



MARYLAND STATE TREASURER

STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE/MARYLAND 529

(STO/MD529)

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR
INVESTMENT ADVISOR**

RFP# MD529-FY27-001

ISSUE DATE: APRIL 20, 2026

A Prospective Offeror that has received this document from a source other than eMarylandMarketplace Advantage (eMMA) <https://procurement.maryland.gov> should register on eMMA <https://emma.maryland.gov/>

**MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES ARE ENCOURAGED TO RESPOND TO THIS
SOLICITATION**

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

Request for Proposals	Services - INVESTMENT ADVISOR
Solicitation Number:	MD529-FY27-001
RFP Issue Date:	April 20, 2026
RFP Issuing Office:	State Treasurer's Office (STO or the "State")
Procurement Officer: Email: Phone Number:	Kris Chewlin 80 Calvert Street, Room 109 Annapolis, Maryland 21401 kchewlin@treasurer.state.md.us 410-260-7428
Proposals are to be sent to:	Submit on emma.maryland.gov under Solicitation Number MD529-FY27-001 or via hand delivery or trackable mail to the Procurement Officer above. To submit a proposal via eMMA, offerors must first register on emma.maryland.gov. We recommend registering in advance to become acquainted with the site.
No Bid/Proposal Notice Feedback Form	*If you are not submitting a proposal for this solicitation, submit Attachment 1 and please include reason.
Pre-Proposal Conference:	May 4, 2026 @ 2:00 PM EST See Section 4.3 for additional details. See Attachment 2 to RSVP by close of business on April 30, 2026 to Attend
Questions Due Date and Time:	Questions should be submitted to procurement@treasurer.state.md.us with a subject line of "Questions for RFP #MD520-FY27-001" by May 18, 2026 @ 2:00 PM EST

Proposal Due (Closing) Date and Time:	June 17, 2026 @ 1:00 PM EST Offerors are reminded that a completed Feedback Form is requested if a no-bid/proposal decision is made (see Attachment 1 - No Bid Notice/Vendor Feedback Form).
Oral Presentations (for short-listed offerors)	<i>To be finalized at a later date, but the estimated period will be between July 13, 2026 and July 31, 2026.</i>
MBE Subcontracting Goal:	An overall Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) subcontract participation goal of <u> 0 </u> percent of the total contract dollar amount, including all renewal option terms, if any, has been established for this procurement. The overall MBE or DBE subcontract participation goal includes the following subgoals, which have been established for this procurement: <u> N/A </u> % for African-American MBEs; <u> N/A </u> % for Asian-American MBEs; <u> N/A </u> % for Hispanic-American MBEs; and <u> N/A </u> % for Woman-Owned MBEs.
VSBE Subcontracting Goal:	This solicitation includes a VSBE participation Goal of <u> 0 </u> %
Procurement Method:	A Contract will be awarded in accordance with the Competitive Sealed Proposals method under COMAR 21.05.03.
Multiple or Alternate Bids:	Multiple or alternate Proposals will not be accepted.
Contract Type:	Firm Fixed Price
Contract Duration:	Five (5) year base period with two (2) one-year option periods.
Primary Place of Performance:	As proposed by Offeror
SBR Designation:	No
Federal Funding:	No

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

TABLE OF CONTENTS – RFP

1	Minimum Qualifications	7
1.1	Offeror Minimum Qualifications.....	7
2	Contractor Requirements: Scope of Work	8
2.1	Summary Statement.....	8
2.2	Background and Purpose.....	8
2.3	Contractor Responsibilities and Tasks	9
2.4	Experience and Personnel.....	14
2.5	Labor Categories	14
2.6	Substitution of Personnel.....	16
2.7	Supplemental Category of Work Requirements and Responsibilities.....	19
3	Standard Terms and Conditions	21
3.1	Contract Initiation Requirements.....	21
3.2	End of Contract Transition	21
3.3	Invoicing.....	21
3.4	Liquidated Damages	22
3.5	Problem Escalation Procedure.....	23
3.6	Work Orders	23
3.7	Payments by Electronic Funds Transfer	23
3.8	Prompt Payment Policy	24
3.9	Federal Funding Acknowledgement.....	24
3.10	Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure	24
3.11	Non-Disclosure Agreement	24
3.12	Maryland Healthy Working Families Act Requirements	24
3.13	The State of Maryland’s Commitment to Purchasing Environmentally Preferred Products and Services (EPPs)	25
3.14	Insurance Requirements	25
3.15	Non-Compete Clause Prohibition.....	26
4	Proposal Submission Information and Instructions	27
4.1	eMaryland Marketplace Advantage (eMMA)	27
4.2	Electronic Means	27
4.3	Pre-Proposal Conference	27

4.4 Questions 28

4.5 Proposal Due (Closing) Date and Time..... 28

4.6 Economy of Preparation 28

4.7 Public Information Act Notice 28

4.8 Oral Presentation 29

4.9 Duration of Proposals 29

4.10 Revisions to the RFP 29

4.11 Cancellations 29

4.12 Incurred Expenses 30

4.13 Protest/Disputes 30

4.14 Offeror Responsibilities..... 30

4.15 Acceptance of Terms and Conditions..... 31

4.16 Compliance with Laws/Arrearages 31

4.17 Verification of Registration and Tax Payment 31

4.18 False Statements 31

5 Proposal Format 33

5.1 Two Part Submission..... 33

5.2 Proposal Delivery and Packaging..... 33

5.3 Volume I - Technical Proposal..... 34

5.4 Volume II – Financial Proposal..... 43

6 Evaluation and Selection Process..... 44

6.1 Evaluation Committee 44

6.2 Technical Proposal Evaluation Criteria 44

6.3 Financial Proposal Evaluation Criteria..... 44

6.4 Reciprocal Preference..... 44

6.5 Selection Procedures..... 45

6.6 Documents Required upon Notice of Recommendation for Contract Award RFP Attachments
(Table B)..... 46

7 RFP Appendices and Exhibits..... 48

7.1 Appendices (Table C)..... 48

7.2 Exhibits (Table D)..... 49

1 Minimum Qualifications

1.1 Offeror Minimum Qualifications

The Offeror must document in its Proposal that it satisfies the following Minimum Qualifications:

- A. The Offeror shall have served as an investment advisor for at least three (3) state and/or local governments since July 1, 2021. Required Documentation: The Offeror shall provide with its Proposal three or more references from the past five years that collectively are able to attest to the Offeror's required years of experience in providing services similar to the requirements listed in Section 2.
- B. The Offeror shall be registered as an investment advisor with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Investment Advisers Act of 1940. Required Documentation: The Offeror shall provide with its Proposal proof of current registration.
- C. The Offeror shall provide Senior level professionals with at least five (5) years of experience providing investment advice to Section 529 plans, defined contribution, and/or college or disability related savings plans. Offeror shall also have experience with Local Government Investment Pools (LGIP), High Grade Fixed Income funds and target date investments.
- D. The offeror shall provide at least one Senior level professional with a Chartered Financial Analyst designation.
- E. The Offeror shall provide with its Proposal "**Attachment L Reference Checks**" with three or more references filled out.
- F. The Offeror shall provide resumes for Senior level professional Investment Advisors.

THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

2 Contractor Requirements: Scope of Work

2.1 Summary Statement

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued to procure the goods or services, as specified in this Section 2, from a contract between the selected offeror(s) and the State of Maryland (“State”) to provide investment advisory services to assist in the administration of the Maryland College Prepaid Trust (MPCT), Maryland College Investment Plan (MCIP), Maryland ABLE (ABLE) Plan, Maryland General Fund, Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP), and any other investment advice the Treasurer may request.

It is the State’s intention to obtain goods and services, as specified in this RFP, from a contract between the selected Offeror and the State.

The State’s intention is to make a single award. However, the State reserves the right to make more than one award if doing so is in the best interest of the State. See RFP **Section 6.5 Selection Procedures** for more Contract award information.

A Contract award does not ensure a Contractor will receive all or any State business under the Contract.

2.2 Background and Purpose

The purpose of this solicitation is to provide investment advisory services to assist in the administration of the Maryland College Prepaid Trust (MPCT), Maryland College Investment Plan (MCIP), Maryland ABLE (ABLE) plans, the Maryland Local Investment Pool (MLGIP) and the State’s General Fund portfolio

2.2.1 Project Goals

The State manages approximately \$40B with \$20B in a General Fund, \$14B in the MLGIP, \$13B in MD529 MCIP, \$1B in MD529 MPCT and \$250M in ABLE funds. Each fund has specific goals and investment policies with varying parameters. The awarded contractor will provide the Treasurer with guidance on the various funds as required to aid the Treasurer in achieving top performance on the funds within the permissible guidelines.

During the 2023 Legislative Session, the Maryland General Assembly passed a law transferring oversight of the Maryland 529 programs to the State Treasurer, effective June 1, 2023. The Maryland 529 Board previously responsible for oversight of the programs was decommissioned at that time.

MD529 offers two qualified 529 tuition programs: the Maryland Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer Prepaid College Trust (MPCT) that allows families for time frames ranging from one semester to five years of future college tuition to lock in at today’s contract prices. This program is backed by a Maryland Legislative Guarantee and is currently managed by Catalis as the Program Manager under contract. The second 529 program is the Maryland Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer College Investment Plan (MCIP), which currently offers 17 no-load investment options including target date funds and is managed and distributed by T. Rowe Price, the contracted Program Manager. Additionally, Maryland offers a 529A disabilities savings program, Maryland ABLE, which allows individuals with disabilities to invest in tax-advantaged accounts to be used for qualified disability expenses. Maryland ABLE is managed and distributed by Vestwell State Savings, LLC through an intra-governmental agreement with the State of Oregon.

Each plan has a detailed savings strategy, and each offers specific benefits. The staff of MD529 coordinate with and manage the vendors serving each of the programs.

The State's primary goals in offering the MPCT and MCIP plans are to help families avoid incurring large amounts of debt to send their children to college as well as to promote an educated work force for the future. The goal of ABLE is to support individuals with disabilities in maintaining health, independence, and quality of life.

The Maryland General Fund is comprised of a pool of financial resources that the State obtains through revenue from taxes, fees, Federal Government revenue sharing, grants, and other occasional inflows. The Treasurer has the authority to invest idle monies in the State's custody in accordance with State Finance & Procurement Statute 6-222 and COMAR Title 25, Chapters 03 and 04. The Fund is prudently managed for safety, liquidity, and return.

The Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP) is a short-term prime money market fund that was established in 1982 by the State Legislature to provide all local governmental units within the State with an investment vehicle for short-term investments. A pooled fund strategy, similar to Rule 2a-7 funds, is applied. The fund provides municipalities with the ability to preserve the capital value of the dollars invested, provides a competitive rate of return; and offers a readily available source of liquidity.

2.2.2 State Staff and Roles

- A. Procurement Officer will be responsible for any procurement related activity for this service.
- B. Contract Monitor will be responsible with working with the Contractor to ensure that the services are provided as per the RFP and in a timely manner.

2.3 Contractor Responsibilities and Tasks

The Contractor, in collaboration with the Contract Monitor, shall provide the following required investment advisory services to assist in its administration of the:

A. Maryland Prepaid College Trust (MPCT)

1. Conduct a full investment policy review at STO/MD529 for the MPCT at least once per year.
2. Assist in the evaluation of the financial status of the MPCT.
3. Recommend appropriate investment strategies based on the financial condition of the MPCT, including liquidity needs.
4. Recommend asset allocation, investment structure and strategy and appropriate Investment Managers to execute the investment policy.
5. Recommend individual investment objectives, policy, and guidelines for each Investment Manager.
6. Recommend appropriate action should an investment strategy or Investment Manager fail to meet expectations.
7. Recommend strategy changes in response to material changes in either the financial status of the MPCT or the capital market environment.
8. Work with the MPCT actuarial provider and the Chief Investment Officer to develop soundness reports and projections.

9. Review criteria for placement of passively and actively managed funds or other investments on “Watch List” status based on both quantitative and qualitative criteria and recommend necessary amendments.
10. Evaluate the performance results for each investment option against its benchmark and peer group on a quarterly basis and make recommendations to the treasurer for placement or release of a fund from “Watch List” status or provide advice on alternatives.
11. Collect, compile, and/or conduct technical analyses of each fund including risk metrics and attribution analysis on a quarterly basis and provide advice on the continuing appropriateness of each underlying fund.
12. Perform ongoing monitoring of each investment option for qualitative issues that may impact a decision regarding the appropriateness of each investment alternative. Examples of these types of issues would include changes to the fund manager or team, significant redemptions of assets by investors, and regulatory and legal issues. The Investment Advisor will immediately notify the Treasurer in cases of adverse changes.
13. Prepare a quarterly report to the Treasurer that compiles the above information for each investment option and provide “Watch List” recommendations. Provide a fund commentary for each fund recommended to be placed, maintained, or released from “Watch List” status.
14. Generate monthly reports for the Treasurer that document total assets, cash flows, asset distributions, and any relevant fund manager news for MPCT no later than 15 business days after the end of the month. Online access to custody and compliance websites will be provided.
15. Vet prospective investment manager(s) for suitability for the MPCT when appropriate.
16. Provide the firm’s capital market assumptions and the reasonableness of projected returns for the portfolio.
17. Provide a review of asset allocations for investment options and provide an analysis of possible adjustments to the asset allocation and/or mix of individual mutual funds and/or other investments.
18. Review all existing investment options in the MPCT to determine if the investment choices are optimal and appropriate for MPCT’s investment policy study considerations for diversification, risk and return, and the liability profile.
19. Review the current investment policy for the MPCT policy and provide amendments as needed.
20. Provide advice concerning risk management strategies; investment goals, objectives and strategies; rebalancing policies and compliance monitoring.
21. Conduct at least annual due diligence meetings with the investment managers and collaborate with the Chief Investment Officer to complete these meetings.
22. Provide written opinions and findings regarding the management of the current investment options, which may include recommendation of replacement funds where appropriate.

B. Maryland College Investment Plan (MCIP)

1. Conduct an investment policy review at STO/MD529 for the MCIP at least annually.
2. Monitor the MCIP for compliance with the investment policy and evaluate investment performance on a quarterly basis.
3. Review the investment program manager’s objectives to ensure adherence to overall performance and expenses, including performance of individual funds selected at least annually.

4. Review the investment performance reports and analyses prepared by the investment program manager.
5. Evaluate performance results for each underlying fund and portfolio with the MCIP on a quarterly basis against its benchmark and peer group and provide recommendations to the Treasurer for placement or release of the fund or portfolio on “Watch List” status; provide recommendation on the continuing appropriateness of each underlying fund.
6. Collect, compile, and/or conduct technical analyses, including risk metrics and attribution analyses for each underlying fund and portfolio with the MCIP on a quarterly basis and provide advice on the continuing appropriateness of each underlying fund and portfolio.
7. Perform ongoing monitoring of each underlying fund and portfolio within the MCIP for qualitative issues that may impact a decision regarding the continuing appropriateness of each investment alternative.
8. Prepare a quarterly report for the Treasurer that compiles the above information for each underlying fund and portfolio within the MCIP and provides “Watch List” recommendations. Provide a fund commentary for each fund or portfolio to be placed, maintained, or released from the “Watch List”.
9. Review the current Investment Policy for the MCIP and suggest amendments, as needed.
10. Conduct an annual investment review of the MCIP. The review should include, but not be limited to, reviews of all existing investment options to determine if the options are satisfactory given the considerations for diversification, risk, and return. Review the asset allocations for age-based and multi-fund investment options, including any recommendations for structural changes (i.e. asset allocation changes) and modifications to the underlying funds comprising these options; ensure choices remain appropriate for the treasurer’s investment policies.
11. Provide timely information to the Treasurer concerning current investment trends and issues as well as peer comparisons with similar college savings investment plans.
12. Provide assistance in developing and drafting MCIP modifications and provide recommendations to the investment policy, as necessary
13. Provide advice regarding “best practices” in preparation of other procedures and policies.
14. Provide advice concerning risk management strategies, investment goals, objectives and strategies, glide-path construction, rebalancing policies, and compliance monitoring as they relate to MCIP and individual investment plan activities.
15. Participate in annual due diligence meetings with the investment manager if requested by the State’s investment team.
16. Provide annual written opinions and findings regarding the management of the current investment options, which may include recommendation of replacement funds where appropriate.

C. Maryland ABLE (ABLE)

1. Conduct an investment policy review at STO/MD529 for ABLE at least annually.
2. Monitor and evaluate investment performance and compliance with the investment policy for Maryland ABLE on a quarterly basis.
 1. Review the investment program manager’s objectives to ensure adherence to overall performance and expenses, including performance of individual funds selected at least annually.
 2. Review investment performance reports and analyses prepared for Maryland ABLE by the investment program manager.

3. Evaluate the performance results for each underlying fund and portfolio within the ABLE investment options on a quarterly basis against its benchmark. Provide recommendations to the Treasurer for placement or release of the fund or portfolio on “Watch List” status and provide advice on the continuing appropriateness of each underlying fund.
4. Collect, compile, and/or conduct technical analyses, including risk metrics and attribution analysis for each underlying fund and portfolio within the ABLE investment options on a quarterly basis and provide advice on the continuing appropriateness of each underlying fund and portfolio.
5. Perform ongoing monitoring of each underlying fund and portfolio within the ABLE investment options for qualitative issues that may impact a decision regarding the continuing appropriateness of each investment alternative.
6. Prepare a quarterly report to the Treasurer that compiles the above information for each underlying fund and portfolio within the ABLE investment options and provides “Watch List” recommendations. Provide a commentary for each fund or portfolio to be placed, maintained, or released from the “Watch List”.
7. Review the current Investment policy for ABLE and provide amendments as needed.
8. Conduct an annual investment review of the ABLE investment options submitted by the investment manager. The review should include, but not be limited to, reviews of all existing investment options to determine if the options are satisfactory given the considerations for diversification, risk, and return. Review the asset allocations for age-based and multi-fund investment options, including any recommendations for structured changes (i.e. asset allocation changes) and modifications to the underlying funds comprising these options, and ensure choices remain appropriate for the treasurer’s investment policies.
9. Provide timely information to the Treasurer concerning current investment trends and issues as well as peer comparisons with similar ABLE savings investment plans.
10. Provide assistance in developing and drafting recommended ABLE modifications and provide ongoing recommended changes to the investment policies as needed.
11. Provide advice regarding “best practices” in preparation of other procedures and policies.
12. Provide advice concerning risk management strategies, investment goals, objectives and strategies, rebalancing policies and compliance monitoring as they relate to ABLE and individual investment plan activities.
13. Participate in annual due diligence meetings with the investment manager if requested by the Treasurer.
14. Provide annual written opinions and findings regarding the management of the current investment options which may include recommendation of replacement funds where appropriate.

B. Maryland General Funds

1. Assist STO/MD529 in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities regarding the State’s General Funds.
2. Conduct an investment policy review for the General Fund and recommend changes to the investment policy annually. More frequent review may be necessary during major market changes and/or upon request of the State.
3. Assist in the evaluation of the financial status of the General Fund as required by the State.
4. Recommend appropriate investment strategies based on the financial status of the fund, including liquidity needs and market changes.

5. Recommend to the State asset allocation, investment structure and strategy, and appropriate Investment Managers necessary to execute the investment policy.
6. Recommend the individual investment objectives, policy, and guidelines for each Investment Manager.
7. Recommend appropriate action should an investment strategy or Investment Manager fail to meet expectations.
8. Recommend strategy changes in response to material changes in either the financial status of the State, the Fund, or the capital market environment.
9. Review the State's cash flow and work in collaboration with the Chief Investment Officer to develop soundness reports and projections.

C. Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)

1. Conduct an investment policy review for MLGIP and recommend changes to the investment policy annually. More frequent review may be necessary during major market changes and/or upon request of the State.
2. Assist in the evaluation of the financial status of the MLGIP as requested by the State.
3. Recommend appropriate investment strategies based on the financial condition of the fund, including liquidity needs and market changes.
4. Recommend asset allocation, investment structure and strategy, and appropriate Investment Managers to execute the State's investment policy.
5. Recommend the individual investment objectives, policy, and guidelines for each Investment Manager.
6. Recommend appropriate action should an investment strategy or Investment Manager fail to meet expectations.
7. Recommend strategy changes in response to material changes in either the financial condition of the State, the Fund, or the capital market environment.
8. Work with the State's Chief Investment Officer to develop soundness reports and projections.

D. Additional Requirements

1. Provide a statement of availability for assistance and questions during the contract term resulting from this RFP.
2. Deliver all reports and documents pursuant to the Contract resulting from this RFP in an electronic format and upon request, a hard copy version to STO/MD529. The electronic versions of the document must be as follows: spreadsheets must be MS Excel files and expository reports must be MS Word and/or Adobe PDF format files.
3. Perform all investment analysis using commonly accepted methods; best practices and principles of an investment professional; and prepare and maintain all charts, assumptions, and backup data necessary to verify the conclusions articulated in all reports or documents and make such information available to the Treasurer.
4. Review and critique, as requested, any proposed changes to investment-related policies and procedures.
5. Participate in meetings with the Treasurer or other necessary meetings, either in person or by teleconference. In-person attendance may be required at each of the four (4) quarterly Investment committee meetings per year.

6. Be available by phone, videoconference, email, or in person as required by the investment staff for informal discussions on topics relating to the MPCT, MCIP, ABLE, the General Fund, MLGIP, and other investment questions.
7. Conduct other investment advisory special projects or analyses that may be needed by way of a written agreement/amendment between STO/MD529 and the Contractor.
8. During the term of the Contract, the Contractor shall maintain all required registrations/certifications and comply with all applicable regulatory agency rules and regulations, including but not limited to those of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Failure to comply with such rules may result in Contract termination.

E. Special Projects

1. Conduct other investment advisory special projects or analyses as per an additional written agreement between the State and the Contractor.

2.4 Experience and Personnel

2.4.1 Offeror Experience

The following experience is expected and will be evaluated as part of the Technical Proposal (see the Offeror experience, capability and references evaluation factors from **Section 6.2**):

- A. Demonstrated knowledge of investment advising.
- B. Prior senior level experience providing investment advice to Section 529 plans, defined contribution, and/or college or disability related savings plans.
- C. Registered as an investment advisor with the SEC.

2.4.2 Personnel Experience

The following experience is expected and will be evaluated as part of the Technical Proposal (see the capability of proposed resources evaluation factors from **Section 6.2**):

- A. Demonstrated knowledge of investment advising.
- B. Designation as a Chartered Financial Analyst.

2.4.3 Number of Personnel to Propose

As part of the Proposal evaluation, Offerors shall propose at least two (2) personnel who are expected to be available as of the start date specified in the Notice to Proceed (NTP Date). Offerors shall describe in a Staffing Plan how additional resources shall be acquired to meet the needs of the State. Offerors may generally describe planned positions in a Staffing Plan. Such planned positions may not be used as evidence of fulfilling personnel minimum qualifications.

2.4.4 Key Personnel Identified

For the Contract, the following positions to be identified in the Technical Proposal will be considered Key Personnel and shall be required to meet the qualifications stated in **Section 2.4 and Appendix**.

A. Senior Advisor

Senior Advisor must have a Bachelors Degree in business, finance or other related field. Senior Advisor must also have at least five (5) years' experience providing investment advice to Section

529 plans, defined contribution, college or disability related savings plans that require the same or similar services to those described in the Scope of Work set forth in this RFP. Senior Advisor must also have experience in high grade Fixed Income funds and Money Market funds.

The Senior Advisor must have a Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

B. Associate Advisor

Associate Advisor must have a Bachelor's degree in business, finance or other related business field. Associate Advisor must also have at least one (1) year of experience working with Section 529 plans or similar services as described in the Scope of Services set forth in this RFP.

Series 7 and Series 66 and/or FINRA licenses are preferred for all advisors.

THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

2.5 Labor Categories

2.5.1 Contractor Personnel Experience Equivalency (including Key Personnel submitted in response to this RFP)

- A. A Substitution of Education for Experience: Bachelor's Degree or higher may be substituted for the general and specialized experience for those labor categories requiring a High School Diploma. A Master's Degree may be substituted for two years of the general and specialized experience for those labor categories requiring a Bachelor's Degree. Substitution shall be reviewed and approved by the State at its discretion.
- B. Substitution of Experience for Education: Substitution of experience for education may be permitted at the discretion of the State.
- C. Substitution of Professional Certificates for Experience: Professional certification (e.g., Microsoft Certified Solutions Expert, SQL Certified Database Administrator) may be substituted for up to two (2) years for general and specialized experience at the discretion of the State.

2.5.2 Contractor Personnel Maintain Certifications

Any Contractor Personnel provided under this RFP shall maintain in good standing any required professional certifications for the duration of the Contract. The Chartered Financial Analyst is a required certification for Senior analysts and FINRA Series 7 and 66 certifications are preferred for senior and associate analysts.

2.5.3 Work Hours

Unless otherwise specified, the following work hours requirements are applicable:

- A. Business Hours Support: Contractor shall assign Contractor Personnel to support Normal State Business Hours All normal working days shall be supported by the Contractor for the duration of the Contract (see definition in **Appendix 1**).
- B. Contractor Personnel may also be required to provide occasional support outside of normal State Business Hours, including evenings, overnight, and weekends, to support specific efforts and emergencies, such as to resolve system repair or restoration. Hours performing activities must be billed on an actual time worked basis at the rates proposed.
- C. State-Mandated Closings: Contractor Personnel shall be required to participate in any State-mandated closings. In this event, the Contractor will be notified in writing by the Contract Monitor of these details.
- D. Minimum and Maximum Hours: Full-time Contractor Personnel shall work 40 hours per week with starting and ending times as approved by the Contract Monitor. A flexible work schedule may be used with Contract Monitor approval, including time to support any efforts outside core business hours. Contractor personnel may also be requested to restrict the number of hours Contractor personnel can work within a given period of time that may result in less than an eight-hour day or less than a 40-hour work week.

2.6 Substitution of Personnel

2.6.1 Continuous Performance of Key Personnel

When Key Personnel are identified for the Contract, the following apply:

- A. Key Personnel shall be available to perform Contract requirements as of the NTP Date. Unless explicitly authorized by the Contract Monitor or specified in the Contract, Key Personnel shall be assigned to the State of Maryland as a dedicated resource.
- B. Key Personnel shall perform continuously for the duration of the Contract, or such lesser duration as specified in the Technical Proposal. Key Personnel may not be removed by the Contractor from working under the Contract without the prior written approval of the Contract Monitor.
- C. The provisions of this section apply to Key Personnel identified in any Task Order proposal and agreement, if issued, and any Work Order Request and Work Order, if issued.

2.6.2 Contractor Personnel General Substitution Provisions

The following provisions apply to all of the circumstances of Contractor Personnel substitution.

- A. The Contractor shall demonstrate to the Contract Monitor's satisfaction that the proposed substitute has qualifications at least equal to those of the Contractor Personnel proposed to be replaced.
- B. The Contractor shall provide the Contract Monitor with a substitution request that shall include:
 - 1. A detailed explanation of the reason(s) for the substitution request;
 - 2. The resume of the proposed substitute, signed by the substituting individual and his/her formal supervisor;
 - 3. The official resume of the current personnel for comparison purposes; and
 - 4. Evidence of any required credentials.
- C. The Contract Monitor may request additional information concerning the proposed substitution and may interview the proposed substitute personnel prior to deciding whether to approve the substitution request.
- D. The Contract Monitor will notify the Contractor in writing of: (i) the acceptance or denial, or (ii) contingent or temporary approval for a specified time limit, of the requested substitution. The Contract Monitor will not unreasonably withhold approval of a proposed Contractor Personnel replacement.

2.6.3 Replacement Circumstances

A. Directed Personnel Replacement

- 1. The Contract Monitor may direct the Contractor to replace any Contractor Personnel who, in the sole discretion of the Contract Monitor, are perceived as being unqualified, non-productive, unable to fully perform the job duties, disruptive, or known, or reasonably believed, to have committed a major infraction(s) of law, State policies, or Contract requirements. Normally, a directed personnel replacement will occur only after prior notification of problems with requested remediation, as described in **Section 2.6**.
- 2. If deemed appropriate in the discretion of the Contract Monitor, the Contract Monitor may give written notice of any Contractor Personnel performance issues to the Contractor, describing the problem and delineating the remediation requirement(s). The Contractor shall provide a written response to the remediation requirements in a Remediation Plan within ten (10) days of the date of the notice and shall immediately implement the Remediation Plan upon written acceptance by the Contract Monitor. If the Contract Monitor rejects the Remediation Plan, the Contractor shall revise and

resubmit the plan to the Contract Monitor within five (5) days, or in the timeframe set forth by the Contract Monitor in writing.

3. Should performance issues persist despite an approved Remediation Plan, the Contract Monitor may give written notice of the continuing performance issues and either request a new Remediation Plan within a specified time limit or direct the substitution of Contractor Personnel whose performance is at issue with a qualified substitute, including requiring the immediate removal of the Contractor Personnel at issue.
4. Replacement or substitution of Contractor Personnel under this section shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, the State's remedies under the Contract or which otherwise may be available at law or in equity.
5. If the Contract Monitor determines to direct substitution under **Section 2.6**, if at all possible, at least fifteen (15) days advance notice shall be given to the Contractor. However, if the Contract Monitor deems it necessary and in the State's best interests to remove the Contractor Personnel with less than fifteen (15) days' notice, the Contract Monitor may direct the removal in a timeframe of less than fifteen (15) days, including immediate removal.
6. In circumstances of directed removal, the Contractor shall, in accordance with **Section 2.6**, provide a suitable replacement for approval within fifteen (15) days of the notification of the need for removal, or the actual removal, whichever occurs first.

B. Key Personnel Replacement

To replace any Key Personnel in a circumstance other than as described in **Section 2.6**, including transfers and promotions, the Contractor shall submit a substitution request as described in **Section 2.6** to the Contract Monitor at least fifteen (15) days prior to the intended date of change. A substitution may not occur unless and until the Contract Monitor approves the substitution in writing.

C. Key Personnel Replacement Due to Sudden Vacancy

1. The Contractor shall replace Key Personnel whenever a sudden vacancy occurs (e.g., Extraordinary Personal Event, death, resignation, termination). A termination or resignation with thirty (30) days or more advance notice shall be treated as a replacement under **Section 2.6**.
2. Under any of the circumstances set forth in this paragraph B, the Contractor shall identify a suitable replacement and provide the same information and items required under **Section 2.6** within fifteen (15) days of the actual vacancy occurrence or from when the Contractor first knew or should have known that the vacancy would be occurring, whichever is earlier.

D. Key Personnel Replacement Due to an Indeterminate Absence

1. If any Key Personnel has been absent from his/her job for a period of ten (10) days and it is not known or reasonably anticipated that the individual will be returning to work within the next twenty (20) days to fully resume all job duties, before the 25th day of continuous absence, the Contractor shall identify a suitable replacement and provide the same information and items to the Contract Monitor as required under **Section 2.6**.
2. However, if this person is available to return to work and fully perform all job duties before a replacement has been authorized by the Contract Monitor the Contract

Monitor may, at his/her sole discretion, authorize the original personnel to continue to work under the Contract, or authorize the replacement personnel to replace the original personnel, notwithstanding the original personnel's ability to return.

2.6.4 Substitution Prior to and Within 30 Days After Contract Execution

Prior to Contract execution or within thirty (30) days after Contract execution, the Offeror may not substitute proposed Key Personnel except under the following circumstances (a) for actual full-time personnel employed directly by the Offeror: the vacancy occurs due to the sudden termination, resignation, or approved leave of absence due to an Extraordinary Personal Event, or the death of such personnel; and (b) for any temporary staff, subcontractors or 1099 contractors: the vacancy occurs due to an Incapacitating event or the death of such personnel. To qualify for such substitution, the Offeror must demonstrate to the State's satisfaction the event necessitating substitution. Proposed substitutions shall be of equal caliber or higher, in the State's sole discretion. Proposed substitutes deemed by the State to be less qualified than the originally proposed individual may be grounds for pre-award disqualification or post-award termination

2.7 Supplemental Category of Work Requirements and Responsibilities

This Professional Services Supplemental contains additional requirements under Section 2 of the solicitation.

2.7.1 Security Requirements

Security Clearance / Criminal Background Check

Professional Advisors may be subject to a background check

The State reserves the right to refuse any individual Contractor Personnel to work on State Contracts, based upon certain specified criminal convictions, as specified by the State.

Contractor Is Responsible for Background Checks.

A criminal background check for each Key Personnel providing Investment advice or administrative support for Investment Advisor Services shall be completed prior to providing any services under the Contract.

- A. Contractor Personnel that would have **access to systems supporting the State or to State data** who have been **convicted of a felony** may not be permitted to work on the Contract.

2.7.2 Department of Human Services (DHS) Hiring Agreement

This solicitation does not require a DHS Hiring Agreement.

2.7.3 Substitution of Personnel

If the solicitation requires that a particular individual or personnel be designated by the Bidder/Offeror to work on the Contract, any substitution of personnel after the Contract has commenced must be approved in writing by the Procurement Officer prior to substitution. If the Contractor substitutes personnel without the prior written approval of the Procurement Officer, the Contract may be terminated for default which shall

be in addition to, and not in lieu of, the State’s remedies under the Contract or which otherwise may be available at law or in equity.

2.7.4 Location of the Performance of Services Disclosure

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

2.7.5 HIPAA - Business Associate Agreement

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

THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

3 Standard Terms and Conditions

3.1 Contract Initiation Requirements

Once all approvals have been obtained and the Contract is fully executed, the Procurement Officer will schedule a kickoff meeting for the Contractor, the State, and any third parties for fully transitioning to the Contractor's solution.

3.2 End of Contract Transition

3.2.1 The Contractor shall provide transition assistance as requested by the State to facilitate the orderly transfer of services to the State or a follow-on contractor. Such transition efforts shall consist, not by way of limitation, of:

- A. Provide additional services and support as requested to successfully complete the transition;
- B. Maintain the services called for by the Contract at the required level of proficiency

3.2.2 The Contractor shall work toward a prompt and timely transition, proceeding in accordance with the directions of the Contract Monitor. The Contract Monitor may provide the Contractor with additional instructions to meet specific transition requirements prior to the end of the Contract.

3.3 Invoicing

Submission of an invoice constitutes the Contractor's verification that the information in the invoice is accurate as of the time of submission.

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

- A. Contractor name and address;
- B. Remittance address;
- C. Federal taxpayer identification (FEIN) number, social security number, as appropriate;
- D. Invoice period (i.e. time period during which services covered by invoice were performed);
- E. Invoice date;
- F. Invoice number;
- G. State assigned Contract number;
- H. State assigned (Blanket) Purchase Order number(s);
- I. Goods or services provided;
- J. The respective funding category (i.e. MCIP, MPCT, ABLE, General Fund, MLGIP)
- K. Amount due; and
- L. Any additional documentation required by regulation or the Contract.

Invoices that contain both fixed price and labor hour or time and material items shall clearly identify each item as either fixed price, and labor hour, or time and material billing.

The State reserves the right to reduce or withhold Contract payment in the event the Contractor does not provide all required deliverables within the time frame specified in the Contract or

otherwise fails to satisfy the terms and conditions of the Contract until such time as the Contractor brings itself into full compliance with the Contract.

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 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.

3.3.1 Invoice Submission Schedule

The Contractor shall submit invoices in accordance with the following schedule:

- A. For items of work for which there is one-time pricing (see **Attachment B** –The Price Form), those items shall be billed in the month following the acceptance of the work by the State.
- B. For Items of work for which there is annual pricing (see **Attachment B**–The Price Form), those items shall be billed in equal monthly installments for the applicable Contract year in the month following the performance of the services.
- C. Invoices for work performed on a labor hour or time and materials basis shall be submitted on or before the 15th business day of the month following the end of the invoice period.
- D. Invoices for deliverables shall be submitted upon completion and acceptance of the deliverables as defined in **Section 2 of the RFP**.

3.3.2 Deliverable Invoicing

Deliverable invoices shall be accompanied by a Deliverable Product Acceptance Form (DPAF) signed notice(s) of acceptance issued by the State for all invoices submitted for payment. Payment of invoices will be withheld if a signed DPAF is not submitted (see online example at http://doit.maryland.gov/contracts/Documents/_procurementForms/DeliverableProductAcceptanceForm-DPAFsample.pdf).

Payment for deliverables will only be made upon completion and acceptance of the deliverables as defined in **Section 2 of the RFP**.

3.3.3 Travel Reimbursement

Travel will not be reimbursed under this RFP.

3.4 Liquidated Damages

3.4.1 MBE Liquidated Damages

Inapplicable because there is no MBE goal for this RFP.

3.4.2 Liquidated Damages other than MBE

This section is inapplicable to this RFP.

3.5 Problem Escalation Procedure

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 Contractor must provide, and thereafter, 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 and must include:

- A. Contact information
- B. The process for establishing the existence of a problem;
- C. Names, titles, and contact information for progressively higher levels of personnel in the Contractor's organization who would become involved in resolving a problem;
- D. 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;
- E. Expedited escalation procedures and any circumstances that would trigger expediting them;
- F. The method of providing feedback on resolution progress, including the frequency of feedback to be provided to the State;
- G. Contact information for persons responsible for resolving issues after normal business hours (e.g., evenings, weekends, holidays) and on an emergency basis; and
- H. A process for updating and notifying the Contract Monitor of any changes to the PEP.
- I. The PEP must be updated within ten (10) Business Days after any change in circumstance which changes the PEP but not less than annually within ten (10) Business Days after the start of each Contract year .

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.

3.6 Work Orders

THIS SECTION IS INAPPLICABLE TO THIS RFP.

3.7 Payments by Electronic Funds Transfer

By submitting a Proposal in response to this solicitation, the Offeror, if selected for award:

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 Offeror shall register using the COT/GAD X-10 Vendor Electronic Funds (EFT) Registration Request Form.

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.

3.8 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" (see **Exhibit 2 - Sample Contract**). Additional information is available on GOSBA's website at: <http://www.gomdsmallbiz.maryland.gov/documents/legislation/promptpaymentfaqs.pdf>.

3.9 Federal Funding Acknowledgement

This Contract does not contain federal funds.

3.10 Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure

The Offeror shall complete and sign the Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure (**Attachment I**) and submit it with its Proposal.

By submitting a Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure, the Contractor shall be construed as certifying all Contractor Personnel and subcontractors are also without a conflict of interest as defined in COMAR 21.05.08.08A.

Additionally, a Contractor has an ongoing obligation to ensure that all Contractor Personnel are without conflicts of interest prior to providing services under the Contract. For policies and procedures applying specifically to Conflict of Interests, the Contract is governed by COMAR 21.05.08.08.

Participation in Drafting of Specifications: Disqualifying Event: Offerors are advised that Md. Code Ann. State Finance and Procurement Article §13-212.1(a) provides generally that "an individual who assists an executive unit in the drafting of specifications, an invitation for bids, a request for proposals for a procurement, or the selection or award made in response to an invitation for bids or a request for proposals, or a person that employs the individual, may not: (1) submit a bid or proposal for that procurement; or (2) assist or represent another person, directly or indirectly, who is submitting a bid or proposal for that procurement." Any Offeror submitting a Bid in violation of this provision shall be classified as "not responsible."

3.11 Non-Disclosure Agreement

3.11.1 Non-Disclosure Agreement (Bidder/Offeror)

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

3.11.2 Non-Disclosure Agreement (Contractor)

This solicitation and any Contract(s) are subject to the terms of the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) contained in this solicitation as **Attachment S**. This Agreement must be provided within five (5) Business Days of notification of recommended award; however, to expedite processing, it is suggested that this document be completed and submitted with the Proposal.

3.12 Maryland Healthy Working Families Act Requirements

On February 11, 2018, the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act went into effect. All Bidders 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 website for Maryland Healthy Working Families Act Information: <https://dllr.state.md.us/paidleave/>.

3.13 The State of Maryland’s Commitment to Purchasing Environmentally Preferred Products and Services (EPPs)

[Maryland’s State Finance & Procurement Article §14-410](#) defines environmentally preferable purchasing as “the procurement or acquisition of goods and services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing goods or services that serve the same purpose.” Accordingly, Bidders are strongly encouraged to offer EPPs to fulfill this contract, to the greatest extent practicable.

3.14 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:

- 3.14.1** The following type(s) of insurance and minimum amount(s) of coverage are required:
- A. Commercial General Liability - One million dollars (\$1,000,000) combined single limit per occurrence for bodily injury, property damage, and personal and advertising injury and three million dollars (\$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 - One million dollars (\$1,000,000) per combined single limit per claim and three million dollars (\$3,000,000) annual aggregate.
 - C. Crime Insurance/Employee Theft Insurance - to cover employee theft with a minimum single loss limit of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per loss, and a minimum single loss retention not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), with the State of Maryland listed as a “loss payee.”
 - D. Cyber Security / Data Breach Insurance – Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) 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.
- 3.14.2** The State shall be listed as an additional insured on the faces of the certificates associated with the coverages listed above, including umbrella policies, excluding Workers’ Compensation Insurance and professional liability.
- 3.14.3** All insurance policies shall be endorsed to include a clause requiring the insurance carrier to provide the Procurement Officer, by certified mail, not less than 30 days’ advance notice of any non-renewal, cancellation, or expiration. The Contractor shall notify the Procurement Officer in writing, if policies are canceled or not renewed within five (5) days of learning of such cancellation or nonrenewal. The Contractor shall provide evidence of replacement insurance coverage to the Procurement Officer at least 15 days prior to the expiration of the insurance policy then in effect.

- 3.14.4** Any insurance furnished as a condition of the Contract shall be issued by a company authorized to do business in the State.
- 3.14.5** 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.
- 3.14.6** Subcontractor Insurance

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.

3.15 Non-Compete Clause Prohibition

The State of Maryland seeks to maximize the retention of personnel working under the Contract whenever there is a transition of the Contract from one contractor to another so as to minimize disruption due to a change in contractor and maximize the maintenance of institutional knowledge accumulated by such personnel. To help achieve this objective of staff retention, each Offeror shall agree that if awarded the Contract, the Offeror's employees and agents filling the positions set forth in the staffing requirements of **Section 2.4 Experience and Personnel** working on the State contract shall be free to work for the contractor awarded the State contract notwithstanding any non-compete clauses to which the employee(s) may be subject. The Offeror agrees not to enforce any non-compete restrictions against the State with regard to these employees and agents if a different vendor succeeds it in the performance of the Contract. To evidence compliance with this non-compete clause prohibition, each Offeror must include an affirmative statement in its technical Proposal that the Offeror, if awarded a Contract, agrees that its employees and agents shall not be restricted from working with or for any successor contractor that is awarded the State business.

THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

4 Proposal Submission Information and Instructions

4.1 eMaryland Marketplace Advantage (eMMA)

eMMA is the electronic commerce system for the State of Maryland. The RFP, Pre-Proposal Conference (Conference) summary and attendance sheet, Offerors' questions and the Procurement Officer's responses, addenda, and other solicitation-related information will be made available via eMMA.

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 Electronic Means

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 Bond documents determined by the State to require original signatures; or
- B. Any transaction, submission, or communication where the Procurement Officer has specifically directed that a response from the Contractor or Offeror be provided in writing or hard copy.

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

"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.

4.3 Pre-Proposal Conference

If a Conference will be held, the date, time, and location is indicated on the **Key Information Summary Sheet**. Attendance at the Conference is not mandatory, but all interested parties are encouraged to attend in order to facilitate better preparation of their Proposals. If the solicitation includes an MBE participating goal, failure to attend the Conference will be taken into consideration as part of the evaluation of a offeror's good faith efforts if there is a waiver request.

It is highly recommended that all Prime Contractors bring their intended subcontractors to the Conference/Site Visit to ensure that all parties understand the RFP requirements and the socio-economic goals for this solicitation.

MBE subcontractors are encouraged to attend the Conference to market their participation to potential prime contractors.

In order to assure adequate accommodations at the Conference, please email the completed **Attachment 2** for those expected to attend the Conference to the Procurement Officer no later than the time and date indicated on the **Key Information Summary Sheet**. In addition, if there is a need for sign language interpretation or other special accommodations due to a disability, please notify the Procurement Officer at least five (5) Business Days prior to the Conference date. Reasonable effort will be made to provide such special accommodation.

If the Conference is in person, attendees should bring a copy of the solicitation and a business card to help facilitate the sign-in process.

4.4 Questions

All questions, including concerns regarding any applicable MBE or VSBE participation goals, **shall identify in the subject line the Solicitation Number and Title for this RFP, must be submitted in writing via e-mail to kchewlin@treasurer.state.md.us (Procurement Officer) no later than the date and time specified in the Key Information Summary Sheet. PLEASE IDENTIFY THE PARTICULAR RFP SECTION AND RFP PAGE NUMBER IN THE QUESTION (if applicable).** The Procurement Officer, based on the availability of time to research and communicate an answer, shall decide whether an answer can be given before the Proposal due date.

- 4.4.1 Answers to all questions that are not clearly specific only to the requestor will be distributed via the same mechanism as for RFP amendments and posted on eMMA.
- 4.4.2 The statements and interpretations contained in responses to any questions, whether responded to verbally or in writing, are not binding on the State unless it issues an amendment to the solicitation in writing.

4.5 Proposal Due (Closing) Date and Time

Proposals must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than the Proposal due date and time indicated on the **Key Information Summary Sheet** to be considered. Except as provided in COMAR 21.05.03.02.F and 21.05.02.10, Proposals received after that date will not be considered. Requests for extension of this date or time shall not be granted.

For Proposals accepted via email, the time stamp to indicate receipt of the Proposal by the State, is the posted date and time in the Procurement Officer's email inbox.

Proposals 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 Proposals.

Proposals may not be submitted by e-mail or facsimile. Proposals will not be opened publicly.

Potential Offerors not responding to this solicitation are requested to submit the "No Bid/Proposal Notice/Vendor Feedback" form **Attachment 1**, which includes company information and the reason for not responding (e.g., too busy, cannot meet mandatory requirements).

4.6 Economy of Preparation

Proposals should be prepared simply and economically and provide a straightforward and concise description of the Offeror's Proposal to meet the requirements of this RFP.

4.7 Public Information Act Notice

The Offeror should give specific attention to the clear identification of those portions of its Proposal 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 (See also RFP **Section 5.3.2. Table A, Tab B** "Claim of Confidentiality"). This information should be identified by page and section number and placed after the Title Page and before the Table of Contents in the Technical Proposal and if applicable, separately in the Financial Proposal.

Offerors are advised that, upon request for this information from a third party, the Procurement Officer is required to make an independent determination whether the information must be disclosed.

4.8 Oral Presentation

Offerors may be required to make oral presentations to State representatives. Oral presentations are considered part of the Technical Proposal. Offerors must confirm in writing any substantive oral clarification of, or change in, their Proposals made in the course of discussions. Any such written clarifications or changes then become part of the Offeror's Proposal. The Procurement Officer will notify Offerors of the time and place of oral presentations.

4.9 Duration of Proposals

Proposals submitted in response to this RFP are irrevocable for the latest of the following: **120 days following the Proposal due date and time, best and final offers if requested (see Section 6.5.2), or the date any protest concerning this RFP is finally resolved. This period may be extended at the Procurement Officer's request only with the Offeror's written agreement.**

4.10 Revisions to the RFP

- 4.10.1** All revisions to the RFP before the due date for Proposals will be published in an addendum to the RFP and posted on eMMA and reasonable effort will be made to provide such addenda to all prospective Offerors that were sent this RFP or are otherwise known by the Procurement Officer to have obtained this RFP. It is the responsibility of all prospective Offerors to check eMMA for any addenda issued prior to the submission of Proposals.
- 4.10.2** Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda to this RFP issued before the Proposal due date in the Transmittal Letter accompanying the Offeror's Technical Proposal.
- 4.10.3** Addenda made after the due date for Proposals will be sent only to those Offerors that remain under award consideration as of the issuance date of the addenda.
- 4.10.4** Acknowledgement of the receipt of addenda to the RFP issued after the Proposal due date shall be in the manner specified in the addendum notice.
- 4.10.5** Failure to acknowledge receipt of an addendum does not relieve the Offeror from complying with the terms, additions, deletions, or corrections set forth in the addendum, and may cause the Proposal to be deemed not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award.

4.11 Cancellations

- 4.11.1** This RFP may be cancelled as provided in COMAR 21.06.02.02.
- 4.11.2** The State reserves the right to cancel this RFP, accept or reject any and all Proposals, in whole or in part, received in response to this RFP, waive or permit the cure of minor irregularities, and conduct discussions with all qualified or potentially qualified Offerors in any manner necessary to serve the best interests of the State.
- 4.11.3** The State reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to award a Contract based upon the written Proposals received without discussions or negotiations.

- 4.11.4** 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).
- 4.11.5** If the services that are the subject of the RFP 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 RFP may be canceled 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 Offeror in preparing and submitting a Proposal, in making an oral presentation, providing a demonstration, or performing any other activities related to submitting a Proposal 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 Offeror Responsibilities

- 4.14.1** An Offeror, 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 Offeror (the Contractor) shall remain responsible for Contract performance regardless of subcontractor participation in the work. Offerors must be able to provide all goods and services and meet all of the requirements requested.
- 4.14.2** If applicable, subcontractors utilized in meeting the established MBE or VSBE participation goal(s) for this solicitation shall be identified using Attachment D or Attachment E as appropriate. Guidance for completing the Attachments is provided in the appropriate Appendix or Appendices to this RFP (see “Appendix 4 - MBE Participation Goal” and “Appendix 5 - VSBE Participation Goal”).
- 4.14.3** If the Offeror is the subsidiary of another entity, all information submitted by the Offeror, 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 Offeror, unless the parent organization will guarantee the performance of the subsidiary. If applicable, the Offeror’s Proposal 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 Offeror under this Section will not automatically result in crediting the Offeror with the experience or qualifications of the parent under any evaluation criteria pertaining to the actual Offeror’s experience and qualifications. Instead, the Offeror will be evaluated on the extent to which the State determines that the experience and qualifications of the parent are applicable to and shared with the Offeror, 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 Proposal in response to this RFP, the Offeror, if selected for award, shall be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of this RFP and the Contract, attached hereto as **Exhibit 2 – Sample Contract**.

Any clarifications required of the Contract (Exhibit 2) shall be addressed during the Questions & Answers process as explained in Section 4.4. Please be reminded that much of the Contract terms and conditions language is mandated either by Statute, Regulations and/or STO Policy and therefore is non-negotiable.

Any proposed exceptions shall be clearly identified reflecting the page number and section of concern in the Executive Summary of the Technical Proposal. Any exceptions requested to the Contract will be considered on a case-by-case basis and STO reserves the right to seek further discussion if deemed necessary, following which the results will be disclosed publicly either via the Questions & Answers process as explained in Section 4.4 or an Amendment to the RFP as explained in Section 4.10.

All requested exceptions will be taken into consideration when evaluating the Offeror's Proposal. The Agency reserves the right to accept or reject any exceptions.

4.16 Compliance with Laws/Arrearages

By submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP, the Offeror, 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 Offeror 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.

4.17 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 123 Market Place Baltimore, MD 21202. For registration information, visit <https://www.egov.maryland.gov/businessexpress>.

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

4.18 False Statements

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

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; or
- C. Use a false writing or document that contains a false or fraudulent statement or entry of a material fact.

A person may not aid or conspire with another person to commit an act under this section.

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.

THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

5 Proposal Format

5.1 Two Part Submission

Offerors shall submit Proposals in separate volumes (or envelopes):

- A. Volume I – Technical Proposal - **signed PDF of 1 full copy & signed PDF of 1 redacted copy if there is confidential information to be withheld**
 - i. Technical Proposal shall be submitted by the due date and time stated on the Key Information Summary Sheet, page iii of the RFP.
- B. Volume II – Financial Proposal – **1 signed PDF copy**
 - i. Financial Proposal shall be submitted by the due date and time stated on the Key Information Summary Sheet, page iii of the RFP.

5.2 Proposal Delivery and Packaging

5.2.1 Proposals delivered by facsimile, or email shall not be considered.

5.2.2 Pricing information shall not be included in the Technical Proposal. Pricing information shall not be included on the media submitted in the Technical Proposal.

5.2.3 Offerors may submit Proposals through eMMA, OR by hand-carry OR by trackable mail (i.e. UPS, FedEx, etc.) as described below to the attention of Kris Chewlin at the address provided in the Key Information Summary Sheet. **PLEASE NOTE THAT DELIVERY VIA eMMA IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED (Follow the eMMA Quick Reference Guide (QRG) labelled “5-eMMA QRG Responding to Solicitations (RFP)” for double envelope submissions). Submit a second PDF copy of the Technical Proposal with confidential & proprietary information redacted AND a signed PDF copy of the Financial Proposal.**

A. Any Proposal received at the appropriate mailroom, or typical place of mail receipt, for the respective procuring unit by the time and date listed in the RFP will be deemed to be timely. The State recommends a delivery method for which both the date and time of receipt can be verified.

B. For hand-delivery, Offerors are advised to secure a dated, signed, and time- stamped (or otherwise indicated) receipt of delivery. Hand-delivery includes delivery by commercial carrier acting as agent for the Offeror.

5.2.4 The Procurement Officer must receive all electronic Proposal materials by the RFP due date and time specified in the Key Information Summary Sheet. Requests for extension of this date or time will not be granted. Except as provided in COMAR 21.05.03.02F, Proposals received by the Procurement Officer after the due date will not be considered.

- 5.2.5** Offerors shall provide their Proposals in two separate envelopes through eMMA following the Quick Reference Guides (QRG) labeled “5 - eMMA QRG Responding to Solicitations (RFP)” for double envelope submissions.
- 5.2.6** Two Part (Double Envelope) Submission:
- A. Technical Proposal consisting of:
1. Technical Proposal in searchable Adobe PDF format, and
 2. a second searchable Adobe copy of the Technical Proposal, with confidential and proprietary information redacted (see **Section 4.7**), and
- B. Financial Proposal consisting of:
1. Financial Proposal entered into the price form spreadsheet within eMMA and all supporting material in MS Excel format,
 2. Financial Proposal in searchable Adobe PDF format,
 3. a second searchable Adobe copy of the Financial Proposal, with confidential and proprietary information removed (see **Section 4.7**).

5.3 Volume I - Technical Proposal

NOTE: Omit all **pricing information** from the Technical Proposal (Volume I). Only include pricing information in the Financial Proposal (Volume II).

- 5.3.1** In addition to the instructions below, responses in the Offeror’s Technical Proposal shall reference the organization and numbering of Sections in the RFP (e.g., “Section 2.2.1 Response . . . ; “Section 2.2.2 Response . . . ,”). All pages of both Proposal volumes shall be consecutively numbered from beginning (Page 1) to end (Page “x”).
- 5.3.2** Attachments, Documents, and Information Required with the Technical Proposal (Table A)

The Technical Proposal shall include the following documents and information in the order specified as follows. Each section of the Technical Proposal shall be separated by a **TAB** as detailed below:

Attachments A through E = Proposal will be rejected if the required Attachment is not submitted or is inaccurate or incomplete.

Attachments F through R = Proposal may be rejected if the required Attachment is not submitted or is inaccurate or incomplete.

TABLE A - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal

Proposal TAB	Attachment #	Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description
Tab A		<p style="text-align: center;">Title Page and Table of Contents</p> <p>The Technical Proposal should begin with a Title Page bearing the name and address of the Offeror and the name and number of this RFP. A Table of Contents shall follow the Title Page for the Technical Proposal, organized by section, subsection, and page number.</p>
Tab B		<p style="text-align: center;">Claim of Confidentiality (If Applicable)</p> <p>Any information which is claimed to be confidential and/or proprietary information should be identified by page and section number and placed after the Title Page and before the Table of Contents in the Technical Proposal, and if applicable, separately in the Financial Proposal. An explanation for each claim of confidentiality shall be included (see Section 4.7 “Public Information Act Notice”). The entire Proposal cannot be given a blanket confidentiality designation - any confidentiality designation must apply to specific sections, pages, or portions of pages of the Proposal and an explanation for each claim shall be included. Otherwise, note under TAB B - “Not applicable”.</p>
Tab C	F	<p style="text-align: center;">Bidder/Offeror Information Sheet</p> <p style="text-align: center;">https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-F.-Bidder-Offeror-Information-Sheet.pdf</p>
Tab D		<p>Executive Summary & Acknowledgement of all addenda to this RFP.</p> <p>The Offeror shall condense and highlight the contents of the Technical Proposal in a separate section titled “Executive Summary.</p> <p>In addition, the Summary shall indicate whether the Offeror is the subsidiary of another entity, and if so, whether all information submitted by the Offeror pertains exclusively to the Offeror. If not, the subsidiary Offeror shall include a guarantee of</p>

TABLE A - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal

Proposal TAB	Attachment #	Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description
		<p>performance from its parent organization as part of its Executive Summary (see Section 4.16 “Offeror Responsibilities”).</p> <p>The Executive Summary shall also identify any exceptions the Offeror has taken to the requirements of this RFP, the Contract (Exhibit 2), or any other exhibits, appendices, supplementals, or attachments. Acceptance or rejection of exceptions is within the sole discretion of the State. Exceptions to terms and conditions, including requirements, may result in having the Proposal determined to be unacceptable or classified as not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award or the Offeror determined to be not responsible.</p>
Tab E		<p style="text-align: center;">Minimum Qualifications</p> <p>The Offeror shall submit any Minimum Qualifications documentation that may be required, as set forth in RFP Section 1. If references are required in RFP Section 1, those references shall be included in Attachment L.</p>
Tab F		<p style="text-align: center;">Offeror Technical Response to RFP Requirements and Proposed Work Plan</p> <p>The Offeror shall address each RFP requirement (RFP Section 2) in its Technical Proposal with a cross reference to the requirement and describe how its proposed goods and services, including the goods and services of any proposed subcontractor(s), will meet or exceed the requirement(s). If the State is seeking Offeror agreement to any requirement(s), the Offeror shall state its agreement or disagreement. Any paragraph in the Technical Proposal that responds to an RFP requirement shall include an explanation of how the work will be performed. The response shall address each requirement in Section 2 in order and shall contain a cross reference to the requirement.</p> <p>The Offeror shall give a definitive section-by-section description of the proposed plan to meet the requirements of the RFP, i.e., a Work Plan. The Work Plan shall include the specific methodology, techniques, and number of staff, if applicable, to be used by the Offeror in providing the required goods and services as outlined in RFP Section 2, Contractor Requirements: Scope of Work. The description shall include</p>

TABLE A - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal

Proposal TAB	Attachment #	Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description
		<p>an outline of the overall management concepts employed by the Offeror and a project management plan, including project control mechanisms and overall timelines. Project deadlines considered contract deliverables must be recognized in the Work Plan.</p> <p>Implementation Schedule - Offeror shall provide the proposed implementation schedule with its Proposal.</p> <p>The Offeror shall provide a draft Problem Escalation Procedure (PEP) that includes, at a minimum, titles of individuals to be contacted by the Contract Monitor should problems arise under the Contract and explains how problems with work under the Contract will be escalated in order to resolve any issues in a timely manner. Final procedures shall be submitted as indicated in Section 3.5.</p> <p>Non-Compete Clause Prohibition – To evidence compliance with the non-compete clause prohibition, each Offeror must include an affirmative statement in its technical Proposal that the Offeror, if awarded a Contract, agrees that its employees and agents shall not be restricted from working with or for any successor contractor that is awarded the State business.</p> <p>Other information as requested for Tab F in the Supplemental.</p>
Tab G		<p>Experience and Qualifications of Proposed Staff</p> <p>The Offeror shall identify the qualifications and types of staff proposed to be utilized under the Contract including information in support of the Personnel Experience criteria in Section 2.4. Specifically, the Offeror shall:</p> <p>Describe in detail how the proposed staff’s experience and qualifications relate to their specific responsibilities, including any staff of proposed subcontractor(s), as detailed in the Work Plan.</p> <p>Include individual resumes for Key Personnel, including Key Personnel for any proposed subcontractor(s), who are to be assigned to the project if the Offeror is awarded the Contract. Each resume should include the amount of experience the</p>

TABLE A - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal

Proposal TAB	Attachment #	Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description
		<p>individual has had relative to the Scope of Work set forth in this solicitation.</p> <p>Include letters of intended commitment to work on the project, including letters from any proposed subcontractor(s). If proposed personnel are included, offerors should be aware of restrictions on substitution of Key Personnel prior to RFP award (see Substitution Prior to and Within 30 Days After Contract Execution in Section 2.5.5).</p> <p>Provide an Organizational Chart outlining Personnel and their related duties. The Offeror shall include job titles and the percentage of time each individual will spend on his/her assigned tasks. Offerors using job titles other than those commonly used by industry standards must provide a crosswalk reference document.</p>
		<p>If proposing differing personnel work hours than identified in the RFP, describe how and why it proposes differing personnel work hours.</p>
<p>Tab H</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Offeror Qualifications and Capabilities</p> <p>The Offeror shall include information on past experience with similar projects and services including information in support of the Offeror Experience criteria in Section 2.4.1. The Offeror shall describe how its organization can meet the requirements of this RFP and shall also include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of years the Offeror has provided the similar goods and services; • The number of clients/customers and geographic locations that the Offeror currently serves; • The names and titles of headquarters or regional management personnel who may be involved with supervising the services to be performed under the Contract; • The Offeror’s process for resolving billing errors; and • An organizational chart that identifies the complete structure of the Offeror including any parent company,

TABLE A - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal

Proposal TAB	Attachment #	Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description
		headquarters, regional offices, and subsidiaries of the Offeror.
Tab I	L	<p style="text-align: center;">Reference Checks</p> <p>Each reference shall be from a customer for whom the Offeror has provided services within the most recent past five years</p>
Tab J	M	List of Current or Prior State Contracts
Tab K		<p>Financial Capability. (Submit under TAB K) The Offeror must include in its Bid a commonly-accepted method to prove its fiscal integrity.</p> <p>If available, the Offeror <u>shall include</u> Financial Statements, preferably a Profit and Loss (P&L) statement and a Balance Sheet, for the last two (2) years (independently audited preferred).</p> <p>In addition, the Offeror may supplement its response to this Section by including one or more of the following with its response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dun & Bradstreet Number and Rating; • Standard and Poor’s Rating; • Lines of credit; • Evidence of a successful financial track record; and • Evidence of adequate working capital.
Tab L		<p style="text-align: center;">Certificate of Insurance</p> <p>The Offeror shall provide a copy of its current certificate of insurance showing the types and limits of insurance in effect as of the Proposal submission date. (The current insurance types and limits do not have to be the same as described in Section 3.14, but would be the required insurance certificate submission for the apparent awardee.)</p>

TABLE A - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal

Proposal TAB	Attachment #	Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description
Tab M	P	<p align="center"><u>Prime Contractor List of ALL Subcontractors Anticipated/Used During Contract</u></p> <p>The Offeror shall provide a complete list of all subcontractors that will work on the Contract if the Offeror 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 RFP.</p>
Tab N	N	<p align="center">Legal Action Summary</p> <p>This summary shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A statement as to whether there are any outstanding legal actions or potential claims against the Offeror and a brief description of any action; • A brief description of any settled or closed legal actions or claims against the Offeror over the past five (5) years; • A description of any judgments against the Offeror within the past five (5) years, including the court, case name, complaint number, and a brief description of the final ruling or determination; and • In instances where litigation is ongoing and the Offeror has been directed not to disclose information by the court, provide the name of the judge and location of the court.
Tab O		<p align="center">Economic Benefit Factors</p> <p>If Section 6.2.4 Economic Benefit to State of Maryland are required as an evaluation criterion, see Appendix 8 for guidance.</p>
Tab P	A	<p align="center">Bid/Proposal Affidavit</p> <p>A Bid submitted by the Offeror must be accompanied by a completed Bid/Proposal Affidavit.</p>

TABLE A - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal

Proposal TAB	Attachment #	Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description
		https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-A.-Bid-Proposal-Affidavit.pdf
	C	Bid Bond – (Not Applicable)
	D	MBE Forms D-1A – (Not Applicable)
	E	Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) Form E-1A (Not Applicable)
Tab Q	G	Maryland Living Wage Requirements Affidavit of Agreement (for Services and Facilities Maintenance Contracts - See Appendix 6 for Details) https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-G.-Maryland-Living-Wage-Requirements-Affidavit-of-Agreement.pdf
	H	Federal Funds Attachments (Not Applicable)
	I	Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-I.-Conflict-of-Interest-Affidavit.pdf <i>Note: If this solicitation will result in the “selection of a contractor who will assist a unit in the formation, evaluation, selection, award, or execution of another State contract” the Bidder shall provide this Affidavit and other times as requested by the Procurement Officer.</i>
	J	Mercury Affidavit (Not Applicable)

TABLE A - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal

Proposal TAB	Attachment #	Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description
	K	Location of the Performance of Services Disclosure (Not Applicable)
	O	Payment of Employee Healthcare Expenses Certification (Not Applicable) https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-O.-Payment-of-Employee-Healthcare-Expenses-Certification.pdf
	Q	Labor Resume Form <i>(See Specific Document Provided by Procurement Officer)</i>
	R	Corporate Diversity Addendum https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-R.-Corporate-Diversity-Addendum.pdf This addendum is required to be submitted with a BID or PROPOSAL when the contract award is estimated to be <u>\$1,000,000 or more.</u> <i>Note: This document is for data collection only.</i>

THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

5.4 Volume II – Financial Proposal

TABLE A (Continued) - Attachments and Documents Required with the Proposal

Proposal TAB	Attachment #	Attachment Name / Tab Section and Description
<p>Financial Proposal submitted separately from Technical Proposal</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>The Price Form (as specified within eMMA) <u>Do not alter this Price Form</u> or leave blank any items on the Price Form or include additional clarifying or contingent language on or attached to the Price Form. Failure to adhere to any of these instructions may result in the Proposal being determined to be not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award and rejected by the State. The Price Form must be signed and dated, where requested, by an individual who is authorized to bind the Offeror to the prices entered on the Price Form. (See Appendix 2 for specific Price Form Instructions.)</p>

THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

6 Evaluation and Selection Process

6.1 Evaluation Committee

Evaluation of Proposals will be performed in accordance with COMAR 21.05.03 by a committee established for that purpose and based on the evaluation criteria set forth below. The Evaluation Committee will review Proposals, participate in Offeror oral presentations and discussions, and provide input to the Procurement Officer. The State reserves the right to utilize the services of individuals outside of the established Evaluation Committee for advice and assistance, as deemed appropriate.

During the evaluation process, the Procurement Officer may determine at any time that a particular Offeror is not susceptible for award.

6.2 Technical Proposal Evaluation Criteria

The criteria to be used to evaluate each Technical Proposal are listed below in descending order of importance. Unless stated otherwise, any sub-criteria within each criterion have equal weight.

6.2.1 Offeror's Technical Response to Requirements and Work Plan

The State prefers the Offeror's Technical Proposal to illustrate a comprehensive understanding of work requirements and mastery of the subject matter, including an explanation of how the work will be performed. Proposals which include limited responses to work requirements such as "concur" or "will comply" will receive a lower ranking than those Proposals that address and demonstrate an understanding of the work requirements and include plans to meet or exceed them.

6.2.2 Experience and Qualifications of Proposed Staff

6.2.3 Offeror Qualifications and Capabilities, including proposed subcontractors

6.2.4 Economic Benefit to State of Maryland (See **Appendix 8. Economic Benefit Factors**)

6.3 Financial Proposal Evaluation Criteria

All Qualified Offerors (see **Section 6.5.2.D**) will be ranked from the lowest price (most advantageous) to the highest price (least advantageous) based on the Total Proposal Price within the stated guidelines set forth in this RFP and as submitted on **Attachment B - The Price Form**. *Pricing shall be "as is" for the five (5) year base period and an annual CPI increase of no more than 2% shall be allowed for each subsequent option period.*

6.4 Reciprocal Preference

6.4.1 Although Maryland law does not authorize procuring agencies to favor resident Offerors 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 Offeror;
- B. The most advantageous Proposal is from a responsible Offeror 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.

- 6.4.2 The preference given shall be identical to the preference that the other state, through law, policy, or practice gives to its resident businesses.

6.5 Selection Procedures

6.5.1 General

- A. The Contract will be awarded in accordance with the Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSP) method found at COMAR 21.05.03. The CSP method allows for the conducting of discussions and the revision of Proposals during these discussions. Therefore, the State may conduct discussions with all Offerors that have submitted Proposals that are determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for contract award or potentially so. However, the State reserves the right to make an award without holding discussions.
- B. With or without discussions, the State may determine the Offeror to be not responsible or the Offeror's Proposal to be not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award at any time after the initial closing date for receipt of Proposals and prior to Contract award.

6.5.2 Selection Process Sequence

- A. A determination is made that the MDOT Certified MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit (**Attachment D-1A**) is included and is properly completed, if there is a MBE goal. In addition, a determination is made that the VSBE Utilization Affidavit and subcontractor Participation Schedule (**Attachment E-1**) is included and is properly completed, if there is a VSBE goal.
- B. Technical Proposals are evaluated for technical merit and ranked. During this review, oral presentations and discussions may be held. The purpose of such discussions will be to assure a full understanding of the State's requirements and the Offeror's ability to perform the services, as well as to facilitate arrival at a Contract that is most advantageous to the State. Offerors will be contacted by the State as soon as any discussions are scheduled.
- C. Offerors must confirm in writing any substantive oral clarifications of, or changes in, their Technical Proposals made in the course of discussions. Any such written clarifications or changes then become part of the Offeror's Technical Proposal. Technical Proposals are given a final review and ranked.
- D. The Financial Proposal of each Qualified Offeror (a responsible Offeror determined to have submitted an acceptable Proposal) will be evaluated and ranked separately from the Technical evaluation. After a review of the Financial Proposals of Qualified Offerors, the Evaluation Committee or Procurement Officer may again conduct discussions to further evaluate the Offeror's entire Proposal.
- E. When in the best interest of the State, the Procurement Officer may permit Qualified Offerors to revise their initial Proposals and submit, in writing, Best and Final Offers (BAFOs). The State may make an award without issuing a request for a BAFO. **Offerors may only perform limited substitutions of proposed personnel as allowed in Section 2.5 (Substitution of Personnel).**

6.5.3 Award Determination

Upon completion of the Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal evaluations and rankings, each Offeror will receive an overall ranking. The Procurement Officer will recommend award of the Contract to the responsible Offeror(s) that submitted the Proposal(s) determined to be the most

advantageous to the State. In making this most advantageous Proposal determination, technical factors will receive greater weight than financial factors.

6.6 Documents Required upon Notice of Recommendation for Contract Award RFP Attachments (Table B)

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 B - Documents Required upon Notice of Recommendation for Contract Award** below.

TABLE B - Documents Required upon Notice of Recommendation for Contract Award	
Attachment	Attachment Name
D	MBE Forms D-1B, D-1C, D-2, D-3A, D-3B (Not Applicable)
E	VSBE Forms E-1B, E-2, E-3 (Not Applicable)
S	Non-Disclosure Agreement (Contractor) https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-S.-Non-Disclosure-Agreement-Contractor.pdf
T	HIPAA Business Associate Agreement (Not Applicable)
U	Contract Affidavit https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/07/Attachment-U.-Contract-Affidavit.pdf
V	DHS Hiring Agreement (Not Applicable)

Investment Advisor Solicitation #: MD529-FY27-001	RFP Document
--	---------------------

W	Performance Bond (Not Applicable)
X	Payment Bond (Not Applicable)
Y	<p style="text-align: center;">Data Use Agreement</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> https://procurement.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/08/Attachment-Y.-Data-Usage-Agreement.pdf </p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;"> [[If a DUA Agreement is not required, type “N/A” and remove link to documents.]] </p>

THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

7 RFP Appendices and Exhibits

The Appendices and Exhibits listed below in Tables C and D are reference documents needed to assist the offerors in preparing their proposals in response to this solicitation. If a specific Appendix or Exhibit is not required for this solicitation, it is listed in the tables as “Not applicable” or “N/A”.

7.1 Appendices (Table C)

TABLE C - APPENDICES	
Appendix #	Appendix Name
1	Abbreviations and Definitions
2	Price Form Instructions
3	Labor Categories (Not Applicable)
4	MBE Participation Goal (Not Applicable)
5	VSBE Participation Goal (Not Applicable)
6	Living Wage Requirements
7	Bonds (Not Applicable)
8	Economic Benefit Factors

7.2 Exhibits (Table D)

TABLE D - Exhibits	
Exhibit #	Exhibit Name
1	N/A
2	Sample Contract
3	Deliverable Product Acceptance Form (DPAF) For IT contracts, see sample form online at http://doit.maryland.gov/contracts/Documents/procurementForms/DeliverableProductAcceptanceForm-DPAFsample.pdf