating in State contracts, and other sanctions. Information pertaining to reporting obligations may be found by going to the Maryland Department of Labor website <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/labor/prev/livingwage.shtml>.
- c) Additional information regarding the State's living wage requirement is contained in **D**. Bidders must complete and submit the Maryland Living Wage Requirements Affidavit of Agreement (**Attachment D**) with their Bids. If the Bidder fails to complete and submit the required documentation, the State may determine the Bidder to not be responsible under State law.
- d) Contractors and subcontractors subject to the Living Wage Law shall pay each covered employee at least the minimum amount set by law for the applicable Tier area. The specific living wage rate is determined by whether a majority of services take place in a Tier 1 Area or a Tier 2 Area of the State. The specific Living Wage rate is determined by whether a majority of services take place in a Tier 1 Area or Tier 2 Area of the State.
 - 1) The Tier 1 Area includes Montgomery, Prince George's, Howard, Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties, and Baltimore City. The Tier 2 Area includes any county in the State not included in the Tier 1 Area. In the event that the employees who perform the services are not located in the State, the head of the unit responsible for a State Contract pursuant to §18-102(d) of the State Finance and Procurement Article shall assign the tier based upon where the recipients of the services are located. If the Contractor provides more than 50% of the services from an out-of-State location, the State agency determines the wage tier based on where the majority of the service recipients are located. In this circumstance, the **Contract will be determined to be a Tier 1 Contract.**
 - 2) The Contract will be determined to be a Tier 1 Contract or a Tier 2 Contract depending on the location(s) from which the Contractor provides 50% or more of the services. The Bidder must identify in its Bid the location(s) from which services will be provided, including the location(s) from which 50% or more of the Contract services will be provided.
 - 3) If the Contractor provides 50% or more of the services from a location(s) in a Tier 1 jurisdiction(s) the Contract will be a Tier 1 Contract.
 - 4) If the Contractor provides 50% or more of the services from a location(s) in a Tier 2 jurisdiction(s), the Contract will be a Tier 2 Contract.

- e) If the Contractor provides more than 50% of the services from an out-of-State location, the State agency determines the wage tier based on where the majority of the service recipients are located. See COMAR 21.11.10.07.
- f) The Bidder shall identify in the Bid the location from which services will be provided.
- g) **NOTE:** Whereas the Living Wage may change annually, the Contract price will not change because of a Living Wage change or a change in the State minimum wage. The Contractor shall be responsible for any wage/rate increase during the term of the Contract and such increase may not be passed on to the State.

4.28 Federal Funding Acknowledgement

This Contract is funded by USDA Federal FMNP grant.

4.29 Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure

A Conflict of Interest is not required for this procurement.

4.30 Non-Disclosure Agreement (Bidder)

A Non-Disclosure Agreement (Bidder) is not required for this procurement.

4.31 Non-Disclosure Agreement (Contractor)

A Non-Disclosure Agreement (Contractor) is not required for this procurement.

4.32 HIPAA - Business Associate Agreement

A HIPAA Business Associate Agreement is not required for this procurement.

4.33 Nonvisual Access

This solicitation does not contain Information Technology (IT) provisions requiring Nonvisual Access.

4.34 Mercury and Products That Contain Mercury

This solicitation does not include the procurement of products known to likely include mercury as a component.

4.35 Location of the Performance of Services Disclosure

This solicitation does not require a Location of the Performance of Services Disclosure.

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4.36 Department of Human Services (DHS) Hiring Agreement

This solicitation does not require a DHS Hiring Agreement.

4.37 Small Business Reserve (SBR) Procurement

This solicitation is not designated as a Small Business Reserve (SBR) Procurement.

4.38 Maryland Healthy Working Families Act Requirements

On February 11, 2018, the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act went into effect. All offerors should be aware of how this Act could affect your potential contract award with the State of Maryland. See the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations web site for Maryland Healthy Working Families Act Information: <http://dllr.maryland.gov/paidleave/>.

4.39 Order of Precedence

The contract between the parties will be embodied in the Contract documents, which will consist of the following, listed in their order of precedence:

1. the Contract;
2. the IFB; and
3. the Contractors bid.

Modifications to the order of precedence provision of this solicitation will not be accepted

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5 Bid Format

5.1 One Part Submission

Each Bidder shall submit its Bid with all Required Bid Submissions (see IFB Section 5.4) in a single sealed package.

5.2 Labeling

Each Bidder is required to label the sealed Bid with the IFB title and number, name and address of the Bidder, and closing date and time for receipt of the Bids.

5.3 Bid Price Form

The Bid shall contain all price information in the format specified on the Bid Form. The Bidder shall complete the Bid Form only as provided in the Bid Pricing Instructions and the Bid Form. Do not amend, alter, or leave blank any items on the Bid Form or include additional clarifying or contingent language on or attached to the Bid Form. Failure to adhere to any of these instructions may result in the Bid being determined to be non-responsive and rejected by the Office.

5.4 Required Bid Submission

A Bidder shall include the following with its Bid:

5.4.1 Bidder Information Sheet (see Appendix 2)

5.4.2 **Transmittal Letter** A brief transmittal letter prepared on the Bidder's business stationary should accompany the bid. The letter must be signed by an individual authorized to bind the selected Bidder to all statements, including services and fees contained in the bid. The transmittal letter should also indicate that, if selected, the Bidder will execute a contract materially the same as Appendix C.

5.4.3 **Acknowledgement** of all addenda to this IFB.

5.4.4 **Minimum Qualifications Documentation.** The Bidder shall submit any Minimum Qualifications documentation that may be required, as set forth in IFB **Section 1**. If references are required in **IFB Section 1**, those references shall be submitted in this section and shall contain the information described in both **Section 1**.

Each bidder shall provide evidence of certification and/or membership and compliance with Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC").

5.4.5 **Bidder's Capabilities.** In its bid, each bidder shall include responses the following Sections of the IFB:

All Bidders are to provide brief description of services describing how their firm meets or exceeds the Requirements listed in Section 2.4 (Table 2.4.1).

Have a contingency and disaster recovery plan that is in place to ensure that the services provided in response to this IFB will be maintained in the event of disruption to the Bidder's operations.

5.4.6 **Completed Required Attachments.** Submit three (3) copies of each with original signatures:

- 1) Completed Bid Form (**Attachment B**).
- 2) Completed Bid Affidavit (**Attachment C**).
- 3) Completed Maryland Living Wage Requirements Affidavit of Agreement (**Attachment D**).

5.4.7 **References.** At least two (2) references are requested from customers who are capable of documenting the Bidder's ability to provide the goods and services specified in this IFB. References used to meet any Minimum Qualifications (see IFB **Section 1**) may be used to meet this request. Each reference shall be from a client for whom the Bidder has provided goods and services within the past five (5) years and shall include the following information:

- 1) Name of client organization;
- 2) Name, title, telephone number, and e-mail address, if available, of point of contact for client organization; and
- 3) Value, type, duration, and description of goods and services provided.

The Office reserves the right to request additional references or utilize references not provided by the Bidder. Points of contact must be accessible and knowledgeable regarding Bidder performance.

5.4.8 **List of Current or Prior State Contracts.** Provide a list of all contracts with any entity of the State of Maryland for which the Bidder is currently performing goods and services or for which services have been completed within the last five (5) years. For each identified contract, the Bidder is to provide:

- 1) The State contracting entity;
- 2) A brief description of the goods and services provided;
- 3) The dollar value of the contract;
- 4) The term of the contract;
- 5) The State employee contact person (name, title, telephone number, and, if possible, e-mail address); and
- 6) Whether the contract was terminated before the end of the term specified in the original contract, including whether any available renewal option was not exercised.

Information obtained regarding the Bidder's level of performance on State contracts will be used by the Procurement Officer to determine the responsibility of the Bidder and considered as part of the experience and past performance evaluation criteria of the IFB.

5.4.9 **Financial Capability.** The Bidder must include in its Bid a commonly-accepted method to prove its fiscal integrity. If available, the Bidder shall include Financial Statements, preferably a Profit and Loss (P&L) statement and a Balance Sheet, for the last two (2) years (independently audited preferred).

In addition, the Bidder may supplement its response to this Section by including one or more of the following with its response:

5.4.10 **Certificate of Insurance.** The Bidder shall provide a copy of its current certificate of insurance showing the types and limits of insurance in effect as of the Bid submission date. The current insurance types and limits do not have to be the same as described in **Section 3.5**. See **Section 3.5** for the required insurance certificate submission for the apparent awardee.

5.4.11 **Subcontractors.** The Bidder shall provide a complete list of all subcontractors that will work on the Contract if the Bidder receives an award, including those utilized in meeting the MBE and VSBE subcontracting goal(s), **if applicable**. This list shall include a full description of the duties each subcontractor will perform and why/how each subcontractor was deemed the most qualified for this project. **If applicable**, subcontractors utilized in meeting the established MBE or VSBE participation goal(s) for this solicitation shall be identified as provided in the appropriate attachment(s) of this IFB.

5.4.12 **Legal Action Summary.** This summary shall include:

- 1) A statement as to whether there are any outstanding legal actions or potential claims against the Bidder and a brief description of any action;
- 2) A brief description of any settled or closed legal actions or claims against the Bidder over the past five (5) years;
- 3) A description of any judgments against the Bidder within the past five (5) years, including the court, case name, complaint number, and a brief description of the final ruling or determination; and
- 4) In instances where litigation is ongoing and the Bidder has been directed not to disclose information by the court, provide the name of the judge and location of the court.

5.5 **Delivery**

5.5.1 Bids shall only be accepted via the State's internet based electronic procurement system, eMMA or by trackable mail or hand delivery to State Treasurer's Office - 80 Calvert Street, Room 109 Annapolis, MD 21401 Attn: Caitlin Koehler, Operations & Small Procurement Specialist.

5.6 **Documents Required upon Notice of Recommendation for Contract Award**

Upon receipt of a notification of recommendation for contract award, the following documents shall be completed and submitted by the recommended awardee within five (5) business days, unless noted otherwise. Submit one (1) electronic copy of each of the following documents:

- A. Signed contract (**Attachment E**),
- B. Completed Contract Affidavit (**Attachment F**),
- C. Copy of a current certificate of insurance with the prescribed limits set forth in IFB Section 3.5 "Insurance Requirements," listing the State as an Additional Insured, if applicable; see **IFB Section 3.5**.
- D. Signed Collateral Security Agreement (**Appendix 4**)

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6 Bid Evaluation and Award

6.1 Bid Evaluation Criteria

The Bids will be evaluated based on the Total Bid Price, as per COMAR 21.02.13. All responsible Bidders will be ranked from the lowest (most advantageous) to the highest (least advantageous) price based on the Total Bid Price as submitted on the **Attachment B - Bid Form**.

6.2 Reciprocal Preference

6.2.1 Although Maryland law does not authorize procuring agencies to favor resident Bidders in awarding procurement contracts, many other states do grant their resident businesses preferences over Maryland contractors. COMAR 21.05.01.04 permits procuring agencies to apply a reciprocal preference under the following conditions:

- a) The Maryland resident business is a responsible Bidder;
- b) The lowest responsive Bid is from a responsible Bidder whose principal office, or principal base of operations is in another state;
- c) The other state gives a preference to its resident businesses through law, policy, or practice; and
- d) The preference does not conflict with a federal law or grant affecting the procurement Contract.
- e) The preference given shall be identical to the preference that the other state, through law, policy, or practice gives to its resident businesses.

6.3 Award Determination

Award will be made to the responsible Bidder who submits to the State the responsive Bid that has the lowest Total Bid Price.

6.4 Documents Required upon Notice of Recommendation for Contract Award

Upon receipt of a Notification of Recommendation for Contract award, the apparent awardee shall complete and furnish the documents and attestations as directed in Table 1 – **IFB Attachments and Appendices**.

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7 IFB ATTACHMENTS AND APPENDICES

Instructions Page

A Bid submitted by the Bidder must be accompanied by the completed forms and/or affidavits identified as “with Bid” in the “When to Submit” column in Table 1 below. All forms and affidavits applicable to this IFB, including any applicable instructions and/or terms, are identified in the “Applies” and “Label” columns in Table 1.

For documents required as part of the Bid:

- For submissions on eMMA, submit one (1) copy of each with signatures.
- For paper submissions, submit two (2) copies of each with original signatures. All signatures must be clearly visible.

All Bidders are advised that if a Contract is awarded as a result of this solicitation, the successful Bidder will be required to complete certain forms and affidavits after notification of recommended award. The list of forms and affidavits that must be provided is described in Table 1 below in the “When to Submit” column.

For documents required after award, submit three (3) copies of each document within the appropriate number of days after notification of recommended award, as listed in Table 1 below in the “When to Submit” column.

Table 1: IFB ATTACHMENTS AND APPENDICES

| Applies? | When to Submit | Label | Attachment Name |
|-------------------|---|--------------|---|
| N | N/A | A | Pre-Bid Conference Response Form (not required) |
| Y | With Bid | B | Bid Instructions and Form |
| Y | With Bid | C | Bid/Proposal Affidavit |
| Y | With Bid | D | Maryland Living Wage Requirements for Service Contracts and Affidavit of Agreement) |
| Y | 5 Business Days after recommended award | E | Contract (included in this IFB) |
| Y | 5 Business Days after recommended award | F | Contract Affidavit |
| Appendices | | | |
| Applies? | When to Submit | Label | Attachment Name |

| Applies? | When to Submit | Label | Attachment Name |
|------------------------|---|-------|---|
| Y | n/a | 1 | Abbreviations and Definitions (included in this IFB) |
| | With Bid | 2 | Bidder Information Sheet (see link at http://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2018/04/Appendix2-Bidder_OfferorInformationSheet.pdf) |
| Additional Submissions | | | |
| Applies? | When to Submit | Label | Document Name |
| Y | 5 Business Days after recommended award | 3 | Evidence of meeting insurance requirements (see Section 3.5); 1 copy |
| Y | 5 Business Days after recommended award | 4 | Signed Collateral Security Agreement (see Appendix 4) |

Attachment A. Pre-Bid Conference Response Form

Solicitation Number IFB #MDA-02132024

Electronic Transaction Processing and Payment System for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program

This form is not applicable as we are not holding a pre-bid conference for this procurement.

Please indicate:

- _____ Yes, the following representatives will be in attendance.
Attendees (Check the IFB for limits to the number of attendees allowed):
1.
2.
3.
_____ No, we will not be in attendance.

Please specify whether any reasonable accommodations are requested (see IFB § 4.1“Pre-Bid conference”):

Bidder: _____
Bidder Name (please print or type)

By: _____
Signature/Seal

Printed Name: _____
Printed Name

Title: _____
Title

Date: _____
Date

Directions to the Pre-Bid Conference

From Baltimore: Take I-97 South until it ends, stay in left lanes and merge onto Rt. 50 East. From Rt. 50 East take Exit 24A – Rowe Blvd. Stay right on exit ramp. Travel approximately 1 ½ miles on Rowe Blvd. Stay in left lane. After the bridge over College Creek, Rowe Blvd. will fork – stay left (turns into Bladen St.). You can see the Treasury Building located in front of you (two flag poles in front, weathervane on top, and a bronze statue of Louis Goldstein to the left of the building). At traffic light, turn left onto Calvert Street. Go to end of block, turn left onto St. Johns Street. Entrance to Calvert Street Garage is on left.

Attachment B. Bid Instructions & Form

B-1 Bid Instructions

Each Bidder must submit by 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, a completed and signed Bid Form (Appendix A), Bid Affidavit (Appendix B) and responses to Section 5.4 Bidder's Qualifications, Bidder's Capabilities, and References. The Bid Form must be signed by an individual authorized to bind the bidder to all terms and conditions of this IFB and the agreements contemplated hereunder. The State reserves the right to reject any conditional bid(s).

The Bid Form is used to calculate the Bidder's TOTAL BID PRICE. Follow these instructions carefully when completing your Bid Form:

- A) All Unit and Extended Prices must be clearly entered in dollars and cents, e.g., \$24.15. Make your decimal points clear and distinct.
- B) All Unit Prices must be the actual price per unit the State will pay for the specific item or service identified in this IFB and may not be contingent on any other factor or condition in any manner.
- C) All calculations shall be rounded to the nearest cent, e.g., .344 shall be .34 and .345 shall be .35.
- D) Any goods or services required through this IFB and proposed by the vendor at **No Cost to the State** must be clearly entered in the Unit Price, if appropriate, and Extended Price with **\$0.00**.
- E) Every blank in every Bid Form shall be filled in. Any changes or corrections made to the Bid Form by the Bidder prior to submission shall be initialed and dated.
- F) Except as instructed on the Bid Form, nothing shall be entered on or attached to the Bid Form that alters or proposes conditions or contingencies on the prices. Alterations and/or conditions may render the Bid not responsive.
- G) It is imperative that the prices included on the Bid Form have been entered correctly and calculated accurately by the Bidder and that the respective total prices agree with the entries on the Bid Form. Any incorrect entries or inaccurate calculations by the Bidder will be treated as provided in COMAR 21.05.02.12, and may cause the Bid to be rejected.
- H) If option years are included, Bidders must submit pricing for each option year. Any option to renew will be exercised at the sole discretion of the State and comply with all terms and conditions in force at the time the option is exercised. If exercised, the option period shall be for a period identified in the IFB at the prices entered in the Bid Form.
- I) All Bid prices entered below are to be fully loaded prices that include all costs/expenses associated with the provision of services as required by the IFB. The Bid price shall include, but is not limited to, all: labor, profit/overhead, general operating, administrative, and all other expenses and costs necessary to perform the work set forth in the solicitation. No other amounts will be paid to the Contractor. If labor rates are requested, those amounts shall be fully-loaded rates; no overtime amounts will be paid.
- J) Unless indicated elsewhere in the IFB, sample amounts used for calculations on the Bid Form are typically estimates for evaluation purposes only. Unless stated otherwise in the IFB, the Office does not guarantee a minimum or maximum number of units or usage in the performance of the Contract.
- K) Failure to adhere to any of these instructions may result in the Bid being determined not responsive.

B-1 Bid Form

The Bidder shall submit the annual cost for providing the services specified in Section 3 of the IFB.

IFB for Electronic Transaction Processing and Payment System for the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program IFB #MDA-02132024

Firm Name: _____

Address: _____

| <u>SERVICES</u> | <u>ESTIMATED MONTHLY VOLUME</u> | <u>UNIT COST</u> | <u>TOTAL COSTS</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------|--------------------|
| Processor Cost | | | |
| System Configuration | | | |
| Annual Operation & Maintenance | | | |
| Other Direct Costs | | | |
| Account Maintenance Fee (2 accounts) | 2 | | |
| Credit post (account fundings) | 9 | | |
| MIS System | | | |
| | | | |
| Card Printing (total) | | | |
| FMNP Cards | 7,000 | | |
| Card Design Artwork (1 time cost) | 1 | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

In compliance with the IFB and with all terms and conditions set forth therein, the undersigned represents that he/she has full authority to submit the above bid and to bind his/her principal to the obligations contemplated thereunder.

Submitted by:

| | |
|--|------|
| | |
| Signature of Authorized Representative | Date |
| Printed Name and Title: | |
| Telephone: | |
| Email address: | |
| Bidder Company Name: | |
| Bidder Company Address: | |
| FEIN: | |
| eMMA #: | |

Attachment C. Bid/Proposal Affidavit

A. AUTHORITY

I hereby affirm that I, _____ (name of affiant) am the _____ (title) and duly authorized representative of _____ (name of business entity) and that I possess the legal authority to make this affidavit on behalf of the business for which I am acting.

B. CERTIFICATION REGARDING COMMERCIAL NONDISCRIMINATION

The undersigned Bidder/Offeror hereby certifies and agrees that the following information is correct: In preparing its Bid/proposal on this project, the Bidder/Offeror has considered all Bid/proposals submitted from qualified, potential subcontractors and suppliers, and has not engaged in “discrimination” as defined in § 19-103 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. “Discrimination” means any disadvantage, difference, distinction, or preference in the solicitation, selection, hiring, or commercial treatment of a vendor, subcontractor, or commercial customer on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, or national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, sexual identity, genetic information or an individual’s refusal to submit to a genetic test or make available the results of a genetic test, disability, or any otherwise unlawful use of characteristics regarding the vendor’s, supplier’s, or commercial customer’s employees or owners. “Discrimination” also includes retaliating against any person or other entity for reporting any incident of “discrimination”. Without limiting any other provision of the solicitation on this project, it is understood that, if the certification is false, such false certification constitutes grounds for the State to reject the Bid/proposal submitted by the Bidder/Offeror on this project, and terminate any contract awarded based on the Bid/proposal. As part of its Bid/proposal, the Bidder/Offeror herewith submits a list of all instances within the past four (4) years where there has been a final adjudicated determination in a legal or administrative proceeding in the State of Maryland that the Bidder/Offeror discriminated against subcontractors, vendors, suppliers, or commercial customers, and a description of the status or resolution of that determination, including any remedial action taken. Bidder/Offeror agrees to comply in all respects with the State’s Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy as described under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

B-1. CERTIFICATION REGARDING MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

The undersigned Bidder/Offeror hereby certifies and agrees that it has fully complied with the State Minority Business Enterprise Law, State Finance and Procurement Article, § 14-308(a)(2), Annotated Code of Maryland, which provides that, except as otherwise provided by law, a contractor may not identify a certified minority business enterprise in a Bid/proposal and:

- (1) Fail to request, receive, or otherwise obtain authorization from the certified minority business enterprise to identify the certified minority bid/proposal;
- (2) Fail to notify the certified minority business enterprise before execution of the contract of its inclusion in the Bid/proposal;

(3) Fail to use the certified minority business enterprise in the performance of the contract;
or

(4) Pay the certified minority business enterprise solely for the use of its name in the Bid/proposal.

Without limiting any other provision of the solicitation on this project, it is understood that if the certification is false, such false certification constitutes grounds for the State to reject the Bid/proposal submitted by the Bidder/Offeror on this project, and terminate any contract awarded based on the Bid/proposal.

B-2 CERTIFICATION REGARDING VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

The undersigned Bidder/Offeror hereby certifies and agrees that it has fully complied with the State veteran-owned small business enterprise law, State Finance and Procurement Article, § 14-605, Annotated Code of Maryland, which provides that a person may not:

- (1) Knowingly and with intent to defraud, fraudulently obtain, attempt to obtain, or aid another person in fraudulently obtaining or attempting to obtain public money, procurement contracts, or funds expended under a procurement contract to which the person is not entitled under this title;
- (2) Knowingly and with intent to defraud, fraudulently represent participation of a veteran-owned small business enterprise in order to obtain or retain a Bid/proposal preference or a procurement contract;
- (3) Willfully and knowingly make or subscribe to any statement, declaration, or other document that is fraudulent or false as to any material matter, whether or not that falsity or fraud is committed with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present the declaration, statement, or document;
- (4) Willfully and knowingly aid, assist in, procure, counsel, or advise the preparation or presentation of a declaration, statement, or other document that is fraudulent or false as to any material matter, regardless of whether that falsity or fraud is committed with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present the declaration, statement, or document;
- (5) Willfully and knowingly fail to file any declaration or notice with the unit that is required by COMAR 21.11.13; or
- (6) Establish, knowingly aid in the establishment of, or exercise control over a business found to have violated a provision of § B-2(1) -(5) of this regulation.

C. AFFIRMATION REGARDING BRIBERY CONVICTIONS

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business (as is defined in Section 16-101(b) of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland), or any of its officers, directors, partners, controlling stockholders, or any of its employees directly involved in the business's contracting activities including obtaining or performing contracts with public bodies has been convicted of, or has had probation before judgment imposed pursuant to Criminal Procedure Article, § 6-220, Annotated Code of Maryland, or has pleaded nolo contendere to a charge of, bribery, attempted bribery, or conspiracy to bribe in violation of Maryland law, or of the law of any other state or federal law, except as follows (indicate the reasons why the affirmation cannot be given and list any conviction, plea, or imposition of probation before judgment with the date, court, official or administrative body, the sentence or disposition, the name(s) of person(s) involved, and their current positions and responsibilities with the business):

D. AFFIRMATION REGARDING OTHER CONVICTIONS

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business, or any of its officers, directors, partners, controlling stockholders, or any of its employees directly involved in the business's contracting activities including obtaining or performing contracts with public bodies, has:

- (1) Been convicted under state or federal statute of:
 - (a) A criminal offense incident to obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public or private contract; or
 - (b) Fraud, embezzlement, theft, forgery, falsification or destruction of records or receiving stolen property;
- (2) Been convicted of any criminal violation of a state or federal antitrust statute;
- (3) Been convicted under the provisions of Title 18 of the United States Code for violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1961 et seq., or the Mail Fraud Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1341 et seq., for acts in connection with the submission of Bids/Proposals for a public or private contract;
- (4) Been convicted of a violation of the State Minority Business Enterprise Law, § 14-308 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland;
- (5) Been convicted of a violation of § 11-205.1 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland;

- (6) Been convicted of conspiracy to commit any act or omission that would constitute grounds for conviction or liability under any law or statute described in subsections (1)— (5) above;
- (7) Been found civilly liable under a state or federal antitrust statute for acts or omissions in connection with the submission of Bids/Proposals for a public or private contract;
- (8) Been found in a final adjudicated decision to have violated the Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland with regard to a public or private contract;
- (9) Been convicted of a violation of one or more of the following provisions of the Internal Revenue Code:
 - (a) §7201, Attempt to Evade or Defeat Tax;
 - (b) §7203, Willful Failure to File Return, Supply Information, or Pay Tax,
 - (c) §7205, Fraudulent Withholding Exemption Certificate or Failure to Supply Information;
 - (d) §7206, Fraud and False Statements, or
 - (e) §7207 Fraudulent Returns, Statements, or Other Documents;
- (10) Been convicted of a violation of 18 U.S.C. §286 Conspiracy to Defraud the Government with Respect to Claims, 18 U.S.C. §287, False, Fictitious, or Fraudulent Claims, or 18 U.S.C. §371, Conspiracy to Defraud the United States;
- (11) Been convicted of a violation of the Tax-General Article, Title 13, Subtitle 7 or Subtitle 10, Annotated Code of Maryland;
- (12) Been found to have willfully or knowingly violated State Prevailing Wage Laws as provided in the State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 17, Subtitle 2, Annotated Code of Maryland, if:
 - (a) A court:
 - (i) Made the finding; and
 - (ii) Decision became final; or
 - (b) The finding was:
 - (i) Made in a contested case under the Maryland Administrative Procedure act; and
 - (ii) Not overturned on judicial review;
- (13) Been found to have willfully or knowingly violated State Living Wage Laws as provided in the State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 18, Annotated Code of Maryland, if:
 - (a) A court:
 - (i) Made the finding; and
 - (ii) Decision became final; or
 - (b) The finding was:

- (i) Made in a contested case under the Maryland Administrative Procedure act; and
 - (ii) Not overturned on judicial review;
- (14) Been found to have willfully or knowingly violated the Labor and Employment Article, Title 3, Subtitles 3, 4, or 5, or Title 5, Annotated Code of Maryland, if:
- (a) A court:
 - (i) Made the finding; and
 - (ii) Decision became final; or
 - (b) The finding was:
 - (i) Made in a contested case under the Maryland Administrative Procedure act; and
 - (ii) Not overturned on judicial review; or
- (15) Admitted in writing or under oath, during the course of an official investigation or other proceedings, acts or omissions that would constitute grounds for conviction or liability under any law or statute described in §§ B and C and subsections D(1)—(14) above, except as follows (indicate reasons why the affirmations cannot be given, and list any conviction, plea, or imposition of probation before judgment with the date, court, official or administrative body, the sentence or disposition, the name(s) of the person(s) involved and their current positions and responsibilities with the business, and the status of any debarment):
-
-

E. AFFIRMATION REGARDING DEBARMENT

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business, or any of its officers, directors, partners, controlling stockholders, or any of its employees directly involved in the business’s contracting activities, including obtaining or performing contracts with public bodies, has ever been suspended or debarred (including being issued a limited denial of participation) by any public entity, except as follows (list each debarment or suspension providing the dates of the suspension or debarment, the name of the public entity and the status of the proceedings, the name(s) of the person(s) involved and their current positions and responsibilities with the business, the grounds of the debarment or suspension, and the details of each person’s involvement in any activity that formed the grounds of the debarment or suspension).

F. AFFIRMATION REGARDING DEBARMENT OF RELATED ENTITIES

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

(1) The business was not established and does not operate in a manner designed to evade the application of or defeat the purpose of debarment pursuant to Sections 16-101, et seq., of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland; and

(2) The business is not a successor, assignee, subsidiary, or affiliate of a suspended or debarred business, except as follows (you must indicate the reasons why the affirmations cannot be given without qualification):

G. SUBCONTRACT AFFIRMATION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business, has knowingly entered into a contract with a public body under which a person debarred or suspended under Title 16 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland will provide, directly or indirectly, supplies, services, architectural services, construction related services, leases of real property, or construction.

H. AFFIRMATION REGARDING COLLUSION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business has:

- (1) Agreed, conspired, connived, or colluded to produce a deceptive show of competition in the compilation of the accompanying Bid/proposal that is being submitted; or
- (2) In any manner, directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement of any kind to fix the Bid/proposal price of the Bidder/Offeror or of any competitor, or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with the contract for which the accompanying Bid/proposal is submitted.

I. CERTIFICATION OF TAX PAYMENT

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Except as validly contested, the business has paid, or has arranged for payment of, all taxes due the State of Maryland and has filed all required returns and reports with the Comptroller of the Treasury, State Department of Assessments and Taxation, and Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, as applicable, and will have paid all withholding taxes due the State of Maryland prior to final settlement.

J. CONTINGENT FEES

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

The business has not employed or retained any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee, bona fide agent, bona fide salesperson, or commercial selling agency working for the business, to solicit or secure the Contract, and that the business has not paid or agreed to pay any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee, bona fide agent, bona fide salesperson, or commercial selling agency, any fee or any other consideration contingent on the making of the Contract.

K. CERTIFICATION REGARDING INVESTMENTS IN IRAN

(1) The undersigned certifies that, in accordance with State Finance and Procurement Article, §17-705, Annotated Code of Maryland:

(a) It is not identified on the list created by the Board of Public Works as a person engaging in investment activities in Iran as described in State Finance and Procurement Article, §17-702, Annotated Code of Maryland; and

(b) It is not engaging in investment activities in Iran as described in State Finance and Procurement Article, §17-702, Annotated Code of Maryland.

(2) The undersigned is unable to make the above certification regarding its investment activities in Iran due to the following activities:

**L. CONFLICT MINERALS ORIGINATED IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
(FOR SUPPLIES AND SERVICES CONTRACTS)**

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

The business has complied with the provisions of State Finance and Procurement Article, §14-413, Annotated Code of Maryland governing proper disclosure of certain information regarding conflict minerals originating in the Democratic Republic of Congo or its neighboring countries as required by federal law.

M. PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATORY BOYCOTTS OF ISRAEL

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

In preparing its bid/proposal on this project, the Bidder/Offeror has considered all bid/proposals submitted from qualified, potential subcontractors and suppliers, and has not, in the solicitation, selection, or commercial treatment of any subcontractor, vendor, or supplier, refused to transact or terminated business activities, or taken other actions intended to limit commercial relations, with a

person or entity on the basis of Israeli national origin, or residence or incorporation in Israel and its territories. The Bidder/Offeror also has not retaliated against any person or other entity for reporting such refusal, termination, or commercially limiting actions. Without limiting any other provision of the solicitation for bid/proposals for this project, it is understood and agreed that, if this certification is false, such false certification will constitute grounds for the State to reject the bid/proposal submitted by the Bidder/Offeror on this project, and terminate any contract awarded based on the bid/proposal.

N. I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Any claims of environmental attributes made relating to a product or service included in the bid or bid/proposal are consistent with the Federal Trade Commission’s Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims as provided in 16 C.F.R. §260, that apply to claims about the environmental attributes of a product, package or service in connection with the marketing, offering for sale, or sale of such item or service.

O. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT this Affidavit is to be furnished to the Procurement Officer and may be distributed to units of: (1) the State of Maryland; (2) counties or other subdivisions of the State of Maryland; (3) other states; and (4) the federal government. I further acknowledge that this Affidavit is subject to applicable laws of the United States and the State of Maryland, both criminal and civil, and that nothing in this Affidavit or any contract resulting from the submission of this Bid/proposal shall be construed to supersede, amend, modify or waive, on behalf of the State of Maryland, or any unit of the State of Maryland having jurisdiction, the exercise of any statutory right or remedy conferred by the Constitution and the laws of Maryland with respect to any misrepresentation made or any violation of the obligations, terms and covenants undertaken by the above business with respect to (1) this Affidavit, (2) the contract, and (3) other Affidavits comprising part of the contract.

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

By:
Signature of Authorized Representative and Affiant

Printed Name:
Printed Name of Authorized Representative and Affiant

Title:
Title

Date:
Date

SUBMIT THIS AFFIDAVIT WITH BID

**Attachment D. Maryland Living Wage Affidavit of Agreement for
Service Contracts**

- A. This contract is subject to the Living Wage requirements under Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 18, and the regulations proposed by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry (Commissioner). The Living Wage generally applies to a Contractor or subcontractor who performs work on a State contract for services that is valued at \$100,000 or more. An employee is subject to the Living Wage if he/she is at least 18 years old or will turn 18 during the duration of the contract; works at least 13 consecutive weeks on the State Contract and spends at least one-half of the employee's time during any work week on the State Contract.
- B. The Living Wage Law does not apply to:
- (1) A Contractor who:
 - (a) Has a State contract for services valued at less than \$100,000, or
 - (b) Employs 10 or fewer employees and has a State contract for services valued at less than \$500,000.
 - (2) A subcontractor who:
 - (a) Performs work on a State contract for services valued at less than \$100,000,
 - (b) Employs 10 or fewer employees and performs work on a State contract for services valued at less than \$500,000, or
 - (c) Performs work for a Contractor not covered by the Living Wage Law as defined in B(1)(b) above, or B (3) or C below.
 - (3) Service contracts for the following:
 - (a) Services with a Public Service Company;
 - (b) Services with a nonprofit organization;
 - (c) Services with an officer or other entity that is in the Executive Branch of the State government and is authorized by law to enter into a procurement ("Unit"); or
 - (d) Services between a Unit and a County or Baltimore City.
- C. If the Unit responsible for the State contract for services determines that application of the Living Wage would conflict with any applicable Federal program, the Living Wage does not apply to the contract or program.
- D. A Contractor must not split or subdivide a State contract for services, pay an employee through a third party, or treat an employee as an independent Contractor or assign work to employees to avoid the imposition of any of the requirements of Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 18.
- E. Each Contractor/subcontractor, subject to the Living Wage Law, shall post in a prominent and easily accessible place at the work site(s) of covered employees a notice of the Living Wage Rates, employee rights under the law, and the name, address, and telephone number of the Commissioner.
- F. The Commissioner shall adjust the wage rates by the annual average increase or decrease, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for the Washington/Baltimore metropolitan

area, or any successor index, for the previous calendar year, not later than 90 days after the start of each fiscal year. The Commissioner shall publish any adjustments to the wage rates on the Division of Labor and Industry's website. An employer subject to the Living Wage Law must comply with the rate requirements during the initial term of the contract and all subsequent renewal periods, including any increases in the wage rate, required by the Commissioner, automatically upon the effective date of the revised wage rate.

- G. A Contractor/subcontractor who reduces the wages paid to an employee based on the employer's share of the health insurance premium, as provided in Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, §18-103(c), shall not lower an employee's wage rate below the minimum wage as set in Md. Code Ann., Labor and Employment Article, §3-413. A Contractor/subcontractor who reduces the wages paid to an employee based on the employer's share of health insurance premium shall comply with any record reporting requirements established by the Commissioner.
- H. A Contractor/subcontractor may reduce the wage rates paid under Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, §18-103(a), by no more than 50 cents of the hourly cost of the employer's contribution to an employee's deferred compensation plan. A Contractor/subcontractor who reduces the wages paid to an employee based on the employer's contribution to an employee's deferred compensation plan shall not lower the employee's wage rate below the minimum wage as set in Md. Code Ann., Labor and Employment Article, §3-413.
- I. Under Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 18, if the Commissioner determines that the Contractor/subcontractor violated a provision of this title or regulations of the Commissioner, the Contractor/subcontractor shall pay restitution to each affected employee, and the State may assess liquidated damages of \$20 per day for each employee paid less than the Living Wage.
- J. Information pertaining to reporting obligations may be found by going to the Division of Labor and Industry website <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/labor/prev/livingwage.shtml> and clicking on Living Wage for State Service Contracts.

THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

D-1 Maryland Living Wage Affidavit of Agreement for Service Contracts

Contract No. _____

Name of Contractor: _____

Address: _____

If the Contract Is Exempt from the Living Wage Law

The Undersigned, being an authorized representative of the above-named Contractor, hereby affirms that the Contract is exempt from Maryland's Living Wage Law for the following reasons (check all that apply):

- Offeror is a nonprofit organization
- Offeror is a public service company
- Offeror employs 10 or fewer employees and the proposed contract value is less than \$500,000
- Offeror employs more than 10 employees and the proposed contract value is less than \$100,000

If the Contract Is a Living Wage Contract

A. The Undersigned, being an authorized representative of the above-named Contractor, hereby affirms its commitment to comply with Title 18, State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland and, if required, submit all payroll reports to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry with regard to the above stated contract. The Offeror agrees to pay covered employees who are subject to living wage at least the living wage rate in effect at the time service is provided for hours spent on State contract activities, and ensure that its subcontractors who are not exempt also pay the required living wage rate to their covered employees who are subject to the living wage for hours spent on a State contract for services. The Contractor agrees to comply with, and ensure its subcontractors comply with, the rate requirements during the initial term of the contract and all subsequent renewal periods, including any increases in the wage rate established by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, automatically upon the effective date of the revised wage rate.

B. _____ (initial here if applicable) The Offeror affirms it has no covered employees for the following reasons: (check all that apply):

- The employee(s) proposed to work on the contract will spend less than one-half of the employee's time during any work week on the contract
- The employee(s) proposed to work on the contract is 17 years of age or younger during the duration of the contract; or

- The employee(s) proposed to work on the contract will work less than 13 consecutive weeks on the State contract.

The Commissioner of Labor and Industry reserves the right to request payroll records and other data that the Commissioner deems sufficient to confirm these affirmations at any time.

Name of Authorized Representative: _____

Signature of Authorized Representative: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____

Witness Name (Typed or Printed): _____

Witness Signature: _____ Date: _____

SUBMIT THIS AFFIDAVIT WITH BID

Attachment E. Contract

State Treasurer's Office (STO)

"Electronic Transaction Processing and Payment System for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program"

IFB #MDA-02132024

THIS CONTRACT (the "Contract") is made this ___ day of _____, 2024 by and between _____ (the "Contractor") and the STATE OF MARYLAND, acting through the MARYLAND State Treasurer's Office ("STO" or the "Office").

In consideration of the promises and the covenants herein contained, the adequacy and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged by the parties, the parties agree as follows:

1. Definitions

In this Contract, the following words have the meanings indicated:

- 1.1 "Bid" means the Contractor's Bid dated [REDACTED] (Bid date).
- 1.2 "COMAR" means Code of Maryland Regulations.
- 1.3 "Contractor" means the entity first named above whose principal business address is (Contractor's primary address) and whose principal office in Maryland is (Contractor's local address), whose Federal Employer Identification Number or Social Security Number is (Contractor's FEIN), and whose eMaryland Marketplace Advantage vendor ID number is (eMMA Number).
- 1.4 "IFB" means the Invitation for Bids for Electronic Transaction Processing and Payment System for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, Solicitation # IFB #MDA-02132024, and any amendments, addenda, and attachments thereto issued in writing by the State.
- 1.5 Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) – Any legal entity certified as defined at COMAR 21.01.02.01B (54) which is certified by the Maryland Department of Transportation under COMAR 21.11.03.
- 1.6 "State" means the State of Maryland.
- 1.7 "Veteran-owned Small Business Enterprise" (VSBE) means A business that is verified by the Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE) of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a veteran-owned small business. See Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 21.11.13.
- 1.8 Capitalized terms not defined herein shall be ascribed the meaning given to them in the IFB.

2. Scope of Contract

- 2.1 The Contractor shall perform in accordance with this Contract and Exhibits A-D, which are listed below and incorporated herein by reference. If there is any conflict between this Contract and the Exhibits, the terms of the Contract shall control. If there is any conflict among the Exhibits, the following order of precedence shall determine the prevailing provision:

Exhibit A – The IFB

Exhibit B – The Contract Affidavit, executed by the Contractor and dated (date of Attachment F)

Exhibit C – The Bid

- 2.2 The Procurement Officer may, at any time, by written order, make unilateral changes in the work within the general scope of the Contract. No other order, statement, or conduct of the Procurement Officer or any other person shall be treated as a change or entitle the Contractor to an equitable adjustment under this section. Except as otherwise provided in this Contract, if any change under this section causes an increase or decrease in the Contractor's cost of, or the time required for, the performance of any part of the work, whether or not changed by the order, an equitable adjustment in the Contract price shall be made and the Contract modified in writing accordingly. The Contractor must assert in writing its right to an adjustment under this section within thirty (30) days of receipt of written change order and shall include a written statement setting forth the nature and cost of such claim. No claim by the Contractor shall be allowed if asserted after final payment under this Contract. Failure to agree to an adjustment under this section shall be a dispute under the Disputes clause. Nothing in this section shall excuse the Contractor from proceeding with the Contract as changed.
- 2.3 Without limiting the rights of the Procurement Officer under Section 2.2 above, the Contract may be modified by mutual agreement of the parties, provided: (a) the modification is made in writing; (b) all parties sign the modification; and (c) all approvals by the required agencies as described in COMAR Title 21, are obtained.

3. Period of Performance

- 3.1 The term of this Contract begins on the date the Contract is signed by the Office following any required prior approvals, including approval by the Board of Public Works, if such approval is required (the "Effective Date") and shall continue until _____, 2025 ("Initial Term").
- 3.2 The Contractor's performance under the Contract shall commence as of the date provided in a written NTP.
- 3.3 The Contractor's obligation to pay invoices to subcontractors providing products/services in connection with this Contract, as well as the audit; confidentiality; document retention; patents, copyrights & intellectual property; warranty; indemnification obligations; and limitations of liability under this Contract; and any other obligations specifically identified, shall survive expiration or termination of the Contract.

4. Consideration and Payment

- 4.1 In consideration of the satisfactory performance of the work set forth in this Contract, the Office shall pay the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Contract and at the prices quoted in the Bid. Unless properly modified (see above Section 2), payment to the Contractor pursuant to this Contract, including the Initial Term and any Renewal Term, shall not exceed the Contracted amount.
- 4.2 Unless a payment is unauthorized, deferred, delayed, or set-off under COMAR 21.02.07, payments to the Contractor pursuant to this Contract shall be made no later than 30 days after the Office's receipt of a proper invoice from the Contractor as required by IFB section 3.3.

The Contractor may be eligible to receive late payment interest at the rate of 9% per annum if:

- (1) The Contractor submits an invoice for the late payment interest within thirty days after the date of the State's payment of the amount on which the interest accrued; and

- (2) A contract claim has not been filed under State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 15, Subtitle 2, Annotated Code of Maryland.

The State is not liable for interest:

- (1) Accruing more than one year after the 31st day after the agency receives the proper invoice; or
- (2) On any amount representing unpaid interest. Charges for late payment of invoices are authorized only as prescribed by Title 15, Subtitle 1, of the State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, or by the Public Service Commission of Maryland with respect to regulated public utilities, as applicable.

Final payment under this Contract will not be made until after certification is received from the Comptroller of the State that all taxes have been paid.

Electronic funds transfer shall be used by the State to pay Contractor pursuant to this Contract and any other State payments due Contractor unless the State Comptroller's Office grants Contractor an exemption.

- 4.3 In addition to any other available remedies, if, in the opinion of the Procurement Officer, the Contractor fails to perform in a satisfactory and timely manner, the Procurement Officer may refuse or limit approval of any invoice for payment, and may cause payments to the Contractor to be reduced or withheld until such time as the Contractor meets performance standards as established by the Procurement Officer.
- 4.4 Payment of an invoice by the Office is not evidence that services were rendered as required under this Contract.

5. Rights to Records

- 5.1 The Contractor agrees that all documents and materials including, but not limited to, software, reports, drawings, studies, specifications, estimates, tests, maps, photographs, designs, graphics, mechanical, artwork, computations, and data prepared by the Contractor for purposes of this Contract shall be the sole property of the State and shall be available to the State at any time. The State shall have the right to use the same without restriction and without compensation to the Contractor other than that specifically provided by this Contract.
- 5.2 The Contractor agrees that at all times during the term of this Contract and thereafter, works created as a Deliverable under this Contract (as defined in **Section 7.2**), and services performed under this Contract shall be "works made for hire" as that term is interpreted under U.S. copyright law. To the extent that any products created as a Deliverable under this Contract are not works made for hire for the State, the Contractor hereby relinquishes, transfers, and assigns to the State all of its rights, title, and interest (including all intellectual property rights) to all such products created under this Contract, and will cooperate reasonably with the State in effectuating and registering any necessary assignments.
- 5.3 The Contractor shall report to the Contract Monitor, promptly and in written detail, each notice or claim of copyright infringement received by the Contractor with respect to all data delivered under this Contract.

- 5.4 The Contractor shall not affix any restrictive markings upon any data, documentation, or other materials provided to the State hereunder and if such markings are affixed, the State shall have the right at any time to modify, remove, obliterate, or ignore such warnings.
- 5.5 Upon termination or expiration of the Contract, the Contractor, at its own expense, shall deliver any equipment, software or other property provided by the State to the place designated by the Procurement Officer.

6. Exclusive Use

- 6.1 The State shall have the exclusive right to use, duplicate, and disclose any data, information, documents, records, or results, in whole or in part, in any manner for any purpose whatsoever, that may be created or generated by the Contractor in connection with this Contract. If any material, including software, is capable of being copyrighted, the State shall be the copyright owner and Contractor may copyright material connected with this project only with the express written approval of the State.
- 6.2 Except as may otherwise be set forth in this Contract, Contractor shall not use, sell, sub-lease, assign, give, or otherwise transfer to any third party any other information or material provided to Contractor by the Office or developed by Contractor relating to the Contract, except as provided for in **Section 8. Confidential or Proprietary Information and Documentation**.

7. Patents, Copyrights, and Intellectual Property

- 7.1. All copyrights, patents, trademarks, trade secrets, and any other intellectual property rights existing prior to the Effective Date of this Contract shall belong to the party that owned such rights immediately prior to the Effective Date (“Pre-Existing Intellectual Property”). If any design, device, material, process, or other item provided by Contractor is covered by a patent or copyright or which is proprietary to or a trade secret of another, the Contractor shall obtain the necessary permission or license to permit the State to use such item or items pursuant to its rights granted under the Contract.
- 7.2 Except for (1) information created or otherwise owned by the Office or licensed by the Office from third parties, including all information provided by the Office to Contractor; (2) materials created by Contractor or its subcontractor(s) specifically for the State under the Contract (“Deliverables”), except for any Contractor Pre-Existing Intellectual Property included therein; and (3) the license rights granted to the State, all right, title, and interest in the intellectual property embodied in the solution, including the know-how and methods by which the solution is provided and the processes that make up the solution, will belong solely and exclusively to Contractor and its licensors, and the Office will have no rights to the same except as expressly granted in this Contract. Any SaaS Software developed by Contractor during the performance of the Contract will belong solely and exclusively to Contractor and its licensors. For all Software provided by the Contractor under the Contract, Contractor hereby grants to the State a nonexclusive, irrevocable, unlimited, perpetual, non-cancelable, and non-terminable right to use and make copies of the Software and any modifications to the Software. For all Contractor Pre-Existing Intellectual Property embedded in any Deliverables, Contractor grants to the State a license to use such Contractor Pre-Existing Intellectual Property in connection with its permitted use of such Deliverable. During the period between delivery of a Deliverable by Contractor and the date of payment therefor by the State in accordance with this Contract (including throughout the duration of any payment dispute discussions), subject to the terms and conditions contained herein, Contractor grants the State a

- royalty-free, non-exclusive, limited license to use such Deliverable and to use any Contractor Materials contained therein in accordance with this Contract.
- 7.3. Subject to the terms of **Section 10**, Contractor shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the State and its agents and employees, from and against any and all claims, costs, losses, damages, liabilities, judgments and expenses (including without limitation reasonable attorneys' fees) arising out of or in connection with any third-party claim that the Contractor-provided products/services infringe, misappropriate or otherwise violate any third-party intellectual property rights. Contractor shall not enter into any settlement involving third party claims that contains any admission of or stipulation to any guilt, fault, liability or wrongdoing by the State or that adversely affects the State's rights or interests, without the State's prior written consent.
- 7.4 Without limiting Contractor's obligations under Section 5.3, if an infringement claim occurs, or if the State or the Contractor believes such a claim is likely to occur, Contractor (after consultation with the State and at no cost to the State): (a) shall procure for the State the right to continue using the allegedly infringing component or service in accordance with its rights under this Contract; or (b) replace or modify the allegedly infringing component or service so that it becomes non-infringing and remains compliant with all applicable specifications.
- 7.5 Except as otherwise provided herein, Contractor shall not acquire any right, title or interest (including any intellectual property rights subsisting therein) in or to any goods, Software, technical information, specifications, drawings, records, documentation, data or any other materials (including any derivative works thereof) provided by the State to the Contractor. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the State may, in its sole and absolute discretion, grant the Contractor a license to such materials, subject to the terms of a separate writing executed by the Contractor and an authorized representative of the State as well as all required State approvals.
- 7.6 Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, neither Contractor nor any of its subcontractors shall use any Software or technology in a manner that will cause any patents, copyrights or other intellectual property which are owned or controlled by the State or any of its affiliates (or for which the State or any of its subcontractors has received license rights) to become subject to any encumbrance or terms and conditions of any third party or open source license (including, without limitation, any open source license listed on <http://www.opensource.org/licenses/alphabetical>) (each an "Open Source License"). These restrictions, limitations, exclusions and conditions shall apply even if the State or any of its subcontractors becomes aware of or fails to act in a manner to address any violation or failure to comply therewith. No act by the State or any of its subcontractors that is undertaken under this Contract as to any Software or technology shall be construed as intending to cause any patents, copyrights or other intellectual property that are owned or controlled by the State (or for which the State has received license rights) to become subject to any encumbrance or terms and conditions of any open source license.
- 7.7 The Contractor shall report to the Office, promptly and in written detail, each notice or claim of copyright infringement received by the Contractor with respect to all Deliverables delivered under this Contract.
- 7.8 The Contractor shall not affix (or permit any third party to affix), without the Office's consent, any restrictive markings upon any Deliverables that are owned by the State, and if such markings are affixed, the Office shall have the right at any time to modify, remove, obliterate, or ignore such warnings.

8. Confidential or Proprietary Information and Documentation

- 8.1 Subject to the Maryland Public Information Act and any other applicable laws including, without limitation, HIPAA, the HI-TECH Act, and the Maryland Medical Records Act and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, all confidential or proprietary information and documentation relating to either party (including without limitation, any information or data stored within the Contractor's computer systems or cloud infrastructure, if applicable) shall be held in confidence by the other party. Each party shall, however, be permitted to disclose, as provided by and consistent with applicable law, relevant confidential information to its officers, agents, and Contractor Personnel to the extent that such disclosure is necessary for the performance of their duties under this Contract. Each officer, agent, and Contractor Personnel to whom any of the State's confidential information is to be disclosed shall be advised by Contractor provided that each officer, agent, and Contractor Personnel to whom any of the State's confidential information is to be disclosed shall be advised by Contractor of the obligations hereunder, and bound by, confidentiality at least as restrictive as those of set forth in this Contract.
- 8.2 The provisions of this section shall not apply to information that: (a) is lawfully in the public domain; (b) has been independently developed by the other party without violation of this Contract; (c) was already rightfully in the possession of such party; (d) was supplied to such party by a third party lawfully in possession thereof and legally permitted to further disclose the information; or (e) which such party is required to disclose by law.

9. Loss of Data

- 9.1 In the event of loss of any State data or records where such loss is due to the act or omission of the Contractor or any of its subcontractors or agents, the Contractor shall be responsible for restoring or recreating, as applicable, such lost data in the manner and on the schedule set by the Contract Monitor. The Contractor shall ensure that all data is backed up and recoverable by the Contractor. At no time shall any Contractor actions (or any failures to act when Contractor has a duty to act) damage or create any vulnerabilities in data bases, systems, platforms, and applications with which the Contractor is working hereunder.
- 9.2 In accordance with prevailing federal or state law or regulations, the Contractor shall report the loss of non-public data as directed in **IFB Section 3.14**.
- 9.3 Protection of data and personal privacy (as further described and defined in IFB Section 3.14) shall be an integral part of the business activities of the Contractor to ensure there is no inappropriate or unauthorized use of State information at any time. To this end, the Contractor shall safeguard the confidentiality, integrity and availability of State information and comply with the conditions identified in **IFB Section 3.14**.

10. Indemnification and Notification of Legal Requests

- 10.1. At its sole cost and expense, Contractor shall (i) indemnify and hold the State, its employees and agents harmless from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, suits, damages, liabilities, losses, settlements, judgments, costs and expenses (including but not limited to attorneys' fees and costs), whether or not involving a third party claim, which arise out of or relate to the Contractor's, or any of its subcontractors', performance of this Contract and (ii) cooperate, assist, and consult with the State in the defense or investigation of any such claim, demand, action or suit. Contractor shall not enter into any settlement involving third party claims that contains any admission of or stipulation to any guilt, fault, liability or wrongdoing by the State or that adversely affects the State's rights or interests, without the State's prior written consent.

- 10.2. The State has no obligation: (i) to provide legal counsel or defense to the Contractor or its subcontractors in the event that a suit, claim or action of any character is brought against the Contractor or its subcontractors as a result of or relating to the Contractor's obligations or performance under this Contract, or (ii) to pay any judgment or settlement of any such suit, claim or action. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Contractor shall promptly notify the Procurement Officer of any such claims, demands, actions, or suits.
- 10.3. Notification of Legal Requests. In the event the Contractor receives a subpoena or other validly issued administrative or judicial process, or any discovery request in connection with any litigation, requesting State Pre-Existing Intellectual Property, of other information considered to be the property of the State, including but not limited to State data stored with or otherwise accessible by the Contractor, the Contractor shall not respond to such subpoena, process or other legal request without first notifying the State, unless prohibited by law from providing such notice. The Contractor shall promptly notify the State of such receipt providing the State with a reasonable opportunity to intervene in the proceeding before the time that Contractor is required to comply with such subpoena, other process or discovery request. .

11. Non-Hiring of Employees

No official or employee of the State, as defined under Md. Code Ann., General Provisions Article, § 5-101, whose duties as such official or employee include matters relating to or affecting the subject matter of this Contract, shall, during the pendency and term of this Contract and while serving as an official or employee of the State, become or be an employee of the Contractor or any entity that is a subcontractor on this Contract.

12. Disputes

This Contract shall be subject to the provisions of Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 15, Subtitle 2, and COMAR 21.10 (Administrative and Civil Remedies). Pending resolution of a claim, the Contractor shall proceed diligently with the performance of the Contract in accordance with the Procurement Officer's decision. Unless a lesser period is provided by applicable statute, regulation, or the Contract, the Contractor must file a written notice of claim with the Procurement Officer within thirty (30) days after the basis for the claim is known or should have been known, whichever is earlier. Contemporaneously with or within thirty (30) days of the filing of a notice of claim, but no later than the date of final payment under the Contract, the Contractor must submit to the Procurement Officer its written claim containing the information specified in COMAR 21.10.04.02.

13. Maryland Law Prevails

- 13.1 This Contract shall be construed, interpreted, and enforced according to the laws of the State of Maryland.
- 13.2 The Maryland Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (Commercial Law Article, Title 22 of the Annotated Code of Maryland) does not apply to this Contract or any purchase order, task order, or Notice to Proceed issued thereunder, or any software, or any software license acquired hereunder.
- 13.3 Any and all references to the Maryland Code, annotated and contained in this Contract shall be construed to refer to such Code sections as are from time to time amended.

14. Nondiscrimination in Employment

The Contractor agrees: (a) not to discriminate in any manner against an employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, creed, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, marital status, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, or any otherwise unlawful use of characteristics, or disability of a qualified individual with a disability unrelated in nature and extent so as to reasonably preclude the performance of the employment, or the individual's refusal to submit to a genetic test or make available the results of a genetic test; (b) to include a provision similar to that contained in subsection (a), above, in any underlying subcontract except a subcontract for standard commercial supplies or raw materials; and (c) to post and to cause subcontractors to post in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the substance of this clause.

15. Contingent Fee Prohibition

The Contractor warrants that it has not employed or retained any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee or agent working for the Contractor to solicit or secure the Contract, and that the Contractor has not paid or agreed to pay any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee or agent, any fee or any other consideration contingent on the making of this Contract.

16. Non-Availability of Funding

If the General Assembly fails to appropriate funds or if funds are not otherwise made available for continued performance for any fiscal period of this Contract succeeding the first fiscal period, this Contract shall be canceled automatically as of the beginning of the fiscal year for which funds were not appropriated or otherwise made available; provided, however, that this will not affect either the State's or the Contractor's rights under any termination clause in this Contract. The effect of termination of the Contract hereunder will be to discharge both the Contractor and the State from future performance of the Contract, but not from their rights and obligations existing at the time of termination. The Contractor shall be reimbursed for the reasonable value of any nonrecurring costs incurred but not amortized in the price of the Contract. The State shall notify the Contractor as soon as it has knowledge that funds may not be available for the continuation of this Contract for each succeeding fiscal period beyond the first.

17. Termination for Default

If the Contractor fails to fulfill its obligations under this Contract properly and on time, fails to provide any required annual and renewable bond 30 days prior to expiration of the current bond then in effect, or otherwise violates any provision of the Contract, the State may terminate the Contract by written notice to the Contractor. The notice shall specify the acts or omissions relied upon as cause for termination. All finished or unfinished work provided by the Contractor shall, at the State's option, become the State's property. The State shall pay the Contractor fair and equitable compensation for satisfactory performance prior to receipt of notice of termination, less the amount of damages caused by the Contractor's breach. If the damages are more than the compensation payable to the Contractor, the Contractor will remain liable after termination and the State can affirmatively collect damages. Termination hereunder, including the termination of the rights and obligations of the parties, shall be governed by the provisions of COMAR 21.07.01.11B.

18. Termination for Convenience

The performance of work under this Contract may be terminated by the State in accordance with this clause in whole, or from time to time in part, whenever the State shall determine that such termination is in the best interest of the State. The State will pay all reasonable costs associated with this Contract that the Contractor has incurred up to the date of termination, and all reasonable costs associated with termination of the Contract. However, the Contractor shall not be reimbursed for any anticipatory profits that have not been earned up to the date of termination. Termination hereunder, including the determination of the rights and obligations of the parties, shall be governed by the provisions of COMAR 21.07.01.12A (2).

19. Delays and Extensions of Time

- 19.1 The Contractor agrees to prosecute the work continuously and diligently and no charges or claims for damages shall be made by it for any delays or hindrances from any cause whatsoever during the progress of any portion of the work specified in this Contract.
- 19.2 Time extensions will be granted only for excusable delays that arise from unforeseeable causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor, including but not restricted to, acts of God, acts of the public enemy, acts of the State in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, acts of another Contractor in the performance of a contract with the State, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, freight embargoes, or delays of subcontractors or suppliers arising from unforeseeable causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of either the Contractor or the subcontractors or suppliers.

20. Suspension of Work

The State unilaterally may order the Contractor in writing to suspend, delay, or interrupt all or any part of its performance for such period of time as the Procurement Officer may determine to be appropriate for the convenience of the State.

21. Pre-Existing Regulations

In accordance with the provisions of Section 11-206 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the regulations set forth in Title 21 of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR 21) in effect on the date of execution of this Contract are applicable to this Contract.

22. Financial Disclosure

The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of Section 13-221 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires that every business that enters into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the State or its agencies during a calendar year under which the business is to receive in the aggregate, \$200,000 or more, shall within 30 days of the time when the aggregate value of these contracts, leases or other agreements reaches \$200,000, file with the Secretary of State of Maryland certain specified information to include disclosure of beneficial ownership of the business.

23. Political Contribution Disclosure

The Contractor shall comply with Election Law Article, Title 14, Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires that every person that enters into a procurement contract with the State, a county, or a municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the State, during a calendar year in which the person receives a contract with a governmental entity in the amount of \$200,000 or more, shall file with the State Board of Elections statements disclosing: (a) any contributions made during the

reporting period to a candidate for elective office in any primary or general election; and (b) the name of each candidate to whom one or more contributions in a cumulative amount of \$500 or more were made during the reporting period. The statement shall be filed with the State Board of Elections: (a) before execution of a contract by the State, a county, a municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the State, and shall cover the 24 months prior to when a contract was awarded; and (b) if the contribution is made after the execution of a contract, then twice a year, throughout the contract term, on or before: (i) May 31, to cover the six (6) month period ending April 30; and (ii) November 30, to cover the six (6) month period ending October 31. Additional information is available on the State Board of Elections website: http://www.elections.state.md.us/campaign_finance/index.html.

24. Retention of Records

The Contractor and subcontractors shall retain and maintain all records and documents in any way relating to this Contract for (i) three (3) years after final payment by the State hereunder, or (ii) any applicable federal or State retention requirements (such as HIPAA) or condition of award, , whichever is longer, and shall make them available for inspection and audit by authorized representatives of the State, as designated by the Procurement Officer, at all reasonable times. The Contractor shall provide copies of all documents requested by the State, including, but not limited to itemized billing documentation containing the dates, hours spent and work performed by the Contractor and its subcontractors under the Contract. All records related in any way to the Contract are to be retained for the entire time provided under this section.

25. Right to Audit

- 25.1 The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion and at any time, to perform an audit of the Contractor's performance under this Contract. An audit is defined as a planned and documented independent activity performed by qualified personnel, including but not limited to State and federal auditors, to determine by investigation, examination, or evaluation of objective evidence from data, statements, records, operations and performance practices (financial or otherwise) the Contractor's compliance with the Contract, including but not limited to adequacy and compliance with established procedures and internal controls over the services performed pursuant to the Contract.
- 25.2 Upon three (3) Business Days' notice, the State shall be provided reasonable access to Contractor's records to perform any such audits. The Office may conduct these audits with any or all of its own internal resources or by securing the services of a third-party accounting or audit firm, solely at the Office's election. The Office may copy any record related to the services performed pursuant to the Contract. The Contractor agrees to fully cooperate and assist in any audit conducted by or on behalf of the State, including, by way of example only, making records and employees available as, where, and to the extent requested by the State and by assisting the auditors in reconciling any audit variances. Contractor shall not be compensated for providing any such cooperation and assistance.
- 25.3 The right to audit shall include any of the Contractor's subcontractors including but not limited to any lower tier subcontractor(s). The Contractor shall ensure the Office has the right to audit such subcontractor(s).

26. Compliance with Laws

The Contractor hereby represents and warrants that:

- a. It is qualified to do business in the State and that it will take such action as, from time to time hereafter, may be necessary to remain so qualified;

- b. It is not in arrears with respect to the payment of any monies due and owing the State, or any department or unit thereof, including but not limited to the payment of taxes and employee benefits, and that it shall not become so in arrears during the Term;
- c. It shall comply with all federal, State and local laws, regulations, and ordinances applicable to its activities and obligations under this Contract; and
- d. It shall obtain, at its expense, all licenses, permits, insurance, and governmental approvals, if any, necessary to the performance of its obligations under this Contract.

27. Cost and Price Certification

- 27.1 The Contractor, by submitting cost or price information certifies that, to the best of its knowledge, the information submitted is accurate, complete, and current as of the date of its Bid.
- 27.2 The price under this Contract and any change order or modification hereunder, including profit or fee, shall be adjusted to exclude any significant price increases occurring because the Contractor furnished cost or price information which, as of the date of its Bid, was inaccurate, incomplete, or not current.

28. Subcontracting; Assignment

The Contractor may not subcontract any of its obligations under this Contract without obtaining the prior written approval of the Procurement Officer, nor may the Contractor assign this Contract or any of its rights or obligations hereunder, without the prior written approval of the Procurement Officer, each at the State's sole and absolute discretion; provided, however, that a Contractor may assign monies receivable under a contract after written notice to the State. Any subcontracts shall include such language as may be required in various clauses contained within this Contract, exhibits, and attachments. The Contract shall not be assigned until all approvals, documents, and affidavits are completed and properly registered. The State shall not be responsible for fulfillment of the Contractor's obligations to its subcontractors.

29. Limitations of Liability

- 29.1 Contractor shall be liable for any loss or damage to the State occasioned by the acts or omissions of Contractor, its subcontractors, agents or employees as follows:
 - (a) For all claims, damages, loss, costs, expenses, suits or actions in any way related to this Contract and regardless of the basis on which the claim is made, Contractor's liability shall be unlimited.
- 29.2 Contractor's indemnification obligations for Third party claims arising under Section 10 ("Indemnification") of this Contract are included in this limitation of liability only if the State is immune from liability. Contractor's indemnification liability for third party claims arising under Section 10 of this Contract shall be unlimited if the State is not immune from liability for claims arising under Section 10.
- 29.3 In no event shall the existence of a subcontract operate to release or reduce the liability of Contractor hereunder. For purposes of this Contract, Contractor agrees that all subcontractors are agents of Contractor and Contractor is responsible for performance of the services and compliance with the relevant obligations hereunder by its subcontractors.

30. Commercial Nondiscrimination

- 30.1 As a condition of entering into this Contract, Contractor represents and warrants that it will comply with the State's Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy, as described under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. As part of such compliance, Contractor may not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, sexual identity, genetic information or an individual's refusal to submit to a genetic test or make available the results of a genetic test or on the basis of disability, or otherwise unlawful forms of discrimination in the solicitation, selection, hiring, or commercial treatment of subcontractors, vendors, suppliers, or commercial customers, nor shall Contractor retaliate against any person for reporting instances of such discrimination. Contractor shall provide equal opportunity for subcontractors, vendors, and suppliers to participate in all of its public sector and private sector subcontracting and supply opportunities, provided that this clause does not prohibit or limit lawful efforts to remedy the effects of marketplace discrimination that have occurred or are occurring in the marketplace. Contractor understands that a material violation of this clause shall be considered a material breach of this Contract and may result in termination of this Contract, disqualification of Contractor from participating in State contracts, or other sanctions. This clause is not enforceable by or for the benefit of, and creates no obligation to, any third party.
- 30.3 As a condition of entering into this Contract, upon the request of the Commission on Civil Rights, and only after the filing of a complaint against Contractor under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended from time to time, Contractor agrees to provide within 60 days after the request a complete list of the names of all subcontractors, vendors, and suppliers that Contractor has used in the past four (4) years on any of its contracts that were undertaken within the State of Maryland, including the total dollar amount paid by Contractor on each subcontract or supply contract. Contractor further agrees to cooperate in any investigation conducted by the State pursuant to the State Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy as set forth under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and to provide any documents relevant to any investigation that are requested by the State. Contractor understands that violation of this clause is a material breach of this Contract and may result in Contract termination, disqualification by the State from participating in State contracts, and other sanctions.
- 30.4 The Contractor shall include the language from 30.1, or similar clause approved in writing by the Office, in all subcontracts.

31. Prompt Pay Requirements

- 31.1 If the Contractor withholds payment of an undisputed amount to its subcontractor, the Office, at its option and in its sole discretion, may take one or more of the following actions:
- (a) Not process further payments to the Contractor until payment to the subcontractor is verified;
 - (b) Suspend all or some of the Contract work without affecting the completion date(s) for the Contract work;
 - (c) Pay or cause payment of the undisputed amount to the subcontractor from monies otherwise due or that may become due to the Contractor;
 - (d) Place a payment for an undisputed amount in an interest-bearing escrow account; or
 - (e) Take other or further actions as appropriate to resolve the withheld payment.

- 31.2 An “undisputed amount” means an amount owed by the Contractor to a subcontractor for which there is no good faith dispute. Such “undisputed amounts” include, without limitation: (a) retainage which had been withheld and is, by the terms of the agreement between the Contractor and subcontractor, due to be distributed to the subcontractor; and (b) an amount withheld because of issues arising out of an agreement or occurrence unrelated to the agreement under which the amount is withheld.
- 31.3 An act, failure to act, or decision of a Procurement Officer or a representative of the Office concerning a withheld payment between the Contractor and a subcontractor under this **section 31**, may not:
- (a) Affect the rights of the contracting parties under any other provision of law;
 - (b) Be used as evidence on the merits of a dispute between the Office and the Contractor in any other proceeding; or
 - (c) Result in liability against or prejudice the rights of the Office.
- 31.4 The remedies enumerated above are in addition to those provided under COMAR 21.11.03.13 with respect to subcontractors that have contracted pursuant to the MBE program.
- 31.5 To ensure compliance with certified MBE subcontract participation goals, the Office may, consistent with COMAR 21.11.03.13, take the following measures:
- (a) Verify that the certified MBEs listed in the MBE participation schedule actually are performing work and receiving compensation as set forth in the MBE participation schedule. This verification may include, as appropriate:
 - i. Inspecting any relevant records of the Contractor;
 - ii. Inspecting the jobsite; and
 - iii. Interviewing subcontractors and workers.Verification shall include a review of:
 - i. The Contractor’s monthly report listing unpaid invoices over thirty (30) days old from certified MBE subcontractors and the reason for nonpayment; and
 - ii. The monthly report of each certified MBE subcontractor, which lists payments received from the Contractor in the preceding thirty (30) days and invoices for which the subcontractor has not been paid.
 - (b) If the Office determines that the Contractor is not in compliance with certified MBE participation goals, then the Office will notify the Contractor in writing of its findings, and will require the Contractor to take appropriate corrective action. Corrective action may include, but is not limited to, requiring the Contractor to compensate the MBE for work performed as set forth in the MBE participation schedule.
 - (c) If the Office determines that the Contractor is in material noncompliance with MBE Contract provisions and refuses or fails to take the corrective action that the Office requires, then the Office may:
 - i. Terminate the Contract;
 - ii. Refer the matter to the Office of the Attorney General for appropriate action; or

- iii. Initiate any other specific remedy identified by the Contract, including the contractual remedies required by any applicable laws, regulations, and directives regarding the payment of undisputed amounts.
- (d) Upon completion of the Contract, but before final payment or release of retainage or both, the Contractor shall submit a final report, in affidavit form under the penalty of perjury, of all payments made to, or withheld from, MBE subcontractors.

32. Living Wage

If a Contractor subject to the Living Wage law fails to submit all records required under COMAR 21.11.10.05 to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry at the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the Office may withhold payment of any invoice or retainage. The Office may require certification from the Commissioner on a quarterly basis that such records were properly submitted.

33. Use of Estimated Quantities

Unless specifically indicated otherwise in the State's solicitation or other controlling documents related to the Scope of Work, any sample amounts provided are estimates only and the Office does not guarantee a minimum or maximum number of units or usage in the performance of this Contract.

34. Risk of Loss; Transfer of Title

Risk of loss for conforming supplies, equipment, materials and Deliverables furnished to the State hereunder shall remain with the Contractor until such supplies, equipment, materials and Deliverables are received and accepted by the State, following which, title shall pass to the State.

35. Effect of Contractor Bankruptcy

All rights and licenses granted by the Contractor under this Contract are and shall be deemed to be rights and licenses to "intellectual property," and the subject matter of this Contract, including services, is and shall be deemed to be "embodiments of intellectual property" for purposes of and as such terms are used and interpreted under § 365(n) of the United States Bankruptcy Code ("Code") (11 U.S.C. § 365(n) (2010)). The State has the right to exercise all rights and elections under the Code and all other applicable bankruptcy, insolvency and similar laws with respect to this Contract (including all executory statement of works). Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, if the Contractor or its estate becomes subject to any bankruptcy or similar proceeding: (a) subject to the State's rights of election, all rights and licenses granted to the State under this Contract shall continue subject to the respective terms and conditions of this Contract; and (b) the State shall be entitled to a complete duplicate of (or complete access to, as appropriate) all such intellectual property and embodiments of intellectual property, and the same, if not already in the State's possession, shall be promptly delivered to the State, unless the Contractor elects to and does in fact continue to perform all of its obligations under this Contract.

36. Miscellaneous

- 36.1 Any provision of this Contract which contemplates performance or observance subsequent to any termination or expiration of this Contract shall survive termination or expiration of this Contract and continue in full force and effect.
- 36.2 If any term contained in this Contract is held or finally determined to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, in whole or in part, such term shall be severed from this Contract, and the remaining terms contained herein shall continue in full force and effect, and shall in no way be affected, prejudiced, or disturbed thereby.

- 36.3 The headings of the sections contained in this Contract are for convenience only and shall not be deemed to control or affect the meaning or construction of any provision of this Contract.
- 36.4 This Contract may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Signatures provided by facsimile or other electronic means, e.g, and not by way of limitation, in Adobe .PDF sent by electronic mail, shall be deemed to be original signatures.

37. Contract Monitor and Procurement Officer

- 37.1 The State representative for this Contract who is primarily responsible for Contract administration functions, including issuing written direction, invoice approval, monitoring this Contract to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Contract, monitoring MBE and VSBE compliance, and achieving completion of the Contract on budget, on time, and within scope. The Contract Monitor may authorize in writing one or more State representatives to act on behalf of the Contract Monitor in the performance of the Contract Monitor's responsibilities. The Office may change the Contract Monitor at any time by written notice to the Contractor.
- 37.2 The Procurement Officer has responsibilities as detailed in the Contract and is the only State representative who can authorize changes to the Contract. The Office may change the Procurement Officer at any time by written notice to the Contractor.

38. Notices

All notices hereunder shall be in writing and either delivered personally or sent by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, as follows:

If to the State:

Caitlin Koehler, Procurement Officer
80 Calvert Street, Room 109
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone Number: 410-260-7120
E-Mail: ckoehler@treasurer.state.md.us

With a copy to:

Sara Servin, Contract Monitor
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

If to the Contractor:

(Contractor's Name)
(Contractor's primary address)
Attn: _____

SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties have executed this Contract as of the date hereinabove set forth.

ATTEST:

CONTRACTOR:

WITNESS:

MARYLAND STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE

Jonathan D. Martin
Chief Deputy Treasurer

Approved for form and legal sufficiency
For the Maryland State Treasurer's Office

David P. Chaisson
Assistant Attorney General
State of Maryland

Attachment F. Contract Affidavit

A. AUTHORITY

I hereby affirm that I, _____ (name of affiant) am the _____ (title) and duly authorized representative of _____ (name of business entity) and that I possess the legal authority to make this affidavit on behalf of the business for which I am acting.

B. CERTIFICATION OF REGISTRATION OR QUALIFICATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

The business named above is a (check applicable box):

- (1) Corporation - domestic or foreign;
- (2) Limited Liability Company - domestic or foreign;
- (3) Partnership - domestic or foreign;
- (4) Statutory Trust - domestic or foreign;
- (5) Sole Proprietorship.

and is registered or qualified as required under Maryland Law. I further affirm that the above business is in good standing both in Maryland and (IF APPLICABLE) in the jurisdiction where it is presently organized, and has filed all of its annual reports, together with filing fees, with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation. The name and address of its resident agent (IF APPLICABLE) filed with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation is:

Name and Department ID Number: _____

Address: _____

and that if it does business under a trade name, it has filed a certificate with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation that correctly identifies that true name and address of the principal or owner as:

Name and Department ID Number: _____

Address: _____

C. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE AFFIRMATION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

I am aware of, and the above business will comply with, the provisions of State Finance and Procurement Article, §13-221, Annotated Code of Maryland, which require that every business that enters into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the State of Maryland or its agencies during a calendar year under which the business is to receive in the aggregate \$200,000 or more shall, within 30 days of the time when the aggregate value of the contracts, leases, or other agreements reaches \$200,000, file with the Secretary of State of Maryland certain specified information to include disclosure of beneficial ownership of the business.

D. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE AFFIRMATION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

I am aware of, and the above business will comply with, Election Law Article, Title 14, Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires that every person that enters into a procurement contract with the State, a county, or a municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the State, during a calendar year in which the person receives a contract with a governmental entity in the amount of \$200,000 or more, shall file with the State Board of Elections statements disclosing: (a) any contributions made during the reporting period to a candidate for elective office in any primary or general election; and (b) the name of each candidate to whom one or more contributions in a cumulative amount of \$500 or more were made during the reporting period. The statement shall be filed with the State Board of Elections: (a) before execution of a contract by the State, a county, a municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the State, and shall cover the 24 months prior to when a contract was awarded; and (b) if the contribution is made after the execution of a contract, then twice a year, throughout the contract term, on or before: (i) May 31, to cover the six (6) month period ending April 30; and (ii) November 30, to cover the six (6) month period ending October 31.

E. DRUG AND ALCOHOL-FREE WORKPLACE

(Applicable to all contracts unless the contract is for a law enforcement agency and the agency head or the agency head's designee has determined that application of COMAR 21.11.08 and this certification would be inappropriate in connection with the law enforcement agency's undercover operations.)

I CERTIFY THAT:

- (1) Terms defined in COMAR 21.11.08 shall have the same meanings when used in this certification.
- (2) By submission of its Proposal, the business, if other than an individual, certifies and agrees that, with respect to its employees to be employed under a contract resulting from this solicitation, the business shall:
 - (a) Maintain a workplace free of drug and alcohol abuse during the term of the contract;
 - (b) Publish a statement notifying its employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of drugs, and the abuse of drugs or

- alcohol is prohibited in the business' workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of these prohibitions;
- (c) Prohibit its employees from working under the influence of drugs or alcohol;
 - (d) Not hire or assign to work on the contract anyone who the business knows, or in the exercise of due diligence should know, currently abuses drugs or alcohol and is not actively engaged in a bona fide drug or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program;
 - (e) Promptly inform the appropriate law enforcement agency of every drug-related crime that occurs in its workplace if the business has observed the violation or otherwise has reliable information that a violation has occurred;
 - (f) Establish drug and alcohol abuse awareness programs to inform its employees about:
 - (i) The dangers of drug and alcohol abuse in the workplace;
 - (ii) The business's policy of maintaining a drug and alcohol free workplace;
 - (iii) Any available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
 - (iv) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees who abuse drugs and alcohol in the workplace;
 - (g) Provide all employees engaged in the performance of the contract with a copy of the statement required by §E(2)(b), above;
 - (h) Notify its employees in the statement required by §E(2)(b), above, that as a condition of continued employment on the contract, the employee shall:
 - (i) Abide by the terms of the statement; and
 - (ii) Notify the employer of any criminal drug or alcohol abuse conviction for an offense occurring in the workplace not later than 5 days after a conviction;
 - (i) Notify the procurement officer within 10 days after receiving notice under §E(2)(h)(ii), above, or otherwise receiving actual notice of a conviction;
 - (j) Within 30 days after receiving notice under §E(2)(h)(ii), above, or otherwise receiving actual notice of a conviction, impose either of the following sanctions or remedial measures on any employee who is convicted of a drug or alcohol abuse offense occurring in the workplace:

- (i) Take appropriate personnel action against an employee, up to and including termination; or
 - (ii) Require an employee to satisfactorily participate in a bona fide drug or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program; and

- (k) Make a good faith effort to maintain a drug and alcohol-free workplace through implementation of §E(2)(a)—(j), above.

- (3) If the business is an individual, the individual shall certify and agree as set forth in §E(4), below, that the individual shall not engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of drugs or the abuse of drugs or alcohol in the performance of the contract.

- (4) I acknowledge and agree that:
 - (a) The award of the contract is conditional upon compliance with COMAR 21.11.08 and this certification;

 - (b) The violation of the provisions of COMAR 21.11.08 or this certification shall be cause to suspend payments under, or terminate the contract for default under COMAR 21.07.01.11 or 21.07.03.15, as applicable; and

 - (c) The violation of the provisions of COMAR 21.11.08 or this certification in connection with the contract may, in the exercise of the discretion of the Board of Public Works, result in suspension and debarment of the business under COMAR 21.08.03.

F. CERTAIN AFFIRMATIONS VALID

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, each of the affirmations, certifications, or acknowledgements contained in that certain Bid/Proposal Affidavit dated _____, and executed by me for the purpose of obtaining the contract to which this Exhibit is attached remains true and correct in all respects as if made as of the date of this Contract Affidavit and as if fully set forth herein.

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

Date: _____

By: _____
(print name of Authorized Representative and Affiant)

(signature of Authorized Representative and Affiant)

8 Appendix 1. – Abbreviations and Definitions

For purposes of this IFB, the following abbreviations or terms have the meanings indicated below: Bid – The Bidder’s Bid.

- A. Bid Price Form or Bid Form - The Attachment B Bid Form.
- B. Business Day(s) – The official working days of the week to include Monday through Friday. Official working days excluding State Holidays (see definition of “Normal State Business Hours” below).
- C. COMAR – Code of Maryland Regulations available on-line at <http://www.dsd.state.md.us/COMAR/ComarHome.html>.
- D. Contract – The Contract awarded to the successful Bidder pursuant to this IFB. The Contract will be in the form of **Attachment E**.
- E. Contract Monitor – The State representative for this Contract who is primarily responsible for Contract administration functions, including issuing written direction, invoice approval, monitoring this Contract to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Contract, monitoring MBE and VSBE compliance, and achieving completion of the Contract on budget, on time, and within scope. The Contract Monitor may authorize in writing one or more State representatives to act on behalf of the Contract Monitor in the performance of the Contract Monitor’s responsibilities. The Office may change the Contract Monitor at any time by written notice to the Contractor.
- F. Contractor – The selected Bidder that is awarded a Contract by the State.
- G. Contractor Personnel – Employees and agents and subcontractor employees and agents performing work at the direction of the Contractor under the terms of the Contract awarded from this IFB.
- H. Data Breach – The unauthorized acquisition, use, modification or disclosure of State data, or other Sensitive Data.
- I. State Treasurer’s Office (STO or the “Office”).
- J. eMMA – eMaryland Marketplace Advantage (see IFB **Section 4.1**).
- K. Invitation for Bids (IFB) – This Invitation for Bids issued by the State Treasurer’s Office (Office), with the Solicitation Number and date of issuance indicated in the Key Information Summary Sheet, including any amendments thereto.
- L. Local Time – Time in the Eastern Time Zone as observed by the State of Maryland. Unless otherwise specified, all stated times shall be Local Time, even if not expressly designated as such.
- M. Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) – Any legal entity certified as defined at COMAR 21.01.02.01B (54) which is certified by the Maryland Department of Transportation under COMAR 21.11.03.
- N. Normal State Business Hours - Normal State business hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday except State Holidays, which can be found at: www.dbm.maryland.gov – keyword: State Holidays.

- O. Notice to Proceed (NTP) – A written notice from the Procurement Officer that work under the Contract, project, Task Order or Work Order (as applicable) is to begin as of a specified date. The NTP Date is the start date of work under the Contract, project, Task Order or Work Order. Additional NTPs may be issued by either the Procurement Officer or the Contract Monitor regarding the start date for any service included within this solicitation with a delayed or non-specified implementation date.
- P. Bidder – An entity that submits a Bid in response to this IFB.
- Q. Procurement Officer – Prior to the award of any Contract, the sole point of contact in the State for purposes of this solicitation. After Contract award, the Procurement Officer has responsibilities as detailed in the Contract (**Attachment E**), and is the only State representative who can authorize changes to the Contract. The Office may change the Procurement Officer at any time by written notice to the Contractor.
- R. Security Incident – A violation or imminent threat of violation of computer security policies, Security Measures, acceptable use policies, or standard security practices. “Imminent threat of violation” is a situation in which the organization has a factual basis for believing that a specific incident is about to occur.
- S. State – The State of Maryland.
- T. Total Bid Price - The Bidder’s bid price or evaluated bid price for goods and services in response to this solicitation, included in **Attachment B** – Bid Form.
- U. Veteran-owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) – A business that is verified by the Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE) of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a veteran-owned small business. See Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 21.11.13.

9 Appendix 2. Bidder Information Sheet

See link at: http://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2018/04/Appendix2-Bidder_OfferorInformationSheet.pdf.

10 Appendix 3. Evidence of Insurance

Attach evidence of Insurance requirements as referenced in section 3.5

11 Appendix 4. Collateral Security Agreement

COLLATERAL SECURITY AGREEMENT

THIS COLLATERAL SECURITY AGREEMENT (the “Agreement”) is made and entered into as of _____ by and between the Maryland State Treasurer’s Office, on behalf of the _____ (the “_____”) hereinafter called the “Depositor”, and _____ [a national banking association, organized under the laws of the United States] or [organized under the laws of Maryland] and authorized by law to do banking business in the State of Maryland, hereinafter called the “bank.”

Background

The Depositor, in accordance with Maryland State law, has designated the Bank as a depository for public funds of the Depositor under the Banking Services for the _____ Contract dated _____, 20___. During the term of this Agreement, the Depositor will designate the officer, or officers, who singly or jointly will be authorized to represent and act on behalf of the Depositor in any and all matters of every kind arising under this Agreement. This Agreement incorporates the terms of the Contract by reference for all purposes; however, to the extent that any provision in the Contract conflicts with any provision in this Agreement, this Agreement will control. All funds on deposit with the Bank to the credit of the Depositor are required to be secured by collateral of the kind and character permitted by §6-202 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as may be amended from time to time (“SFP §6-202”).

Under §6-209 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as may be amended from time to time (“SFP §6-209”), only certain collateral pledged by the Bank is required to be held by a custodian. For purposes of this Agreement, permissible collateral under SFP §6-202 shall be referred to as “Collateral” and any Collateral that is required to be held by a custodian under SFP §6-209 shall be referred to as “Securities Collateral.”

To perfect the security interest of the Depositor in Securities Collateral pledged by the Bank, a Federal Reserve Bank or a third-party financial institution, acceptable to the Depositor, will hold the Securities Collateral in a custody account for the benefit of the Depositor. For purposes of this Agreement, such Federal Reserve Bank or third-party financial institution shall be referred to as the “Trustee.”

In consideration of the foregoing, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are acknowledged by the parties, it is agreed as follows:

1. Under the terms of this Agreement, the Bank pledges to the Depositor, and grants to the Depositor a security interest in, the Securities Collateral owned by the Bank and held by the Trustee for the benefit of the Depositor, to secure the deposits held by the Bank for the Depositor as provided in SFP §6-209.

2. The total market value of the Securities Collateral held by the Trustee (which includes accrued interest or income to the extent it is not included in the market price) will be in an amount at least equal to such amount as is required under SFP §6-209, taking into account any other acceptable Collateral properly delivered to the Depositor. The market value of any security held as Securities Collateral will be obtained from a primary dealer. The Bank will provide a monthly collateral report to the Depositor at no charge. The report includes the market value and description of each item of Collateral pledged as of the last business day of the month.
3. The Bank has previously or will immediately deliver to the Trustee Securities Collateral of the kind and character permitted by SFP §6-202 of sufficient amount and market value to provide adequate collateral under SFP §6-209, taking into consideration any other acceptable Collateral properly delivered to the Depositor, for the funds of the Depositor deposited with the Bank. For so long as the depository relationship between the Depositor and the Bank shall exist hereunder, the Securities Collateral or substitute Securities Collateral, as provided for below, in an amount and market value sufficient to provide adequate Collateral, taking into consideration any other acceptable Collateral properly delivered to the Depositor, shall be kept and retained by the Trustee in trust.
4. The Bank shall cause the Trustee to accept the Securities Collateral and hold the same in trust for the purpose stated in this Agreement.
5. Should the Bank fail at any time to pay and satisfy, when due, any check, draft, voucher or electronic fund transfer lawfully drawn against any deposit, or in any manner breaches its contract with the Depositor, Depositor shall give written notice of such failure or breach to the Bank, and the Bank shall have forty-eight (48) hours to cure such failure or breach. In the event the Bank shall fail to cure such failure or breach within forty-eight (48) hours, it shall be the duty of the Trustee, upon demand of the Depositor (supported by proper evidence of any of the above-listed circumstances), to surrender the Securities Collateral to the Depositor. In the event that bank is deemed insolvent or is in receivership, , it shall be the duty of the Trustee, upon demand of the Depositor to surrender the Securities Collateral to the Depositor. The Depositor may sell all or any part of the Securities Collateral and out of the proceeds of such sale pay the Depositor all damages and losses sustained by it, together with all expenses of any and every kind incurred by it on account of such failure or insolvency, or sale. Following any sale, the Depositor shall provide an accounting to the Bank for the remainder, if any, of the proceeds or Collateral remaining unsold.
6. Any sale of all or part of the Securities Collateral, made by the Depositor under this Agreement may be either at public or private sale.
7. If the Bank shall desire to sell or otherwise dispose of all or part of the Securities Collateral deposited with the Trustee, it may substitute other Securities Collateral of at least the same market value. Alternatively, the Bank may substitute other acceptable Collateral properly delivered to the Depositor in an amount equal to the market value of the Securities Collateral to be sold or otherwise disposed of. Such rights of substitution shall remain in full force and

may be exercised by the Bank as often as it may desire; provided, however, that the aggregate market value of all Collateral pledged to the Depositor, shall be at least equal to the amount of Collateral required under SFP §6-209. If at any time, the aggregate market value of Securities Collateral deposited with the Trustee, taken together with any other acceptable Collateral properly delivered to the Depositor, is less than the total amount required under SFP §6-209, the Bank shall, upon request of the Depositor, deposit with the Trustee such additional Securities Collateral as may be necessary to cause the market value of such Securities Collateral, taken together with any other acceptable Collateral properly delivered to the Depositor, to equal the total amount of required Collateral. The Bank shall be entitled to income on securities held by the Trustee, and the Trustee may dispose of such income as directed by the Bank without approval of the Depositor.

8. The Bank shall cause the Trustee promptly to forward to the Depositor copies of safekeeping or trust receipts and/or activity reports covering all of the Collateral, including substitute Collateral as provided for herein.
9. If at any time the Securities Collateral in the hands of the Trustee shall have a market value, taking into account any other acceptable Collateral properly delivered to the Depositor, that exceeds the required amount of Securities Collateral, the Depositor shall authorize the withdrawal of a specified amount of Securities Collateral, and the Trustee may deliver this amount of Securities Collateral (and no more) to the Bank. Once the Bank receives the redelivered Securities Collateral, the Trustee shall have no further liability for such Securities Collateral.
10. The Depositor shall have the right to terminate this Agreement by advance written notice to the Bank of its election to do so. Termination of this Agreement shall be effective sixty days after the receipt of such notice, provided all provisions of this Agreement have been fulfilled, or upon the date of the last act required by this Agreement, whichever is later.
11. When the depositor-bank relationship ceases to exist between the Depositor and the Bank, and when the Bank has properly paid out all deposits of the Depositor, the Depositor shall give the Trustee written notice to that effect and the Trustee shall, with the approval of the Depositor, redeliver to the Bank all Securities Collateral then in its possession belonging to the Bank.
12. A. Any notice required to be given to the Bank in writing shall be sufficient if delivered to the following address:

The Bank may change the above address by notifying the Depositor by facsimile or by such other means as is consistent with the Bank’s usual means of notification to the Depositor.

- B. Any notice to be given to the Depositor shall be sufficient if delivered to the following address:

Maryland State Treasurer's Office
Attn: Director of Treasury Management
80 Calvert Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Tel: (410)260-7129

The Depositor may change the above address by notifying the Bank by facsimile or by such other means as is consistent with the Depositor's usual means of notification to the Bank.

13. This Agreement shall be binding upon, and shall insure to the benefit of, the parties hereto and their respective corporate successors.
14. No amendments or modification of this Agreement or waiver of any right under this Agreement shall be binding on any party unless it is in writing and is signed by all of the parties.

Executed by the undersigned duly authorized officers of the parties as of the date of this Agreement.

ATTEST

[BANK NAME]

By: _____

[Signatory]

[Title]

WITNESS:

**MARYLAND STATE TREASURER'S
OFFICE**

By: _____

Dereck E. Davis

State Treasurer

WITNESS:

By: _____

Jonathan D. Martin

Chief Deputy Treasurer

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency

for the Maryland State Treasurer's Office:

Assistant Attorney General